

PERFORMANCE QUALITY STANDARD (PQS) OUTFIELD ASSESSMENT PROJECT

This document is intended to explain the upsides of this project to the clubs involved to enable them to understand the long-term benefits to both the club & its membership

- Increased levels of play in adverse weather conditions
- Increased quality of play for juniors using the outfield for cricket
- Better quality outfield overall ensuring possibilities of promotion to higher division/league
- Ability to offer a winter sport (junior soccer or rugby)
- Increased membership & therefore increased income.
- For single sport clubs the ability to open the facility all year round; this produces increased income on all fronts, hopefully more than enough to cover the costs of returning outfield to cricket in the spring.
- Increased likelihood of gaining promotion/avoiding relegation because play may be possible where other clubs are unable to play due to a poorly draining outfield

THE PQS ASSESSMENT IS AN INDUSTRY BENCHMARK BY WHICH ALL OUTFIELDS ARE MEASURED AND AS SUCH PROVIDES A CONSISTENT LEVEL AGAINST WHICH A FACILITY CAN BE ASSESSED

THIS PROJECT IS PRIMARILY FUNDED BY THE CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD WITH A SMALL CONTRIBUTION BEING REQUIRED FROM PARTICIPATING CLUBS

It should be recognised that this project is a proactive approach to ground management & an attempt to partly combat the extremes of weather created by climate change which, by all accounts, will only get worse in the years to come.

By taking this approach clubs can only benefit in the long run; it is not about umpires' marks or how it actually plays (although it should improve) but how to preserve its longevity, increase its usage and maintain the club viability as a sports facility.

The maintenance & upkeep of a cricket outfield does come with some costs. This needs to be managed by an efficient committee dedicated to fund raising initially to fund the first major renovation and thereafter ensure funds are available on an annual basis to keep up the quality. It is typically a 3-year project to improve drainage & sward quality especially where there are high levels of thatch in the surface

Nick James
ECB Pitch Advisor