



PITCHPOWER

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FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT REPORT

HEYWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL (CLOSED)

Lancashire FA

Active Places Site ID

1203218

Report ID

9129



This report has been compiled for ROACH DYNAMOS F.C. and Lancashire FA to provide information on the standard of the football pitches and outlines recommendations on how to improve the quality and maintenance of these pitches.

Inspection Window

1 NOV 2022 / 31 MAR 2023

Inspection Reason

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY CONSULTANT

Report Completion Date

21 MAR 2023

This report looks solely at the Football pitches for ROACH DYNAMOS F.C. to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of Football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. Please note these recommendations are based on the information obtained and/or provided and are for guidance purposes only. Any works undertaken are the responsibility of the club/organisation.

Site report:

HEYWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL (CLOSED)



HEYWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL (CLOSED)

Site ID: 1203218



Date inspection submitted

05/03/23

Inspection submitted by

paulwg212@aol.com

Next available inspection window

1 Nov 2023 / 31 Mar 2024

Reviewed by

acooper@thegma.org.uk

Overview



Map Key	Pitch Name	PQS Score
1	5V5 PITCH 7	● Poor - 27%
2	5V5 PITCH 8	● Poor - 25%
3	7V7 PITCH 4	● Poor - 27%
4	7V7 PITCH 6	● Poor - 34%
5	9V9 PITCH 3	● Poor - 25%
6	9V9 PITCH 5	● Poor - 32%
7	11V11 PITCH 1	● Poor - 20%
8	11V11 PITCH 2	● Poor - 20%



Thank you for your submission. In order for these pitches to improve, an increase in the maintenance activities and an increase in the machinery stock is required. You may be eligible for support for funding towards maintenance operations (which could be up to 3200 per full size pitch per year known as Enhanced Maintenance Funding) for pitches rated as BASIC or POOR and up to £950 per year for pitches rated as GOOD or above (known as Sustain Funding) and up to 75% towards the machinery recommended in this report. Your county FA will be able to help with this process. If the club is awarded enhanced maintenance funding, concentrating on over-seeding, decompaction and weed control operations will have the greatest impact on these pitches. The nature of this site will mean all the renovation recommendations will be needed to get this pitch to a GOOD standard. Decompaction is essential to aid drainage. If the club can source the appropriate volunteers, taking some of the recommended maintenance tasks in house such as grooming and slitting, would also help. This would be dependent on the club sourcing appropriate machinery. Please see instructions for taking photographs away from goalmouths / highest wear areas to ensure best advice possible.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at acooper@thegma.org.uk or by phone 07593436347 (working hours only) Adam Cooper

Maintenance

Attention required in these areas:

[Overseeding \(Out of season renovation\) >](#)

[Top Dressing \(Renovation\) >](#)

[Decompaction >](#)

[Application of fertiliser >](#)

[Application of selective herbicide \(weed treatment\) >](#)

[Surface Grooming >](#)

[Slitting >](#)

[Mowing >](#)

[Line marking >](#)

Equipment

Attention required in these areas:

[Compact tractor >](#)

[Mowing equipment >](#)

[Combination turf grooming tool >](#)

[Slitter >](#)

[Fertiliser spreader >](#)

[Line marker >](#)

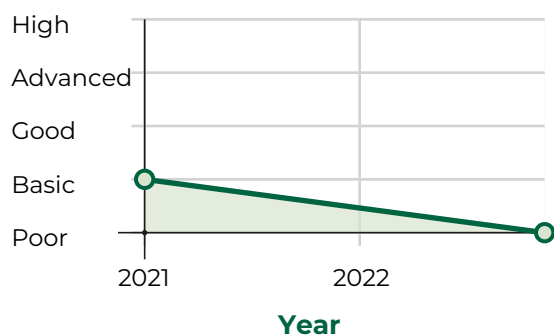
5v5 pitch 7 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 27%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	25	25	4
Grass coverage	36%	43%	40%	0
Weed coverage	15%	20%	20%	0
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	160mm	90mm	200mm	3
Thatch depth	10mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	160mm	60mm	60mm	0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



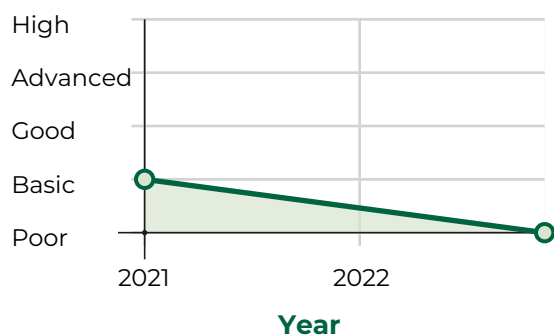
5v5 pitch 8 Football - Mini Soccer 5v5

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 25%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	25	30	4
Grass coverage	40%	45%	45%	0
Weed coverage	15%	20%	30%	0
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	160mm	160mm	160mm	3
Thatch depth	10mm	10mm	10mm	2
Root depth	80mm	90mm	80mm	1
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



