

Trowbridge Town fc



FA Pitch Improvement Programme

Initial Report

Supported by

**GROUNDS & NATURAL TURF
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

18/04/2018



Section One – Background/Objectives

Background and Visit Objectives

This report has been compiled for Trowbridge town fc and Wiltshire fa to see how support can be offered in improving the standard of football pitches and level of maintenance across the area. *Please note this report has been produced on the basis of evidence found during the initial visit and is for guidance purposes only.*

It will give:

- An overall appraisal of the site and maintenance
- To improve the playability of the football pitches
- To limit/decrease the amount of cancellations

Overall Summary/General appearance

On first impressions from a distance the overall appearance seemed to be initially very good with an high grass content but after further inspection of the whole pitch with the groundsman it became apparent that the pitch was suffering from very poor draining soil especially in the furthest half from the club house. Grass coverage was generally very good in the drier areas of the pitch but that was mainly because no games had been played on the pitch for 4/5 months throughout the winter due to waterlogging.

The overall appearance of maintenance and presentation by the groundsman was very good even with the grass species being mainly made up of Poa annua/meadow grass which is a shallow rooting grass that will easily kick out and cause divots due to the shallow roots.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

Locate drains and dig investigation holes to see if the drains are working properly or water/rainfall is not getting to them. This could also be achieved by verti-draining/aeration of the surface throughout the season and if the verti-drain holes fill with water/rainfall during the wetter months then this will conclude that the drainage system is not working properly.

End of season renovation consisting of scarifying the pitch to remove as much Poa/meadow grass as possible and the over seeding with 8/10 bags of perennial ryegrass which is a more desirable hard wearing, longer rooting sports grass.

Regular aeration program consisting of deep solid tine spiking at lest 3 times a season.





Section Two – Club/Site/Pitch Details



Club/Organisation:	Trowbridge Town FC				
Address:	Axe and Cleaver lane, Woodmarsh, Bradley road, Trowbridge			Postcode:	BA14 0SB
Active Places Site ID:	unknown				
Main contact job title / responsibility:	Kathy Crisp/1 st team secretary/Admin etc for 1 st team only				
Tel:	01225 763886	Mob:	07758001519		
Email:	kathycrisp@hotmail.co.uk				
Groundsman	Christopher Bell	Qualified:	Yes	IOG Member:	Yes



Mobile:	07922265053	Email:	Chrisbell6308@blueyonder.co.uk		
Number of groundstaff:	1	Volunteer /Professional	Professional		
Maintenance budget per season (£):	£1,200	Renovation Budget	£2,000		
In House:	Yes	Contractor:	Yes	Local Authority:	No
Site Owner:	Trowbridge Town Council	Site Size (Ha):			
RPA	"Enter details"	Site visit	Click or tap to enter a date.		

<i>NLS Step</i>	<i>Charter Standard</i>	<i>Number of teams</i>	
Select NSL Step	Select Charter Standard	Insert Categories	Insert Number
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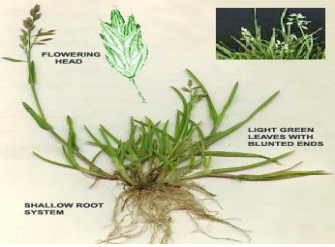










Section Three PQS – Performance Quality Standards

This report utilizes the Performance Quality Standard criteria (PQS) as endorsed by the Football Association (FA) and published by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) as benchmark standards for safe, true, consistent and fit for purpose playing facilities.

IOG PQS Table - Football Pitch - Mid Season							
Add Club name			Pitch Location			Grading Results	
Assessment Criteria		Unit	Goal mouth	Centre Circle	Wing	Median	PQS Grade
1	Length of grass	mm	0	35	35	35	High
2	Total ground cover	%	0	80	90	80	Upper Basic
3	Desirable grasses	%	0	30	30	30	Inadequate
4	Weeds	%	5	5	5	5	High
5	Pests & Diseases	%	0	0	0	0	Elite
6	Thatch	mm	20	20	20	20	Lower Basic
7	Root depth	mm	0	100	100	100	High
8	Growing Medium	mm	0	70	70	70	Inadequate
9	Pitch surface levels	mm	26	10	10	10	High
10	Compaction				Standard		
11	Goal posts				Standard		
12	Line Marking				Below Standard		
13	Surface debris				Below Standard		
14	Unofficial Use				Enter Status		
Performance Quality Standard:				Intermediate			
Pitch Advisor:				Marcus Cassidy			
Date of Assessment:				18/04/2018			



<p>Mowing Height*</p> 	<p>Bare areas % *</p> 	<p>Desirable grasses</p> 
<p>Undesirable grasses</p> 	<p>Weeds</p> 	<p>Pests and disease</p> 
<p>Thatch</p> 	<p>Root depth*</p> 	<p>Growing medium*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Insert Site Picture Here</p>  <p>Right click select Change Picture From Menu Click Browse to select existing image from your machine. Use bing image search for images on line.</p>
<p>Presentation/ appearance*</p> 	<p>Goalposts*</p> 	<p>Peak soil strength</p> 



