



**Club Presentation  
Ground, Pitch Assessment and  
Spirit of Cricket  
BFS L&DCC  
2011**



# Objectives

- Assessment of Grounds and Pitches
  - PQS Programme
  - Ground Assessments
  - Interpreting the pitch surface and playability
  - Understanding and completing the ECB/LDCC pitch marking sheets
  - Spirit of cricket



## PQS Programme

- ECB have decreed that a PQS Inspection is required for any Premier Division ground along with an Action Plan for improvements where identified
- In 2009 12 clubs were inspected by IOG Inspectors on behalf of LDCC along with another 3 which were inspected on behalf of the LCB and the Wales CB
- 13 more clubs inspected in 2010
- Opportunity offered to remaining 8 clubs for 2011. Taken up so far by 5 and they will be contacted by the inspector during April/May
- These inspections have not cost a club any money though remedial action, where identified, will do so



## GROUND ASSESSMENTS

- Have been carried out since 2008/9 and all 36 grounds have been assessed
- Details can be found of current assessment of each club on the LDCC website
- Areas that are considered to need attention are shaded in pink
- During 2011 intend to update the older assessments as well as those clubs which have indicated that their assessment is out-of-date. This is subject to the availability of people to assist. Any volunteers would be useful



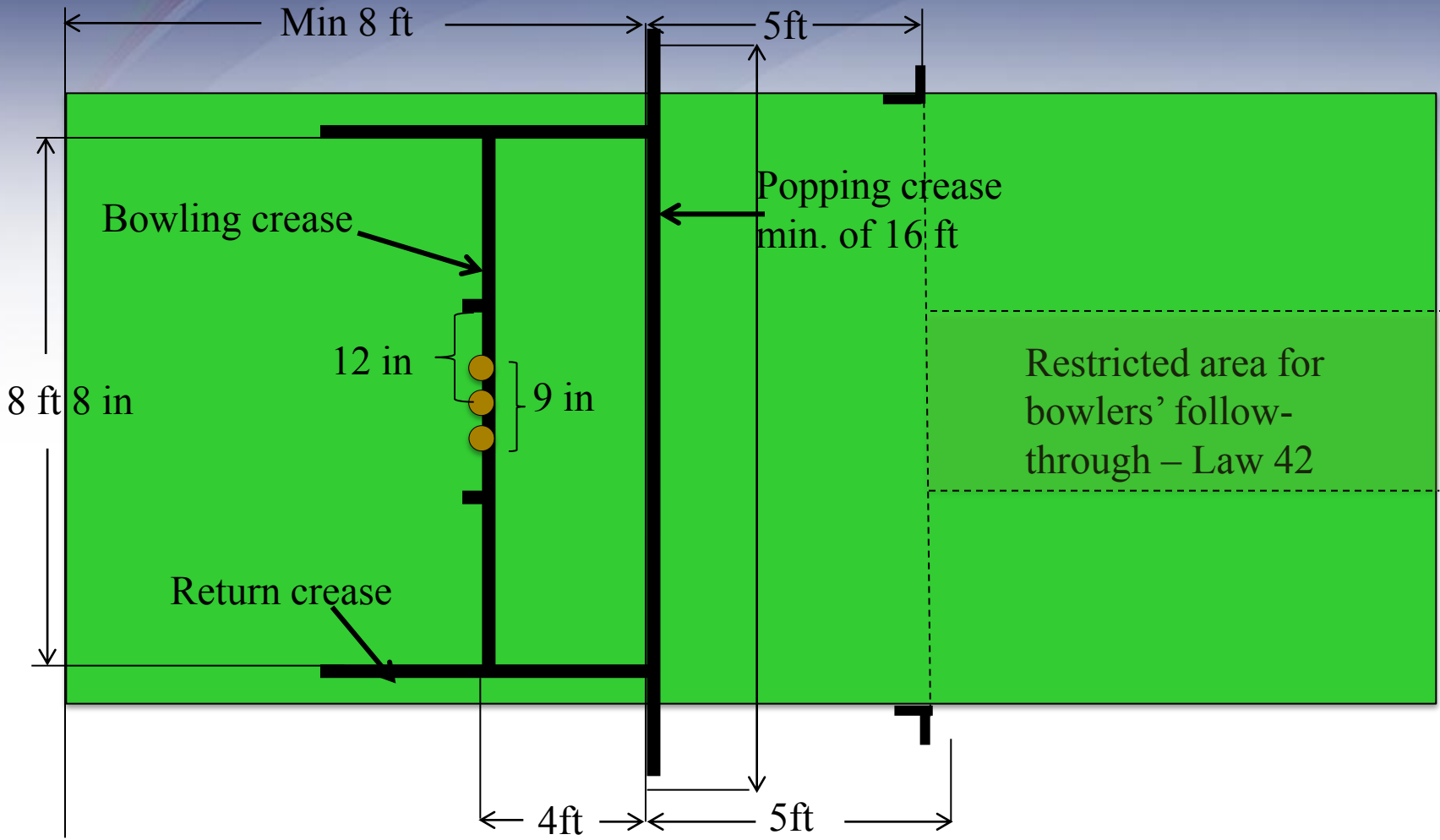
## Umpires Report Cards

- Submitted for every 1<sup>st</sup> XI game played in 2010
- Summary sent to Club Chairman in October 2010
- About half of clubs responded as requested
- Some changes made for 2011 to take into account comments made by clubs
- In addition ECB want more information and these requirements have been included in the card for 2011

- **The Pitch and Square**
- **The Outfield**
- **The Boundary**
- **Spirit of Cricket**

## Pitch & Square

- Well maintained and in good condition
- Pitch clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square
- Marked and rolled before play
- Popping crease marked for a minimum of sixteen feet to conform with Law 9 and LDCC local rule
- Restricted area for bowlers' follow-through (Law 42 Note C) indicated with markings off the playing surface five feet in front of the popping crease and also on the bowling crease one foot on either side of the middle stump
- Stumps, properly matched sets in good condition with matching bails, **pitched by the groundsmen** with holes adequately watered to allow easy resetting by the umpires







# UMPIRES CARD 2011

BRIDGING FINANCE SOLUTIONS L&DCC CLUB & GROUND REPORT - Please forward within 5 days following match																	
<input type="checkbox"/> L&DCC Premier		<input type="checkbox"/> L&DCC Div 1		<input type="checkbox"/> L&DCC Div 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Other											
Match:.....v.....					Date:.....												
