

New cricket pitch preparation training website launched.

A new cricket pitch training website has been launched, called www.topcricketpitches.com. It is the only web based cricket pitch preparation training course available.

The site offers a practical training course in cricket pitch preparation, teaching practical skills that are necessary to construct, maintain and prepare cricket pitches to a high standard. The course is available in 25 modules that can be downloaded from the internet, together with the assessment questions for each section. The course material is kept as simple as possible, avoiding jargon and technical terms wherever possible. The course material doubles as a handbook that can be used for daily reference.

There is no pre-requisite, anybody can do the course. It is suitable for curators, assistant curators, administrators, journalists, etc, anybody with an interest in cricket pitch preparation. It has been written to provide information so that a novice can construct and maintain a turfgrass cricket square to a satisfactory standard anywhere in the world.

The course has been written by Bill Walmsley, building on his 18 years of cricket pitch sampling and consultancy experience. Bill has published several technical articles on cricket pitch preparation and the training course encompasses skills that he considers essential to produce tomorrows superior cricket pitches. Superior cricket pitches are those where teams can score over 320 runs in a one day innings. They are 3-5 day pitches which last the required time and produce a fair result.

Extensive core sampling of cricket pitches has given an insight into pitch preparation that should allow pitch preparation to produce much more reliable results in future. Some information has already been published, but much is yet to be published. It is hoped that this web site will be a catalyst for publication of the research that underpins the recommendations.

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