

## What you should do with the square now the season has been postponed

First and foremost, it is only grass and soil, so your health and well-being come first and if that means ignoring this, then so be it. You need to do what you did last year for season preparation on the square, just not the preparation of wickets.

### Why?

After a very wet winter most squares are probably not at their best, you may have stalky, long, thin, hungry grass and plenty of weedy grass (annual meadow grass) also doing its own thing and getting clumpy (picture below). You may also have a cricket square that will need some consolidating, for when we do get some cricket in 2020.

**During a wet winter, clumpy, stalky, weedy grass may have developed.**

Therefore, your square will probably need the following:

- Pre-season rolling: if we knew we would have no cricket until at least 1<sup>st</sup> June, we would probably not think about pre-season rolling. However, if government advice changes quickly, and clubs need to get their square ready, the soil will be too dry to be effective.
- Verticutting and/or brushing of the square (removing clippings) to remove the dead grass that is on your square. Verticutting will also encourage a dense, evenly grassed square. Verticutting ideally should be done prior to pre-season rolling, to clean up the surface and then at regular intervals during spring.
- Regular cutting, to encourage a dense, even grass canopy (once or twice a week at 12-15mm). If you leave it to go longer, you will lose density of grass cover and you are more likely to get issues with weeds.
- Over seeding of bare ends or any other areas: you need to do your whole square as you will have an uneven, thin canopy of grass.
- Your square will still need feeding once every 6/8 weeks. This will encourage growth and thickening. It is worth considering using a low nitrogen-based feed or use a spring/summer feed at half rate, preventing too much top growth and a need to cut too often.
- If you haven't already done this, still get the square squared up.



- Things you don't need to worry about for now:
  - i. Pitch preparation and all the related mowing, raking, brushing, rolling of the wickets.
  - ii. Marking out.
  - iii. You need to keep your corners and pitch position in though.

## Outfields

Outfields will still need to be cut or you will end up with a stalking, thin, moss ridden outfield. A sensible height of cut is around 15-20mm.

You can also have impartial advice from our very own pitch advisors.

We want you to all to continue to look after your squares. As we are sure you do, just don't do it at the expense of your own health!



## Useful links

<https://turfcareblog.com/groundsmen-spring-maintenance-guide/>

<https://turfcareblog.com/essential-guide-to-rolling-iain-james/>

[www.cricketscotland.com](http://www.cricketscotland.com)

Gordon Drummond

☎ 07826 907 124

✉ [gordondrummond@cricketscotland.com](mailto:gordondrummond@cricketscotland.com)

3rd April 2020

Inspiring Scotland to choose cricket

United

Determined

Excellence

Dynamic

Integrity