Umpire (1) name.....					Signature.....												
Umpire (2) name.....					Signature.....												
1	Team sheets before toss - Home team?	Yes/No	16	Boundary - ECB markings?	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5												
2	Team sheets before toss - Away team?	Yes/No	17	Sightscreens in position 5 minutes before match?	Yes/No												
3	Payment before match - Home team?	Yes/No	18	Scoreboard operated effectively? *	Yes/No												
4	Payment before match - Away team?	Yes/No	19	Scorers signals clearly visible? *	Yes/No												
5	Scorer - for Home team?	Yes/No	20	Covers - available and used effectively? *	Yes/No												
6	Scorer - for Away team?	Yes/No	21	Drivina equipment available and used effectively? *	Yes/No												
7	Square - evidence of repairs to previous pitches?	Yes/No	22	Rollers - was choice available between innings?	Yes/No												
8	Pitch had even covering of grass?	Yes/No	23	Surrounds - minimal time lost for balls out of ground? *	Yes/No												
9	Pitch appeared dry before match? *	Yes/No	24	Umpires' room clean and tidy on arrival?	Yes/No												
10	Pitch properly prepared and marked before match? *	Yes/No	25	Umpires' room clear of any stored equipment/material?	Yes/No												
11	Pitch - stumps properly pitched before match? *	Yes/No	26	Hospitality - teas ready when needed? *	Yes/No												
12	ECB/PQS pitch rating - Even bounce	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		27	Hospitality - quality of teas?	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5											
	ECB/PQS pitch rating - Seam movement	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		28	Clock working and showing correct time?	Yes/No											
	ECB/PQS pitch rating - Carry and bounce	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		29	Bell accessible and audible to players and spectators?	Yes/No											
	ECB/PQS pitch rating - Turn	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		30	Home team respect for Opponents/Umpires	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
13	Pitch brushed & remarked between innings? *	Yes/No	31	Away team respect for Opponents/Umpires	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5	
14	Outfield - ECB-appearance/ grass length?	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		32	Home captain's team control & cooperation	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
15	Outfield - ECB-unevenness?	0 / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5		33	Away captain's team control & cooperation	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Comments: * = If 'No' please advise reason.					All players reported: Name: _____ Club: _____												



## **BFS LDCC ECB UMPIRES PITCH MARKING/GRADING CRITERIA**

A minimum of 50% of the initially scheduled overs must be bowled for the Total Pitch Score to be used.

