



BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL

GRASS PITCH PROGRAMME SUPPORT PACK



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Natural Grass Pitch Programme, supporting the FA's 10 year plan to transform the quality of grass pitches across the country.

The purpose of this document is to provide support at a local level and will cover the following information;

-  County FA Lead Contact
-  Regional Pitch Advisor
-  Support Pitch Advisors
-  PitchPower
-  Football Foundation Grants
-  Key Partners
-  Birmingham County Funding
-  Hive Learning





JOE ROBINSON

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COUNTY FA

Birmingham County FA's role within the Grass Pitch Programme is to strategically deliver natural grass pitch improvements across the whole of the West Midlands.

By 2024, collectively we need to ensure that there are **361** grass pitches that are at a **'GOOD'** or better quality.

The Facility & Investment Lead is there for **PRE, DURING & POST** support for it's members and should be your first port of call.



REGIONAL PITCH ADVISOR

With strong and practical groundsmanship experience gained over 10 years with a youth football club – including being named as ECFA Youth Club Groundsman of the Year – 2006/2007 – Kevin has worked at the GMA in a variety of roles including sales, marketing, corporate membership management, membership and events. He previously gained business development and sales and marketing experience through leading a number of significant cross-industry programmes for Accenture over a 17-year period.

Underpinned by his BA Hons in Geography and American Studies, Kevin has undertaken various turf-specific training courses – GMA Winter Pitches Level 1 and 2, plus GMA Cricket Foundation Parts A and B, Intermediate and Advanced courses.

In sports terms, he also has wide experience of working with high-profile football groups and governing bodies – including The Premier League, County Football Associations, Football League, Professional Footballers Association and the Rugby Football League. Kevin has organised events for Premier League and Championship groundsmen, and has provided consultancy assistance to Football and Stadium Management (FSM) which provide a range of services to the Azerbaijan Football Federation.



KEVIN DUFFILL

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The RPA role is a strategic one that focuses on PitchPower assessments and supporting the County FA KPI delivery.

SUPPORT PITCH ADVISORS

With the introduction of PitchPower, the volume of pitch inspections has naturally increased and the process changed significantly.

The Support Pitch Advisor (SPA) are available to provide an extra resource by being on the ground to support local clubs, and organisations.

SPA Services

Support clubs/organisations with PitchPower inspections

This is an optional paid service that can be accessed if required

£100*

Support clubs/organisations with further advice following PitchPower report

This provides the option of discussing any findings and/or recommendations in more detail. SPA will document any findings to the RPA and update PitchPower report accordingly.

£100**

* Cost is based on up to 4 pitches. £20 per additional pitch. Expenses are chargeable

** Cost is per site visit/inspection



**BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA ARE ABLE TO
SUPPORT FIRST SPA VISIT BY £50
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
JOE.ROBINSON@BIRMINGHAMFA.COM**

PITCHPOWER

PitchPower is a web app that puts the power in your hands, making it easy to sign up and carry out pitch inspections. You'll then get a detailed assessment report from the grounds management experts at the GMA with recommendations on improving the quality of your grass pitches.

- Allows you to self-assess your pitches, and record, store and update information yourself
- Significantly reduces the time it takes to receive the report compared with site visits
- Provides seasonal, ongoing advice about how to improve your pitch
- Works via a combination of photographs (site condition and soil sample) and information input
- Free to download and use
- User guide, instructional videos on Football Foundation website
<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/pitchpower/how-it-works>
- Please ensure you use PitchPower on all your pitches if you want to apply for funding.



POWER UP YOUR GRASS PITCH

If applying for Football Foundation grants, you will need to submit **2** yearly inspections within the following windows;

JUL - OCT

NOV - MAR
(Mandatory)

APR - JUN




GRASS PITCH MAINTENANCE FUND

The Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund is a **six year tapered grant**, providing up to £2500 inc. VAT for every one of your 11 a side pitches in the first two years and scaled down over six years (£2,000 for 9 a side and £1,500 for Mini Soccer)

Your PitchPower pitch inspection will provide you with a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) per pitch. This will decide how much funding you'll be eligible for, as well as providing a list of maintenance recommendations which you'll need to carry out as part of your grant award. Grants are paid annually for six years but tapered down during that time. The amounts shown are the grant values for the first year at 100% funding.

