



INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP



HAMPSHIRE CRICKET BOARD - ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest newsletter of the Hampshire Association of Cricket Groundsmen. We would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new members who have recently joined through the HCB club affiliation process. To those of you who have been with us for a while - we hope you have wintered well and are looking forward to the new cricket season with renewed vigour.

Contact details 2016

For further information about the IOG or to seek help and advice about any grounds and facilities issues please contact -

Chris Westbrook - HCB Pitch Advisor 02380 254500 wetwickets@aol.com

Andy Sharp - HCB Administrator 07920 452528 andy.sharp@ageasbowl.com

Training from the Institute of Groundsmanship - up to 50% discount for IOG members

Offering a full range of training, these one-day courses cater for all levels of groundsmanship from Maintenance to Applied Turfculture and Advanced Turfculture levels. The trainers are ECB and IOG accredited and deliver expert services to hundreds of delegates every year increasing employability, health and safety and standards in the turf care industry.

If you're considering training with the IOG you'll benefit from the excellent members discount. The current annual subscription to the IOG for individual membership is £48. Further information is available on the IOG website - <http://www.iog.org/learning-training-and-resources>

On completion of a course you receive a certificate of attendance which can be upgraded to a certificate of achievement on the completion of an online multiple-choice test. The certificates are also endorsed by the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Course Details

Level 1 (Spring/Summer) Thursday 28 April 2016 - Hursley Park CC

Level 1 (Autumn/Winter) Tuesday 6th September 2016 - Hursley Park CC

Level 2 Wednesday 28th September 2016 - Hursley Park CC

The cost for the Level 1 course is £130 plus VAT for IOG members and £260 plus VAT for non-members and for Level 2 £140 for IOG members and £280 plus VAT for non-members.

To book a training course or gain further information then please contact Lisa Gray on 01908 552984 or email training@iog.org.

The Hampshire Cricket Board will continue to assist with course fees for members of the ACG, by refunding up to £65 per member per course. To claim a refund, please send a copy of the payment receipt to andy.sharp@ageasbowl.com

Industry shows support for SALTEX 2016



Following the success of last year's exhibition, more than 70 per cent of SALTEX 2015 exhibitors have already re-booked for the 2016 event - held at the NEC, Birmingham on 2-3 November.

Firmly established as the UK's leading turf management event, SALTEX 2015 attracted more than 270 exhibitors and 8,700 visitors. Currently SALTEX 2016 exhibitor sign ups total 210 - a massive increase on this time last year.

For further information visit <http://www.iogsaltex.com> or Email: MatthewKnight@rabdf.co.uk or call: 0845 458 2711 for sales information.

Pitch care and renovation



Those of you who are still suffering from one of the wettest winters for many years may be interested in attending a Ground Renovation Improvement Day at Fawley Parish Hall on Thursday 19th April from 9.30am. Further details and a booking form at <http://www.pitchimprovementprogramme.com/grassroots-pitch-renovation-tour.html>

Maintenance and handling of cricket covers and sheets



A number of clubs already had or have recently obtained flat sheet covers through the HCB/ECB Grant Scheme, either for protecting pitches or to use as side sheets for use with mobile covers. We thought it would be useful for clubs if our County Grounds Advisor Chris Westbrook passed on some tips and advice when handling and using covers and sheets.

Whilst, in theory, covers protect the grass area under light rain, they may not be 100% efficient under heavy rain or storm conditions, as the water has an uncanny knack of still getting under. This can happen due to the contours of the ground, capillary action, or because insufficient attention has been given to ensuring the sheets are properly secured, particularly in windy conditions.

The larger the sheet, the less likely it is that the water reaches the match pitch, but larger sheeting presents the problem of pulling them on, particularly in windy conditions – and additional man-power is usually required. The main problem arises when taking the sheeting off, particularly if it has rained; firstly the water has to be removed from the sheet before it can be moved – and again, moving the sheet can be labour intensive.

To remove the water it is best to use a hand operated sopper (such as a Bowdry, Water Hog or similar) but again this takes time. The other big decisions are when to put the sheets on and when to remove them.

Ideally the area should be dry when putting the sheets on, otherwise the ground will remain damp and the sheets sweat. If the sheets are left on too long, the grass plant may become yellow. Again, if the sheet is put on during the week and it is difficult to move through lack of man-power, preparation for the match pitch may be delayed/reduced leading up to the game and hence the quality of the match pitch impaired.

Covering during the week leading up to a game is an acquired art and the best results are usually achieved by experience of the product, ground conditions and the weather.

Your flat sheet covers should be treated with the ultimate respect to avoid any type of damage. The most common damage during the season is from the studs of cricket boots. It is therefore vital that every effort is made to reduce the possibility of damage.

The following information is available from Stuart Canvas Products – one of the leading manufacturers of covers in England.

Use during the season

Do not pack the flat sheet away when wet, in order to prolong the life of your sheet. When you have finished with the flat sheet for the day it should be wrapped up carefully and stored in a dry location.

Do's and Don'ts when using the Cover

- Always use the grab handles (if available) to pull the flat sheet on and off.
- Never use a tractor to pull the flat sheet as this will cause undue stress on the sheet.
- Always peg the flat sheet down. It is suggested that you peg every eyelet.
- The flat sheet should also be weighed down using sand bags, preferably in between each eyelet if you are in a windy location or are expecting bad weather.
- Never walk on the sheet with cricket studs. Flat soled shoes are fine but please check they do not have stones in the treads.
- Always take due care and attention when pulling the sheet off. Try to keep it low to the ground when pulling off as it may act like a "sail" in the wind.

End of Season

After your last game of the season, or when the flat sheet is no longer required, brush off any debris that may be on the sheet and wipe it over with a mop in order to have it clean for the next season. This will help to prolong the life of the flat sheet and is essential in getting the best out of your sheet for the following season.

Once you have cleaned and dried the flat sheet it should be ideally placed in a storage bag. You must ensure that your flat sheet is dry before storing it away for the winter. It is recommended that you store your flat sheet either above ground level or, preferably, in a metal container to reduce the risk of rodents causing damage to the sheet.

These recommendations equally apply to similar sheeting on mobile covers.

Care, Maintenance and Storage

At all times the flat sheet should be treated with respect. It should not come into contact with players' studs, concrete or stones. These items could cause tears/damage to the cover.

If accidental damage has occurred, repair kits may be purchased from reputable suppliers. Small repairs can be made on site. Any larger rips/tears are best repaired professionally.

To ensure that your covers provide maximum protection to enable you to achieve more play, it is essential they are well maintained and put on and taken off with care.

Mobile Covers

At the end of the playing season Mobile Cover framework should be checked for damage to the structure or paint work. This should be repaired in the autumn so that the covers are ready for use at the start of the next season. If the gutters are not galvanised it is suggested that a coat of bitumen paint be applied to the inside to prolong use. The wheels and hose pipes may also need attention, and the wheels always run smoother if the tyre pressure is correct and they have been oiled pre-season.