Umpires must make due allowance for the abilities of the bowlers and wear and tear of the pitch during the afternoon.

Umpires must include a comment on the Report Card for a score of 2 or less for any of the four criteria or for a total score of 12 or less.

# Playing - Pitch & Square

- The pitch should be appropriate for matches of 110 overs duration
- The bounce of the pitch should be true and predictable throughout the match
- The pitch should not produce excessive spin or movement off the seam, bearing in mind the quality and ability of the bowlers
- The pitch should be brushed and re-marked (rolled if requested) during the interval between innings.
- At least one roller must be available for use during the match

## Clarifications on Pitch Criteria

- It is recognised that a limited amount of seam movement is acceptable and will depend on:
  - the quality and ability of the bowlers
  - newness of the ball
  - prevailing atmospheric conditions
- **These factors should not necessarily result in reducing the grade of the pitch.**
- **Variation in performance should be as a result of the quality of the pitch only**
- Excessive means "too much"
- There is nothing wrong with a pitch that affords some degree of turn. It is impossible to quantify the amount that a ball is "allowed" to turn as bowlers will turn the ball differing amounts. The type and identity of bowler should be taken into account when assessing this factor
- In no circumstances should the pitch 'explode'.



## BFS L & DCC ECB UMPIRES PITCH MARKING/GRADING CRITERIA

- Unevenness of bounce (Question 12a)
- Seam Movement (Question 12b)
- Carry & Bounce (Question 12c)
- Turn (Question 12d)  
In the event of a 'spinner' not bowling in the match and it is not possible to score 'Category - Turn', an average of the marks for the other three categories should be given to enable the calculation of the Total Pitch Score. If unsure leave blank and make a suitable comment.
- Unfit A pitch is only rated unfit if it is dangerous

The scores are to be entered on the Umpires Report Card at Question 12 (a to d).



## Completing the Marking Sheet

- The six categories/criteria
- Marking the damp pitch
- Give the reason if Damp or Wet (e.g. rain, poor covers, no covers, unsure etc.)
- Umpires to be fair and consistent and not be afraid to mark pitch down to help in the overall improvement of pitch in their respective leagues and throughout the country

# The 'Dry' Pitch

For the duration of the match, the whole surface of the pitch should be completely dry, firm and true, providing good carry and even bounce throughout.

•(Note: The above statement is an *objective* - there is no stipulation that all pitches *must* be dry, though it is of course expected that this and the rest of the stated objective should be aspired to in the preparation of all pitches. In all cases, pitches will be judged on how they play, and not whether they are dry or what colour they are etc).

# Umpires marking Categories and Criteria



Categories	Grade	Criteria
Very Good	5	Good carry, limited seam movement and consistent bounce throughout, little or no turn, recognising that the quality and ability of bowlers may influence amounts of pace, bounce and turn when assessing the pitch
Good	4	Average carry, limited seam movement, consistent bounce throughout, sufficient responsive to spin during the game, though not quite meeting the criteria for carry and bounce for a "very good" pitch
Above Average	3	Lacks carry, and/or bounce and/or occasional seam movement, but consistent in carry and bounce. A degree of turn, but with average bounce for the spinner. Falling significantly short of "very good" with respect to carry, bounce and turn.
Below Average	2	Either very little carry and/or bounce and/or more than occasional seam movement, or occasional variable (but not excessive or dangerous) bounce and/or occasional variable carry. If a pitch demonstrates these features, then the pitch cannot be rated in a <u>higher</u> category regardless of the amount of turn the pitch displays at any stage of the match.
Poor	1	If <u>any</u> of the following criteria apply, a pitch may be rated "poor": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The pitch</u> offers excessive seam movement at any stage of the match</li> <li>• <u>The pitch</u> displays excessive unevenness of bounce for any bowler at any stage of the match</li> <li>• <u>The pitch</u> offers excessive assistance to spin bowlers, especially early in the match</li> </ul>
Unfit	0	The pitch is rated as <u>dangerous</u> if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The pitch</u> is excessively wet and slippery whereby players cannot gain a safe foothold. Wet areas may be localised to bowlers run-ups and/or areas on the pitch where the ball is likely to land, or in patches on the outfield</li> <li>• <u>The pitch</u> surface may be or become so dry or looses that the ball "explodes" through the surface and may fly unpredictably and dangerously</li> <li>• <u>Bowlers footholds</u> have not been properly and safely repaired</li> <li>• <u>The Pitch/outfield</u> has been vandalised in any way</li> </ul>