What can the grant be spent on?

The funding provided must be used to carry out the recommendations from your PitchPower Assessment Report. These can include:

-  Contractor works e.g. slitting, scarification or decompaction
-  Purchasing materials e.g. seed or fertiliser
-  Purchasing equipment e.g. Soil Sampler

ENHANCE

FOR PITCHES WITH A PQS OF 'BASIC' OR BELOW

11V11	£2500
9V9	£2000
MINI SOCCER	£1500

SUSTAIN

FOR PITCHES WITH A PQS OF 'GOOD' OR HIGHER

11V11	£750
9V9	£500
MINI SOCCER	£300

Tapered means that we'll pay a reduced percentage of the initial grant value every two years with the club making up the difference. For example, the grant awarded for an 11v11 pitch that needs enhancing would be £2,500 in year 1 and 2, £1,667 in year 3 and 4 and £833 in year 5 and 6. More details can be found in the FAQs.

To find out more information about the GPMF and to check your eligibility visit footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund

SMALL GRANTS

Grants of up to £25,000 to help clubs and organisations purchase machinery and equipment recommended in their PitchPower assessment report. Machinery and equipment may be new or used and all applicants will be required to supply two like-for-like quotations for each item from different suppliers and evidence of partnership funding (grants will be provided for a maximum of 75% of the project cost).



UP TO £25K

What else can the grant be spent on?

-  Grass Pitch Drainage
-  Changing Pavilion/Clubhouse Refurb
-  Fencing
-  Goalposts
-  Portable Floodlights
-  Storage Containers
-  3G Pitch Machinery & Equipment

To find out more information about the Small Grants Scheme and to check your eligibility visit footballfoundation.org.uk/your-guide-to-small-grants

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA PITCH IMPROVEMENT FUND

Affiliated clubs
can access up to
£5000 contribution
towards much needed
equipment highlighted
as a beneficial following
a PitchPower report for
their specified site.



Designed to support clubs in
achieving the 25% contribution
needed for the Small Grants Scheme

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

JOE.ROBINSON@BIRMINGHAMFA.COM



GRASS PITCH PARTNERS

Lakeside

LAKESIDE MAINTENANCE

Lakeside Maintenance are our contractor services partner, providing a wealth of expertise and knowledge with regards to natural turf maintenance. Affiliated clubs can benefit from reduced rates on their services that have been identified within your PitchPower report.

Website: lakesidegm.co.uk

Phone: 024 76413 836

Email: info@lakesidegm.co.uk



RIGBY TAYLOR

Rigby Taylor are our Pitch Improvement Consumables partner and supply grassroots football clubs across the region with grass seed, fertiliser, chemicals and line marking products and paints.

Website: rigbytaylor.com

Phone: 07785 953 101

Email: james.moverley@rigbytaylor.com



CAMPEY TURF CARE

Campey Turf Care are our machinery partner, providing affiliated clubs with discounts on maintenance kit and equipment that has been identified within your PitchPower report.

Website: campeyturfcare.com

Phone: 07702 519 410

Email: jason.moody@campeyturfcare.com












footballfoundation.hivelearning.com

An online community for advice and best practice tips from GMA Pitch Advisors and grounds keepers.

HIVE is a great platform for the grounds maintenance workforce to share ideas, challenges and best practice amongst one another.



ONLINE SUPPORT

-  2700+ users
-  RPA interaction
-  Maintenance Essentials
-  Learning and tips cards
-  Funding/News signposting
-  Materials and equipment information
-  Interactive forum

Birmingham County FA have created a sub-group which is open to members across the West Midlands. Please search for the group on HIVE and request to become a member.



IMPROVING LIVES, BY
IMPROVING FOOTBALL



**BIRMINGHAM COUNTY
FOOTBALL**

