

Pitch 1

Very good grass coverage with good levels as well. You can tell that this pitch has a very good maintenance programme by the way it looks and feels. I would however use the chain harrow more often next season. This will help maintain the grass and the levels whilst giving you a fantastic pattern for playing on.

Pitch 2

This pitch drains very well on the whole but does hold a little water in places at times? With the new lights about to be put in place I would increase the verti-draining and the use of your own slitter. Aeration is vital, and with the increased usage the lights will bring it is important that you increase the spiking and slitting accordingly. The spreading of the sand at the same time as the verti-draining is important. Then chain harrow the sand into the holes.

This pitch will need to be over seeded? The winter ahead is going to be twice as tough as the last due too the lights and the pitch needs your help!

Pitch 3

Again a well draining pitch with good grass coverage. The remedial programme is good but would like to see a little seed drilled into this pitch as well.

Training Area

This area is vastly over used and abused! This is good though as while the players use this area the pitches are resting. Look after this area as though it was your best pitch. There are a few bad areas that need addressing this spring. Hand fork sand into the low spots and bring the surface level. Then top dress with sand and over seed the whole area. Give these areas a little more grass seed. Chain harrow level. The area might need a feed at the time of sowing to give the seed the best possible chance? It would be no-more than 2 bags of feed. But it may well make the difference?

Remember to mark out some straight white lines for them to practice line outs on next season? You dictate where you want them to train and move the lines around when the area begins to wear. Speak to the coaches about moving the training around the pitch? Remind them that there are 6 training floods and each one, even the one furthest away must be trained on!

In General

I know that you do not feed until July when you apply a weed and feed. That is fine. But if you could put some onto the pitches when you top dress, spike and seed the pitches you would see the difference straight away. I use a 10-15-10 when I do my remedial work. I would also recommend that you apply an autumn feed in late October or November.

Can we afford to put into the budget a verti-drain at the same time as we apply the fertiliser in the autumn? The spiking is very important and at this time, just before all the bad weather it is of vital importance.

Your own slitter is doing a great job for you. Try and use this machine even more this season. The more that you slit the better the grass will grow, the better the pitch will drain.

Have a small pile of sand on site to top dress any areas that get cut up during play.

You have a really well run club with outstanding pitches. You have the potential to have even better pitches if you spike and use the right sand. Speak to the coaches and impress upon them how much you can help them if they were to help you?

Well done to all concerned and if you need any help from me? You know where I am.

Yours truly,

Keith Kent