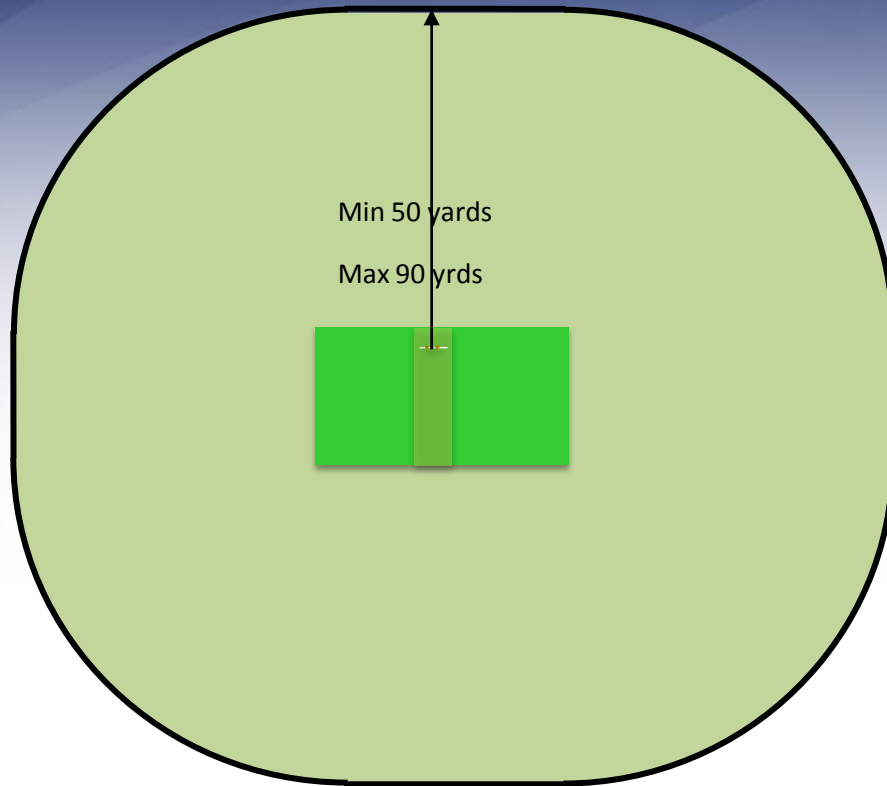


# Boundary

- The boundary should be clearly marked by rope or a white line with markers **approximately 20 yards apart**. Alternatively where a gutter is used the edge shall be cleanly cut.

*NB This is not recommended by the BFS L & DCC on Health and Safety grounds*

- If a picket fence or advertising boards form part of the boundary they should be secure and in good conditions



**No boundary shall be less than 50 yards or more than 90 yards from the nearer middle stump on the match pitch unless explicit dispensation is given by the League Management Committee**



# Outfield

Umpires Outfield Marking				
Grading Criteria	Unevenness Question 15	Appearance / Grass Length Question 14	Boundary markings Question 16	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	None	Cut & striped Below 3/4" (20mm) No Grass Cuttings	Rope or Fence in good condition Very clear line with marks at 20 yd Intervals	5
<b>Good</b>	Little	Cut Below 3/4" (20mm) No Grass Cuttings	Rope or Fence in good condition Clear line Clear marks at 20 yd Intervals	4
<b>Above Average</b>	Slightly uneven	Cut &/or striped Below 3/4" (20mm) Some cutting left	Rope or Fence in reasonable Condition Clear Marks	3
<b>Below Average</b>	Very uneven	Cut longer than 3/4" (20mm). Impairs ball movement	Condition less than above Markings not clear	2
<b>Poor</b>	Excessive unevenness	Long Grass. Impairs free ball movement	No Clear Markings	1
<b>An outfield is only rated unfit if it is <u>dangerous</u></b>				0