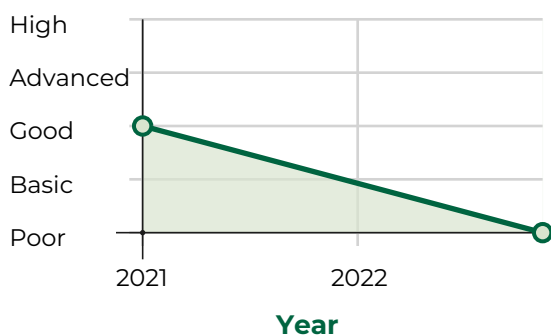
7v7 pitch 4 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 27%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	25	25	4
Grass coverage	60%	50%	40%	0
Weed coverage	10%	10%	10%	3
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	150mm	100mm	100mm	0
Thatch depth	0mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	100mm	60mm	40mm	0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



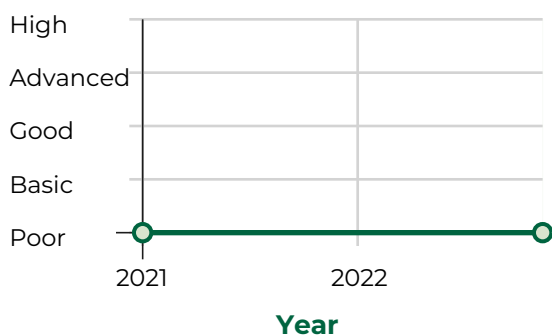
7v7 pitch 6 Football - Mini Soccer 7v7

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 34%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30 	25 	30	4 
Grass coverage	25% 	40% 	25%	0 
Weed coverage	5% 	10% 	5%	4 
Surface debris	Below standard 	Below standard 	Below standard	0 
Topsoil depth	160mm 	120mm 	120mm	1 
Thatch depth	0mm 	5mm 	5mm	4 
Root depth	80mm 	80mm 	60mm	1 
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water 			0 
Goal posts	Compliant 			1 
Line markings	Below standard 			0 
Surface evenness	Below standard 			0 

 Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



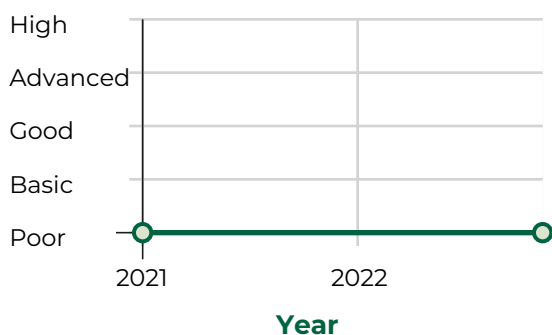
9v9 pitch 3 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 25%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	30	30	4
Grass coverage	50%	30%	40%	0
Weed coverage	20%	50%	10%	0
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	180mm	100mm	80mm	0
Thatch depth	5mm	5mm	0mm	4
Root depth	60mm	80mm	80mm	1
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Standard			1
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



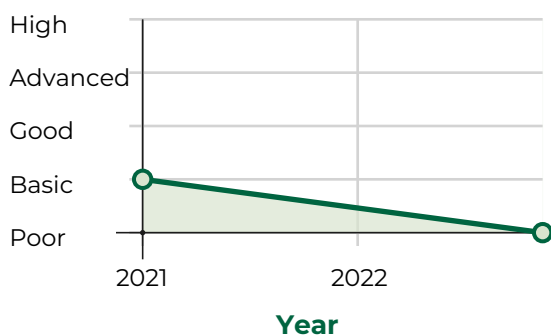
9v9 Pitch 5 Football - Junior Football 9v9

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 32%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	25	30	30	4
Grass coverage	43%	51%	45%	0
Weed coverage	10%	9%	5%	3
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	130mm	125mm	200mm	2
Thatch depth	0mm	3mm	0mm	4
Root depth	65mm	80mm	60mm	0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