<p>Surface levels/Evenness*</p> 	<p>Post- match divoting:</p> 	<p>Click on the link below for more information on PQS assessment</p> <p>GROUNDS & NATURAL TURF IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME</p>
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Section Four – Useful Links

Details	Web Address
The Football Association (FA)	www.thefa.com
The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG)	www.iog.org
Sport England/IOG Football Groundsmanship	www.groundsmanship.co.uk/football/football-groundsmanship
IOG Pitch training	www.iog.org/winter-pitches-training-courses
Football Stadia Improvement	http://www.fsif.co.uk/
Football Foundation	http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/

Section Five– Current Machinery

<p>Current machinery - summary:</p>	<p>The current machinery stock is inadequate and unsuitable to provide the maintenance needed in order to produce a playing surface which meets the required benchmarked standard. See recommendations section for further information</p>
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Machinery Type	Operating Hours/Age/New or Second Hand	Comments reflecting suitable/unsuitable. Comment on reliability, and if relevant frequency of servicing.
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Triple deck cylinder mower	Second hand	Evidence of poor/lack of maintenance
Slitter	Second hand	Unsuitable for purpose
Spray marker		In good condition and well maintained
Rotary mower	Second hand	In poor condition and needs replacing

Section Six – Recommendations

Maintenance

Outline maintenance guide

Maintenance Item	Timing/Frequency (PS = Playing Season)	Additional Comments
Mowing	Must maintained between 25-40mm	Important to alternate direction of mowing. No more than 30% removed in one operation.
Line Marking	Weekly	Approved line marking products should be used.
Aeration - slitting	PS	Deep solid Verti drain spike, Star slitter – not an agricultural slitter.
Decompaction	Renovation, Autumn	See more detailed comments In terms of machine type and operating depth e.g. 250mm.
Turf Nutrition	Spring, Summer and Autumn	Ensure appropriate formulations are used e.g. Spring Summer NPK 9:7:7.
Weed Control	NPS	Must be applied by a certified contractor.
Seeding and Over seeding	End of season and in season	End of season over seeding should ideally be undertaken using a disc/drill seeded. 35g per square metre using Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass.

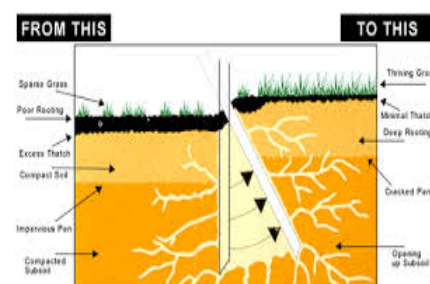


Worm and Pest Control	As required	Must be applied by a certified contractor.
Top Dressing	End of season	Should budgets permit – ideally 60 tonnes per full size pitch – medium coarse sand.
Scarification	End of Season	Contractor recommended.

Key Priorities

Decompaction

A decompaction operation is essential for aeration to allow air, water and nutrients to pass into and through the profile increase drainage and improve the breakdown of organic matter (thatch). This will increase the infiltration of water through the soil profile and help the problem of waterlogging.



As soon as growth recommenced in early Spring (late March/early April) apply controlled release fertiliser of NPK 253-15 or similar to provide extended feeding program without rush of growth. Fertilisers of this type provide nutrient for up to 24 weeks and may negate the requirement for further “blanket” applications across the entire site.



To improve grass coverage and quality over seeding is required using a dwarf perennial ryegrass mix of at least three cultivars. This should be applied using either a drill seeder or disc seeder which sows the seed directly into the soil at a rate of 30-40gsm per square metre. Timing of application is key, as seed will struggle to germinate in dry hot weather without irrigation. Consider over



seeding two weeks before the conclusion of the playing season as this will allow maximum time for germination and establishment to take place. Work with seed representative to identify to best seed cultivars for your requirements. Bear in mind, the highest rated seeds require a higher input, i.e. irrigation and fertiliser etc.



Machinery Needs

Machinery Requirement	Size/Specification	Additional Comments
Combination turf grooming attachment		
Compact tractor with cutting deck		

Training

Successful sports surface management requires a committed, motivated and trained workforce to conduct operations in a timely, efficient and safe manner.

The Institute of Groundsmanship provide a full range of training and education packages, endorsed by the Football Association to suit all experience levels from volunteer to professional.

<http://ioglearning.co.uk/>

Training Need	Provider
IOG Level 1	Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG)
IOG Level 1 Online Blended Learning Football	Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG)
IOG Safe Use of Equipment	https://www.iog.org/learning/training-courses-seminars





GaNTIP Contact	RPA:	Simon Johnson
	Email:	sjohnson@iog.org
	Tel:	07934299827
County Football Association Contact	CDM	Mark Young
	Email:	m.young@wiltshirefa.com
	Tel:	07739514201
Football Foundation Contact	TPM:	Chris Davies
	Email:	Chris.davies@footballfoundation.org.uk
	Tel:	07912327660

Please note that The FA has secured two Official Suppliers to support the roll-out and implementation of the Pitch Improvement Programme. Both Official Suppliers have agreed discounted schedule of rates that are available to all FA affiliated football clubs. Details of the full product ranges and associated contact details are appended to this report.

For all funding enquiries or to discuss this report further please contact the County Football Association (CFA).

