

**Grounds Association**

**Pitch Advisors April Blog**

**Apprehensive April**

With the lifting of restrictions, cricket can hopefully return to a somewhat near as normal season.

Squares and outfields should by now be beginning to look the business with the square correctly marked out (see last month’s blog) and pre season rolling well under way. As usual, please only carry out rolling when the conditions are right i.e. enough moisture to allow good consolidation. Regarding outfields, as well as mowing consider raking, scarifying or harrowing to raise the grass sward.

If you haven’t as yet managed to put down a spring/summer fertiliser there is still time. 3 x 20Kg bags should be about right for a 15 pitch square.

Check List for the opening day.

* Sightscreens and front board
* Sawdust (not shavings)
* Boundary rope or line marker
* Fielding discs (46/48 and preferably rubber)
* Roll-on covers and flat sheets
* Germination sheets
* Fuel – diesel and petrol
* Stumps, bails and bowlers markers
* Stump gauge
* Seed and loam for repairs
* Straight edge and marking frame
* Engine oil and WD40
* Tyres inflated to correct pressure

A point of reflection – all be it from a distance

On the subject of pitch standards, I am absolutely astonished that the Eng v India Test matches were played on pitches where the ball was exploding on Day 1 and each Test lasting less than half of the 5 day allocation. In comparison, the pitches produced for the ODI’s and T20’s were Test match standard with 600+ runs scored and yet the Indian inspection said that the Test pitches were up to standard! I rest my case