

Restoring Pitches On An Existing Cricket Square

Estimated time required – as little as 1-2 days (depending on machinery and manpower available).

Since the turn of the century, machinery and expertise has enabled poor performing pitches to be renovated in as little as 1-2 days, with the restored pitch available for use the following year. The methodology utilizes a tractor mounted, surface planing device that removed the top surface up to a depth of 40mm in one pass, with the material sent down a conveyor belt to a trailer.

The three types of restoration are:

Fraise Mowing

- 1) Remove organic layer (thatch) and grass sward
- typically achieved in two passes at right angles
 - 2) Linear aerate
 - 3) Overseed and incorporate top dressing
- Can be done every 3 years
 - With proper care, pitch can be playable the following year

Fraise Topping

- 1) Remove grass surface & underlying soil
- succession of passes, on shallow setting at apposing angles
 - 2) Form a shallow tilth up to 25mm
 - 3) Grade and level
 - 4) Apply cricket loam
 - 5) Grade, fertilise and overseed
- Ensure the finished pitch is proud of the surrounding square, to allow rainfall run-off and prevent formation of algae / moss
 - With proper care, pitch can be playable the following year

Fraise Topping & Cultivation

- 1) Top surface removed, acting similar to a turfcutter
 - 2) Cultivate layers an indigenous soil as a fine tilth
 - 3) Apply cricket loam
 - 4) Blend, grade and consolidate
 - 5) Fertilise and overseed
- Ensure the finished pitch is proud of the surrounding square, to allow rainfall run-off and prevent formation of algae / moss
 - The first year after restoration can produce a pitch that is slow with low bounce, which typically improves in the year after

You can find more information about pitch renovation and care on the ECB website