

SEPTEMBER START

Dennis Baldwin on a groundsman's year

I live about a mile and a half away from Highmoor Lane. I come down here most days. I only miss a few days, and that's usually when it's awful weather.

My year as groundsman starts at the end of the season in September. I get out there then and start scarifying, re-seeding and working on the top dressing. Gradually, the seeds start to germinate, I can give the square a couple of cuts and then a winter dressing. I tidy things up and then in February/March I'm ready to start again.



I'd say global warming is definitely affecting Hartshead Moor Cricket Club! We're having wetter winters and summers now. It's making the job of groundsman harder. Wickets are much softer now – you just can't stop the rain falling!

We have westerly winds here most of the time. This helps with drying the wicket.