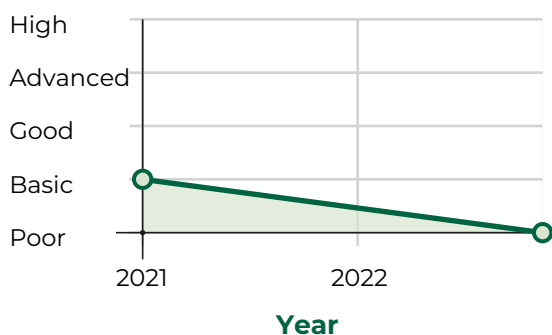
11v11 pitch 1 Football - Adult Football

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 20%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	40	40	30	3
Grass coverage	30%	25%	39%	0
Weed coverage	20%	25%	25%	0
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	80mm	120mm	140mm	1
Thatch depth	0mm	0mm	0mm	4
Root depth	40mm	60mm	80mm	0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time



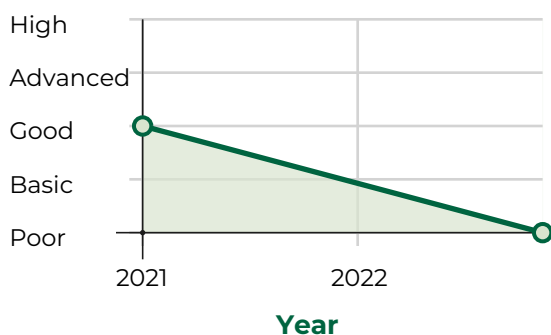
11v11 pitch 2 Football - Junior Football 11v11

CURRENT PQS SCORE: Poor - 20%

AREA				PQS GRADE
Grass height	30	25	25	4
Grass coverage	40%	40%	55%	0
Weed coverage	20%	15%	15%	2
Surface debris	Below standard	Below standard	Below standard	0
Topsoil depth	40mm	120mm	100mm	0
Thatch depth	60mm	0mm	10mm	2
Root depth	40mm	40mm	60mm	0
Drainage Following Rainfall	Standing water			0
Goal posts	Compliant			1
Line markings	Below standard			0
Surface evenness	Below standard			0

Grass coverage cap: You received a score of Poor therefore your overall PQS has been capped at Poor

Overall pitch PQS tracked over time





MAINTENANCE

These recommendations are in priority order

OVERSEEDING (OUT OF SEASON RENOVATION)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£8400

To improve desirable grass coverage over-seeding is required using a Perennial Ryegrass mix of at least three cultivars. This should be applied using a disc seeder in at least 3 directions which discs the seed directly into the soil at a rate of 30-50gms per m². No less than 10-14 20kg bags. Timing of application is key, as seed will struggle to germinate in dry hot weather without irrigation or cold temperatures when there is not adequate warmth for the seed to establish. Over-seeding using a disc seeder whilst the pitch is in play is an option if weather conditions are more favourable but high wear areas such as goal mouths, penalty spots and centre circles should be repaired and reseeded as early in the close season as possible and combined with a suitable sports sand raked to a tilth covered with germination sheeting and kept watered. Work with a sports seed supplier to identify the best seed mix for your requirements. Reduced rate overseeding (6 to 8 bags) can be done where good ground cover is retained through the playing season or concentrated on the high wear areas down the



OVERSEEDING (OUT OF SEASON RENOVATION) CONTINUED

centre of the pitch. Contractor cost approx: £1375 per 11v11 pitch, £1000 per 9v9 pitch, £825 per mini soccer pitch (includes materials)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERSEEDING \(OUT OF SEASON RENOVATION\) >](#)



TOP DRESSING (RENOVATION)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£9500

Should budgets permit – ideally 30-60 tonnes per full size pitch – medium/fine sand. Remedial work should be undertaken to sand and seed any bare and undulated areas on the pitches particularly goal mouths and centre spots. This would be beneficial in improving the soil make up, aid drainage and surface levels, ideally dressing to be brushed into the profile following decompaction at the end of the season

Estimated cost based on min 30 tonnes: £1,560 per 11 v 11 pitch, £1,260 9 v 9 and £980 mini soccer pitch

"The top dressing should be compatible with your existing soil as incompatible materials can lead to issues with surface drainage and cause root breaks leading to an unstable surface. Any top dressing should be obtained from a reputable source and specifically for sports turf.

Soft, builders, beach or play sand is not recommended as these types of sand do not have the correct drainage characteristics for natural turf sport pitches. The recommendation is to use either medium fine or medium coarse grade sports sand. If the top dressing is of poor quality, it may change soil pH and stunt grass growth.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT TOP DRESSING
\(RENOVATION\) >](#)



DECOMPACTION

Frequency:

3 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£8700

The club/local authority should look to organise decompaction works on the site. Decompaction operations are essential to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the soil profile increase drainage and root depth/density and improve the breakdown of organic matter (Thatch). Introduce a programme of deep spiking operations to be conducted at least twice annually, spring and autumn using 18-24mm tines at 100mm spacings to maximum achievable depth. If funds permit conduct further linear aeration and decompaction operations during the autumn/winter month's dependent on ground conditions.

