

Cricket Leinster Grounds Committee Report – September 2021

2021 was another strange year for grounds people across the Province, with club matches not beginning until early June, followed by three months of concentrated cricket on grounds, where the art of bringing grass pitches back to life became key, as did the ability to maximise ground usage at all clubs.

Around Leinster, there are a number of excellent grounds people, who work all hours to ensure that their grounds are presented for all matches in the best possible condition. The Grounds Committee is always available to offer support to any clubs and/or grounds people who might wish to 'pick our brains' on any area of ground or pitch preparation. It is worth bearing in mind that it is not just turf pitches that require attention; artificial pitches/mats also need regular maintenance, including cleaning, rolling and remarking before and throughout the season.

In addition, the Grounds Committee receives feedback from umpires' reports and, in many ways, the umpires are our eyes and ears throughout the summer, and I would like to thank all our umpires for doing so this season. I would encourage these reports to continue to flow in, so that we can offer assistance to any clubs – and if you ever see something around the grounds that doesn't seem right, please let us know, so that we can look into the issue and try and reach a resolution.

Loam became an issue this summer. With the onset of Brexit, the importation of organic material into the EU made this task, according to EU Law, impossible. Considerable lobbying took place throughout the summer between CL, Cricket Ireland and the Irish Government, to try and seek an exemption for this critical product to be brought into the country. Eventually, in August, permission was granted by Government and loam orders were placed, and our thanks are noted to those bodies mentioned above for all their work in reaching a successful outcome. With the loam now arrived in Ireland, end of season work has taken place for all those clubs with grass squares, in readiness for the 2022 season.

Our Committee consists of Colm Byrne (Phoenix CC) as Chair, Guy Satchwell (Leinster CC), Kenny McDonald (Terenure CC), Paul Daniel (Greystones CC), Ralph Condie (Knockharley CC) and Roland Bradley (Laois CC), and we remain at any club's disposal any time if you have any queries or issues that arise. We remain committed to raising the bar on standards of cricket grounds and outfielders, and here's to a glimpse of normality to our 2022 season.

Colm Byrne
Chair, Grounds Committee
September 2021