

Sequence of operations on renovating cricket square.

Thorough scarification by Rotaraks.

Clean off the debris by mowing closely.

Hollow tining closely, to depth of 2 inches. Not more.

Top dressing applied and tuted in so as to fill all core holes left by hollow tining.

The conditions should be reasonably dry to carry out the above operations.

The grass seed recommended should be sown at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz per sq yd before applying the top dressing, which will provide a seed bed.

The top soil to be used should be screened through a screen with a mesh not larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and mixed three parts soil to one part marl. The marl will help to bind the soil and provide a firm surface for play.

Carbonate of lime should be mixed with the soil so as to give approximately 4 oz of lime per sq yd.

I would not recommend fertiliser to be used in the mix.

The amount of top dressing given can only be determined during the operation, but the grass should not be entirely covered to produce smothering, rather to give a further dressing in about six weeks after the first if labour and material is available.

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In spring the rolling should commence with a light roller, progressing eventually to the heavy one.

The square should always be given a light rolling before the first mowing in spring.

On my visit, I did not stress the importance of aeration of the square. If by any chance, a mechanical spiking machine such as the Pattison could be borrowed at any time out of the playing season, a thorough spiking would be extremely beneficial.

As an aside, we fork off over our squares by hand to a depth of six inches. It's hard work but very well worth the effort. This gives the grasses a chance to deep root, giving better growth in dry weather and also helps the soil bacteria to make better conditions for ~~the~~ the utilising of fertilizers.

CRICKET SQUARE.  
RENOVATION PROCEDURE.

Notes made on a visit paid to Honley Cricket Club by Mr. Cowthray,  
Headingley Groundsman, on 29.8.59.

The main problem is the presence of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of fibre over the wicket, which will give a very high bouncy wicket.

- 1) Rota rake the area to a depth of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and sweep up and remove fibre.
- 2) Hollow tine the area taking the machine across the wicket in different directions.
- 3) Apply top dressing with lute approximately 4ft long.

To be carried out preferably in dry weather.

GENERAL CULTIVATION.

In spring use a light roller for the first roll and use the roller across the line of the wicket to avoid ridging.

Cut the area to a depth of three pennies and the wicket to a depth of one penny.

Set the mower in the following manner:-

- 1) Place straight edge across bottom of both rollers.
- 2) Adjust until the distance between the roller and straight edge is three pennies.

Scarify regularly.

Use sprinkler to assist in germination of seed during hot weather.

Spike the marking lines regularly to get rid of dark lines.

TOP DRESSING.

A mixture of soil and marl 3:1 ratio with the addition of <sup>2</sup> cwt of carbonate of lime.

Soil to be screened  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Marl to be fine grade from: Rigby Taylor, Victoria Works, Bolton.  
1 Ton.

A small quantity of fertilizer could be added, also grass seed  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz per sq. yard.