

Grounds and Youth Development – Accreditation Report Sept 2009

1. Introduction

1.1 General

Special thanks are due to Chris Westbrook who again gave generously of his free time to enable the most essential ground visits and write some 10 Reports, and to the HCB Grounds and Facilities Committee in assessing new and existing ground gradings. Also to Ben Thompson and the HCB Development Office for it's help in assessing Youth Cricket

Once again it was necessary to chase up too many clubs for their paperwork in the way of Ground and Umpire Reports, with some still not available at the end of the season. So if there are some games missing in the final Ground Reports, it is because the information was not forthcoming.

1.2 Grounds

Whilst we had only two weekends when fixtures were heavily affected by rain, there were other times when it poured with rain on a Wednesday or Thursday, meaning the groundsmen had to work very hard to ensure a game was played. In many instances Captains markings are still failing to appreciate the difficulties the groundsmen face in ensuring a game can be played and to take this into account when marking pitches. This has been considered by the HCB Grounds and Facilities Committee when making their assessments. However it is disappointing that 4 Clubs have received 'First Warnings' for below standard pitch markings related to their present grading.

1.3 Youth Development

Overall the picture is good with 3 Clubs being upgraded to Gold from Silver. However on the negative side, some Clubs are not ensuring they fulfil the Level 1 and Level 2 coaching requirements, with 4 Clubs being downgraded as a consequence.

Once again Clubs are reminded of the need for all 'Active' coaches to be suitably qualified and hold ECB CRB clearance, some Clubs are still not fulfilling this requirement, despite year on year reminders. Failing to comply will result in a downgrade which can affect a Club's overall grading, which could ultimately result in your Club being demoted.

ECB ClubMark accreditation is now a requirement for Gold, Silver and Bronze SEPCL accreditation. We are pleased to note that all existing SEPCL members have attained this, but some Hampshire Cricket League clubs have not and will not be eligible for accreditation, and therefore entry to SEPCL, until they do. The HCB Development Office continues to be ready support and advise clubs on the ClubMark process.

2. Process For Establishing Grades

2.1 Grounds

Grading of grounds has been determined by the following –

- Umpires and captains pitch and ground markings.

- Umpires and captains comments.
- Ground assessors reports.

Particularly for Gold grading, three questions are addressed

- Is the standard met consistently over the season?
- Is there the capability and capacity in groundsmanship to maintain the standard?
- What is the trend over several seasons?

Clubs are asked to remember that, once given, ground status is not normally withdrawn on the basis of a single season of lesser standard. The overall aim of the Accreditation Scheme is to encourage continuous improvement, not to impose sanctions. There are however circumstances in which, on the evidence of unchecked decline, or a total failure to satisfy a standard, there is no option other than a downgrading in accreditation status.

2.2 Youth Development

Grading is established by reference to clubs' self assessment returns, District records, and data held by the HCB.

2.3 Publication of the Accreditation Scheme.

The Accreditation Standards and Assessment Process were included in the 2009 League Handbook. We trust these proved informative and helpful to all.

3. Grading for 2010

3.1. Ground Accreditation

The final 2010 grades are set out in the attached table. The attention of member clubs is drawn to the following conclusions -

3.1.1 Reclassification

It is recommended that the following Grounds are graded, or upgraded

- Bournemouth CC's No 2 ground, is upgraded to Silver with Gold potential.
- New Close County Ground, I. O. W. is granted Silver with Gold potential grading.

3.1.2 Warnings

- Lymington pitch and outfield marking have been below that expected of a Gold ground. Following a visit to the ground Lymington have received a full report from the HCB Pitch Advisor and they receive a 'First Warning'
- South Wilts pitch markings have consistently deteriorated over the past two seasons, they receive a 'First Warning'
- St Cross receive a 'First Warning' for both pitch and outfield. Markings show a downward trend.
- New Milton pitch markings are below that expected for Silver Grading, they receive a 'First Warning'

- Hambledon pitch markings are below that expected for Silver Grading, they receive a 'First Warning'

3.1.3 Hampshire League Grounds

Clubs who have requested entry into the SEPCL Accreditation System:-

The following is recommended.

- Calmore Sports CC's ground is granted a Silver grading.
- Liss CC joined the SEPCL Accreditation Scheme midway through 2008. Having received a Report from the HCB with recommendations, their pitch and outfield have improved to the required standard. However they have to put in place outstanding facilities requirements, therefore Accreditation is not granted. (Also see Youth Accreditation below)
- Locks Heath CC have been part of the SEPCL Accreditation System for some 5 years but still fail to raise the standard of their outfield to a suitable level. They have still to obtain ClubMark, now a requirement to achieve SEPCL Accreditation. Accreditation not granted.
- Compton & Chandlers Ford CC joined the SEPCL Accreditation Scheme April 2008. Following a visit to their ground they have received a Report from the HCB with recommendations for improvements. Their outfield is still well below the required standard, therefore Accreditation is not granted. (Also see Youth Accreditation below)
- Midhurst and Waterlooville have received visits and recommendations and are still working towards obtaining Accreditation.

2010 YOUTH ACCREDITATION

HCL Clubs

The following clubs have submitted youth accreditation for the first time; recommended gradings are as follows:-

- Calmore - Silver
- Midhurst - Silver
- Liss - played matches in only one age group, and not ClubMark accredited. Accreditation not granted.
- Waterlooville - Silver

The following HCL Clubs are not graded

- Locks Heath – not ClubMark accredited. Silver in 2009 and would have been upgraded to Gold.
- Fawley – not ClubMark accredited (would have remained at Bronze).
- Compton & Chandlers Ford - Self Assessment not received

SEPL accredited clubs

All accredited clubs not mentioned below have maintained their 2009 Youth Accreditation grading. The final 2010 grades are set out in the attached table.

Accreditation maintained with concerns and a warning.

- Portsmouth CC (Gold 2009) – played more than the required 8 games at U11 and U13 but 7 games only at U15. **Recommended Grading – Gold maintained. However the Club is reminded of the requirements clearly set out in the SEPCL Handbook and warned that should they not fully comply next year they will lose their status.**
- Purbrook CC (Gold 2009) Played only 7 games at U11 and U15 rather than the required 8. **Recommended Grading – Gold maintained. However the Club is reminded of the requirements clearly set out in the SEPCL Handbook and warned that should they not fully comply next year they will lose their status.**

SEPL understand that the shortfall in the number of games played maybe due to the change in the SEHCA league structure. However both clubs are reminded that friendly games could have been played instead and should they not fully comply next year they will be downgraded.

Reclassification.

The following Clubs are recommended for Upgrade.

- Sarisbury Athletic (Silver 2009) – upgraded to Gold
- Trojans (Silver 2009) – upgraded to Gold
- US Portsmouth (Silver 2009) – upgraded to Gold

The following Clubs are downgraded.

- Easton & M W (Gold 2009) – downgraded to Silver – only one L2 Coach
- Gosport Borough (Gold 2009) - downgraded to Silver – only one L2 Coach
- Liphook & Ripsley (Gold 2009) - downgraded to Silver – only one L2 Coach
- Tichborne Park (Silver 2009) - downgraded to Bronze – no L2 Coach

REMINDERS

ECB CRB

It is of concern that a number of clubs are still listing coaches that are not ECB CRB checked. Clubs with ClubMark should have this information immediately to hand but worse still if they are not ECB CRB checked they should not be coaching.

Alan Bundy
Ben Thompson
HCB Assessors
Amended 7 October 2009