

On behalf of the Somerset Cricket Grounds Association we hope that you managed to completed the end of season renovation work that you hoped you would.

Through our trailer scheme we are delighted to have supported 27 clubs with their renovations this year. Thanks go to Phil Mortimer and Dave Counsell for their tremendous work and to the clubs for their support and diligence during unprecedeted times.

In addition to the trailer scheme, the Somerset Grounds Association also provides a cricket square aeration service for clubs.

AERATION

A cricket square is made up of heavy clay soils so aeration is vitally important and should be seen as a positive measure for clubs. This helps keep nutrients in circulation and increase the effectiveness of irrigation and root development in the summer. If thorough aeration is not carried out to de-compact the square it will impede the health and vigour of the turf, denying free passage of water, air and nutrients to encourage root development, which is important to bind the pitch surface together to prevent cracking and crumbling and allows top dressing to migrate into the tine holes.

The Spiker will be transported to and from your club and operated by Phil Mortimer exclusively. Details of the aeration service including costs and how to book can be found below.

Basic spiker hire fee:

£40 for up to 10 pitches

£50 for 11 to 15 pitches

£60 for more than 15 pitches

Per pitch cost:

£3.50

Examples:

7 pitch square £40 hire, £24.50 pitch costs = £64.50

12 pitch square £50 hire, £42 pitch costs = £92

Phil will attempt to go to several grounds on the same day to minimise travelling costs / time.

To book the Aeration Service please contact Phil Mortimer on morts@tiscali.co.uk

Training Available to improve your pitches

(ONLINE) Level 1 Cricket Grounds Maintenance (3-4 hours)

The Grounds Management Association (GMA) have a range of training courses that are suitable for the professional to the grass roots volunteer and have launched a new online Level 1 module on Cricket Grounds Maintenance to allow you to gain an awareness and general understanding of the tasks involved in maintaining playing surfaces.

There are three modules to this training course. All are designed to either give you a new understanding or build on your experiences so far.

- Requirements of the groundsperson and pitch
- Maintenance activities (Equipment and Machinery)
- Safe use and storage (Materials)

Each module has an informal self-assessment test, plus there is a formal end of course multiple choice assessment test, which is also online.

After you have completed these 3 modules, we will also suggest other topics of progression should you wish to continue to learn.

The course is £25.00 & can be booked by visiting: <https://portal.iog.org/education/course/379841>

Kind Regards

Matt



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