

**Groundsmans Association**

**Pitch Advisors August Blog**

**Austerity in August**

With one eye on finances and budgets and with September renovations on the horizon, it is time to take stock on future plans for your cricket facility. A 12-15 pitch square with full recommended renovation requires: -

* All of the square cut to ‘play’ height
* Scarify in 3 directions (not at right angles) to create a seed bed
* Solid tine aeration
* Pre-seed fertiliser
* Seed spread with a cyclone spreader
* Top-dress with same-as existing loam (6/7 bags per 10’ pitch)
* Steel drag mat in a mid-wicket to cover direction to lose any over-lapping.

You will be lucky to find a recognised Contractor at this stage as there is only a small window when this work can be carried out successfully. An in-house job is likely to cost up to £1000 and remember to purchase enough material for in-season repairs.

Consider if your square has the dreaded ‘saddles’ just top dress between the 5’ to 5’ marks or you could hollow tine the ends repeatedly when conditions allow, if ‘*Koroing’* is unaffordable (contact Paul Tatton for more details).

**Level 1 Cricket Pitch Renovation Course**

**The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) are running the above course at Fulwood & Broughton CC on 11 September. The cost of the course is normally £330 but if your club is a member of the Lancashire Cricket Foundation, of which most are, you are automatically a member of the Lancashire Grounds Association (LGA) and therefore a member of the IOG. This brings down the cost to £179. It has also been agreed that the LGA will subsidise a further 50% of the cost (after the course has been completed). Places are strictly limited so please book early.**

**For further details of the course visit:** [**https://www.iog.org/learning**](https://www.iog.org/learning)

**Concern: -** On my rounds I am finding repairs to popping creases, through batsman’s scratchings, a serious worry in view of Health & Safety regulations! These days’ clubs could find themselves in trouble if somebody goes over on an ankle and decides to take legal proceedings, so at worst infill and level off holes to create a flat surface.