

MARTIN TOWNSEND  
SPORTS AND FINE TURF ADVISORY SERVICE  
TEL: (0454) 311264

114 Kingscote,  
Yate,  
Bristol  
Avon BS17 4YE.

10th October 1988

Dear John,

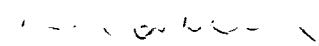
Re: Hambrook Cricket Ground

I am now pleased to enclose my report following my visit on 22nd  
~~October~~ 1988.  
SEPTEMBER

Also enclosed is my invoice in respect of the report and I look forward to receiving payment in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further advice or information.

Yours sincerely,

  
Martin Townsend

John Gillingham  
3 Common Road  
Winterbourne  
Bristol

## REPORT ON HAMBROOK CRICKET GROUND

following Advisory Visit on Thursday 22nd September 1988

The square at Hambrook on the day of inspection was still very firm following the wear and tear of the cricket season and the rolling during wicket preparation with your heavy roller.

Local knowledge tells me that the wickets at Hambrook are amongst the hardest in the Bristol area. This is of great benefit when trying to produce hard wickets with an even bounce, however if you consolidate the soil to such an extent in the cricket season you must relieve this compaction in the Autumn and Winter months.

Your square is already showing signs of severe compaction and this is evident by the types of grass that are prominent at the present. These grasses are annual meadow grass (*Poa Annua*) and perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) both of which are classed as weed grasses when found in sports turf surfaces.

To improve the quality of grasses in your square and to relieve the compaction in the soil, I would advise you to purchase an aerator in the future.

If the work programme below is followed at the end of each cricket season then an improvement in the wickets at Hambrook will be seen.

### AUTUMN AND WINTER PROGRAMME

1. Cut the grass with your mower set as low as possible.
2. Scarify the square to remove any matted or lateral growth. Make the first pass with scarifier in the direction of play. Remove the debris by brushing and mowing.  
If necessary this may have to be repeated a second time if any matted grass remains. Any second scarification should be carried out at 45 degrees to the first pass.
3. Spike with solid tines to relieve compaction and produce a tilth ( a fine seed bed).
4. Apply wormkiller, following the direction on the label. A repeat application may be necessary in January during a wet mild period.

5. You have ordered 3 x 25kg of Superturf A.W/B Autumn and Winter Fertiliser. Apply 2 x 25 kg of this Fertiliser. The remaining bag can be applied in early December.

6. Oversow the square with 35kg of MM29 grass seed mixture. Apply by means of the Sisis Auto Seeder making 2 passes with this machine first in the direction of play and the second at 45 degrees to this. Brush the seed into the soil surface.

7. Top dress the square with 2 tons of Bambery Cricket Wicket Loam. Use the lute and string method described during by Advisory Visit making sure you work the top dressing into the existing soil surface.

8. Once the grass seed has germinated, the grass on the square should be allowed to grow to 1.25" to 1.5" high and then cut back to a height of 0.75". Keep the grass trimmed to this height throughout the Winter months. Make sure your mower has sharp blades which are set correctly.

It would be of great benefit to your square if you could hire or borrow a Spiker periodically throughout the winter and if you are able to locate one to use it as often as possible.

I may receive details of a secondhand spiker for sale, and if so, I will contact you regarding the same.

I suggest that I make a further visit to Hambrook in early March to assess the winter improvements and to discuss a Spring and Summer Work programme.

## Report on Hambrook Cricket Ground

following Advisory visit on Friday 31st March 1989

### General Comment

The grass cover is now alot thicker and is of a more even coverage following the re-seeding programme of last Autumn. The young finer grasses are now fairly prominent and will eventually dominate the square if last years Autumn programme is carried out over the next few years.

Worms are still a problem on the square although these are now isolated to small areas which should be individually treated with liquid Sydane before the start of the cricket season.

There is a need to spray the patches of clover on the square using May and Bakers "Clovertox". You should purchase a 5 litre Container and apply, following the instructions carefully, in early May and again in mid June. The broad leaved weeds can be hand weeded out over the next few weeks.

For the spraying operations on the square I recommend that you purchase a C.P.3 Knapsack Sprayer. This can be supplied by the following Company:

Browns,  
Whiteladies Road  
Bristol

at a cost of approximately £60.00.

I understand that the Club are now interested in purchasing a Fine Turf Spiker. I will try to locate such a machine and keep you advised.

I strongly recommend that you purchase a motorised scarifier for use on the square. Such a machine will thin out the coarser grasses that are present in the square, prune any lateral grass growth and prevent a matted soil surface from forming. A re-conditioned scarifier will cost between £300.00 - £450.00.

## 5. Worm Killing

If worm casts are present on the square they are an obvious sign of work activity and therefore a worm killer should be applied. Apply wormkiller in early March when the soil is moist and rain is forecast.

## 6. Weed Killing

If there are a lot of weeds present in the square they should be controlled with a selective herbicide. Choose a brand that contains 2,4-D. to control Broadleaved Weeds and Meccoprop to control Clovers, Chickweed and Yarrow.

Hand-weeding is also a useful method to eliminate weeds particularly if they are small in number.

## 7. Moss Killing

Moss may be visible on the square particularly following a mild and wet winter. A treatment with any of the proprietary Moss Killers, or an application of Sulphate of Iron should be carried out in March.

Once the moss has died, after about 2 weeks, the square should be scarified to rake out the dead moss.

## SPRING MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE CLUB CRICKET SQUARE

### 1. Mowing the Square

In early March the height of the grass should be reduced from 1 inch it's winter length, down to 3/4" and trimmed at this length up to the start of the playing season or until the pre-season rolling has been completed. Once the season has started the length should be reduced to 1/2" and trimmed to that height throughout the summer.

### 2. Scarification

The square should be scarified to remove any matted grass and to prune lateral grass growth. Make one pass with the Scarifier in the direction of play. If on inspection there is a need to make another pass with the scarifier, do so at an angle of 45 degrees to the first pass. Brush up the debris and finally clean up the square with the mower.

### 3. Rolling and Spiking

In early March the Square should receive it's first rolling. Use a light hand roller (5 c.w.t.) or a 36" mower. Roll in the direction of play, across the square and in all diagonal directions.

After 10 hours of rolling, spike the square using a solid tine spiker, this will keep the surface open and allow water and oxygen into the soil surface.

After approximately 30 hours rolling, replace your light roller with the heavy roller. If your heavy roller is ballasted in any way remove all such ballast and continue to roll for another 20 hours. Replace the ballast when you are preparing your first actual cricket wicket.

It must be noted that the soil conditions must be at the correct moisture levels for rolling to be of any benefit. Do not roll if a "Bow Wave" of water is being pushed along by the rollers or if the soil surface is so dry that it has cracks in it.

### 4. Fertilising

Apply a dressing of powdered spring and summer fertiliser preferably to the square that has recently been spiked, and then brush in. The fertiliser should be applied in showery weather during the middle of March. Another application will be necessary in early June.

John Gillingham.

2 tonnes Kaloam : £165.21