

**Grounds Association**

**Pitch Advisors December Blog**

**December Dilemma**

All activities at this stage of the year are obviously weather related. The old phrase of “when conditions allow” couldn’t be more prevalent now. If it is frosty keep off as it will do more harm than good.

Key out of season activities are: -

* Drag brushing your square to remove any surface water (dew) to discourage any disease.
* Solid tine aeration, especially the square as heavy (loam) soils are naturally poor draining. The idea being to allow air into the soil, enable water to infiltrate lower levels and encourage deeper rooting grass.

Many cricket outfields also host junior football, which should be encouraged, as it keeps clubs vibrant and can be beneficial in agitating the surface like a form of scarifying. A little repair work on goalmouths is a small price to pay.

Complete any drainage and construction work in the winter months and look to clean and overhaul existing drainage systems.

Consider machinery and equipment winter servicing often at advantageous rates.

Keep sightscreens and mobile covers in safe areas away from exposed windy conditions.