## Captains report

- ECB requirement that the opposition captain provides an assessment of the pitch
- This is based on the same areas and criteria as the umpires
- Only require a single mark out of 20 to be sent after each away game by post or, preferably, by email to [alanjbristow@gmail.com](mailto:alanjbristow@gmail.com)

## BFS L&DCC ECB PREMIER LEAGUE - CAPTAIN'S PITCH REPORT RECORD - 2011

BFS L&DCC ECB Premier League – Umpires' Pitch Marking Table					
Grading Criteria	Unevenness of bounce	Seam Movement	Carry & Bounce	Turn	Mark
Very Good	None	None/very little	Good	None/very little	5
Good	Little	Little	Just lacking	Little	4
Average	Occasional	Occasional	Lacking	Occasional	3
Below Average	More than occasional	More than occasional	Minimal	More than occasional	2
Poor	Excessive	Excessive	Very minimal	Excessive	1
Unfit	A pitch is only rated unfit if it is <u>dangerous</u>				0

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- In the event of a 'spinner' not bowling in the match and it is not possible to score 'Category – Turn', an average of the marks for the other three categories should be given to enable the calculation of the Total Pitch Score. If unsure leave blank and make a suitable comment.
- A minimum of 50% of the initially scheduled overs at the start of a days play must be bowled for the Total Pitch Score to be used in the season's records.
- Umpires must make due allowance for the abilities of the bowlers and wear and tear of the pitch during the afternoon.

- Premier Division Club Captains** (or their deputies) are encouraged to complete the form in the week after the match, for each Premier Division match played.
- They should enter their scores for each pitch 'property', eg 'Unevenness of bounce' etc, using the Umpires' Pitch Marking Table above.
- The record should be e-mailed to Alan Bristow [[alanjbristow@gmail.com](mailto:alanjbristow@gmail.com)] at monthly intervals. Alan will then produce the rank order for the pitches assessed, for forwarding to ECB at the end of the season.





## SPIRIT OF CRICKET

- Clubs marked by umpires in 2010.
- Results for each club sent to Club Chairmen in October
- All marks were given out of 10
- **Premier Division** ranged from 8.52 to 7.84 with an average of 8.19
- **Division One** ranged from 8.65 to 6.39 with an average of 7.71
- **Division Two** ranged from 8.61 to 6.96 with an average of 7.79

New criteria required for 2011 as decreed by ECB



# SPIRIT OF CRICKET

## Respect

For *opponents* to include but not limited to  
Abusive language

Excessive and coordinating appealing

Dangerous/unfair bowling

Deliberate distraction of an opponent

For *officials* to include but not limited to

Abusive language

Disputing a decision by language or signs

Aggressive manner

Unfair action by a player eg ball tampering, time  
wasting, damaging the pitch

Each area marked out of 5 and entered on Q30 and Q31 on the umpires card  
with a point(s) deduction for any infringement.

Any ABBs submitted will result in a minimum loss of 3 marks in each area. Any  
violent action on or off the pitch during play will result in the loss of all marks





# SPIRIT OF CRICKET

## Control

The Captain is at all times responsible for the control of his team and for cooperation with the umpires

A score of 10 will be awarded for exemplary behaviour but each and every instance of lack of control or cooperation will result in a loss of points

**Team Control** eg Failure to take appropriate action where a team member is deemed to show disrespect to an opponent or umpire. If the misdemeanour is repeated 2 points shall be deducted.

**Cooperation** eg Failure to take action when directed to do so by the umpires or where the umpires feel that the captain is not making a significant contribution in setting the right tone for the conduct of the game. Deduct 1 point

The marks will be recorded on Q32 and Q33 on the umpires cards for the home and away captains respectively