Contractor cost approx: £470 per 11v11 pitch, £335 per 9v9 pitch, £280 per mini soccer pitch

[LEARN MORE ABOUT DECOMPACTION >](#)



APPLICATION OF FERTILISER

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£3700

Slow-release fertiliser

Experience has shown that where funds are limited and best value the principal concern application of a controlled or slow-release granular fertiliser provides the best outcomes on pitches used for grassroots football. As a rough guide these types of fertiliser provide a slow “drip” feed of nutrients avoiding excessive grass growth that can be difficult to keep on top of and susceptible to disease. This release of nutrients can last for up to 4-5 months in certain products but more typically 3-4. Granular fertiliser has increased in cost in recent years so its really important to make sure that what you are applying to the area is appropriate and nothing is being wasted. A nutrient soil analysis that can usually be provided by your chosen supplier can help to make sure you’re using what’s most suitable for your site. Typically, whatever the preferred supplier a suitable fertiliser can be selected for spring/summer (Higher nitrogen content some phosphorus and medium potassium content) or autumn/winter (Low nitrogen content, no phosphorus and high potassium content. Approx. 12 x 20kg bags per full size pitch. Contractor cost approx: £650 per 11v11 pitch, £520 per 9v9 pitch, £390 per mini soccer pitch (including materials)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF FERTILISER >](#)



APPLICATION OF SELECTIVE HERBICIDE (WEED TREATMENT)

Frequency:

1 x per year

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Est Cost:

£2100

Selective herbicide should be applied by a fully qualified professional with the appropriate equipment and paperwork. This should be done when the grass is growing strongly. It should not be applied any sooner than 6-8 weeks after seeding (refer to product label) Typically mowing should not take place for 3 days before and 3 days after application. (Do not apply in drought conditions it may damage the turf and will not treat weeds effectively) Selective herbicides should be sprayed in the dry with little to no wind. Most selective herbicides are rain fast within 24 hours of application. If rain falls prior to this it could affect the success of weed control.

Contractor cost approx £325 per application 11 v 11 pitch

[LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLICATION OF
SELECTIVE HERBICIDE \(WEED TREATMENT\) >](#)



SURFACE GROOMING

Frequency:

Fortnightly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Throughout the year when conditions permit supplement decompaction and mowing operations with regular surface slitting and grooming to reduce surface compaction, improve ingress of water, air and nutrients and maintain connection between surface and deeper rootzone with attendant fractures and fissures. The latter most effective if conducted by a combination turf grooming tool fitted with attachments for surface slitting, rake, brush, and polishing roller. This encourages the grass plants to stand upright and grow vertically to help allow the air flow to the surface. These operations will also help with the control and prevention of thatch/organic matter build-up and disperse worm castings when ground conditions allow. Any rolling that takes place across the pitches should only be carried out with a lightweight roller in conjunction with a regular aeration programme.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include implementing a surface grooming regime.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SURFACE GROOMING >](#)



SLITTING

Frequency:

Monthly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

Slitting, although useful on it's own, works in perfect partnership with any decompaction works that are undertaken.

Overtime, the playing surface can become capped through use of machinery and play so the slitter is the perfect tool to keep the top of that soil profile open and give access to those deeper time holes.

This will improve plant health and root growth through gaseous exchange and nutrient uptake.

Recommend to action this roughly every 4-6 weeks during the playing season, after decompaction. It must be mentioned that slitting the pitches should be performed as a preventative i.e. before heavy rain is forecast and not as an attempt to relieve a waterlogged surface as this will cause further damage.

Typical contractor cost approx: £240 per 11v11 pitch, £204 per 9v9 pitch, £168 per mini soccer pitch

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTING >](#)



MOWING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

The pitches should be maintained at a height between 30-35mm during the growing season and increased to between 35-40mm during the autumn and winter months. There are exceptions to this, during drought periods height of cut should be increased to reduce stress on the plant and cutting avoided all together if growth has ceased. To minimise build-up of surface debris careful consideration should be given as to the conditions in which mowing takes place. Quality of cut will be maximised if cutting can take place when the grass leaf is dry, however cutting should not take during the heat of a warm day as this will cause stress to the turf. Use of brushes/spring harrows will help to disperse surface debris after cutting so this is another potential option. A height of cut between 35-40mm during close season will aid establishment of new growth and reduce the impact of stress factors such as drought or disease. Cutting a minimum of once per week during growing season is advisable. No more than a third of the grass leaf should be mown during any one operation to minimise turf stress and reduce the build up of grass clippings on the surface.

PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include mowing costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING >](#)



LINE MARKING

Frequency:

Weekly

Recommended for:

Whole Ground

There was evidence that lines had been historically “burnt in.” This practice should be avoided in future as any cost saving from marking less frequently will be negligible in comparison to the spends required to reinstate and seed the lines as they may crumble through lack of grass coverage. Use of a growth regulator on the lines could be investigated to slow the growth of grass on the lines rather than the practice of using a total herbicide.

Marking paint is designed to work on the plant leaf and not on soil so if marking over burnt in lines takes place, rain will quickly wash it off. It has much a longer life span when used on grass. If lines are already burnt in, then when over-marking with paint, it is better to mark right next to the burnt in line on the grass, effectively using the burnt line as a string guide as the paint will have a much longer life-span on the grass than on the soil line. PLEASE NOTE: The indicative budget outlined in the report does not include line marking costs.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKING >](#)

ESTIMATED BUDGET TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDATIONS

£32400

Please note, the costs provided above are indicative and may vary dependent on quantities and frequency. This estimated budget should be used to help plan and prioritise work, but is not linked to the amount of grant funding you may receive. Following the recommended works should help you achieve the **GOOD** pitch standard, or if already at that level, sustain it.



EQUIPMENT

To carry out the maintenance specified above, we recommend the following equipment to carry out the activities.

COMPACT TRACTOR

Tractor

- 30 – 40 horsepower
- Turf tread tyres
- ROPS
- PTO

Would benefit club to have their own compact tractor, which they could then run the various attachments off to help with better management of the pitches

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPACT TRACTOR >](#)



MOWING EQUIPMENT

Rotary Roller Mower:

- Tractor mounted
- Working width minimum 180mm working width

Would help in improving grass coverage, overall presentation, and time it takes to currently cut pitches, lower maintenance costs also

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MOWING EQUIPMENT >](#)



COMBINATION TURF GROOMING TOOL

A 1.8m rear tractor mounted combination turf grooming tool would enable key maintenance tasks such as brushing, raking, slitting, and light rolling to be undertaken simultaneously if desired.

- Slitter
- Brush
- Rake
- Light Roller
- Minimum working width circa 180mm

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COMBINATION TURF GROOMING TOOL >](#)



SLITTER

A 1.8m rear tractor mounted deep slitter would be ideal to carry out aeration to depths of between 160-220mm. This would complement any deep spiking operations carried out and will be ideal for controlling the thatch layer, increasing oxygen exchange in the soil and creating fissures for water to penetrate through the soil profile.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SLITTER >](#)



FERTILISER SPREADER

A tractor mounted fertiliser spreader with at least 300 litres capacity would enable the pitches to be fertilised when required and when conditions are favourable and are very time effective. If the club preferred to use a pedestrian rotary spreader one of 25kg capacity would be appropriate, they are also very useful for over-seeding localised areas in season such as goal mouths.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FERTILISER SPREADER >](#)



LINE MARKER

A new spray line marker will provide accurate and bright lines and can be used with ready mix paints for economical line marking. I would also generally recommend that a wheel transfer marker is available for use as a back up should there be any battery issues or blockages.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT LINE MARKER >](#)



TRAINING

As well as undertaking the maintenance activities as described above, we would also recommend attending the following training courses to further develop your skills and understanding of grass pitch maintenance.

[Click here for information on training courses.](#)

[VISIT TRAINING COURSES >](#)

Recommended Training

Paul

**Online Modules Level 1 -
Football**

[Read More >](#)

Mike Weatherilt

**Online Modules Level 1 -
Football**

[Read More >](#)



WANT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FUNDING APPLICATION PORTAL

You could be eligible for a grant to help you carry out the recommendations in this report. Click 'Apply here' and you could be on your way to securing a grant and being a part of our mission to transform this country's grassroots game.

Report ID: **9129**

To apply for funding visit

[APPLY.FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK](https://apply.footballfoundation.org.uk)

Training Courses



Further information on any training courses you're recommended to complete can be found on the Grounds Management Association website.

[Visit the GMA >](#)

The Groundskeeping Community



Join the Football Foundation Groundskeeping Community to connect with groundskeepers across different levels of the game. You'll be able to ask questions and share best practice.

[Visit the Groundskeeping Community >](#)

Find out more about the Football Foundation's plan to transform the country's grass pitches

Visit our website, which has lots of information about other resources and funding opportunities we're offering organisations involved in the grassroots game.

[FOOTBALLFOUNDATION.ORG.UK >](https://footballfoundation.org.uk)