

GRASS PITCH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME



Grass Pitch Improvement Programme Good News Stories

Here at the Lincolnshire FA we wanted to share with you some good news stories linked to the Grass Pitch Improvement Programme, which is a programme run in partnership with the FA and Grounds Management Association (GMA)

The clubs identified within the document highlight the positive impact being part of the programme has had at each individual site, along with the great job our local clubs are doing to help improve the standard of grass football pitches in Lincolnshire.

42 pitches have been improved across Lincolnshire since the introduction of the Grass Pitch Improvement Programme, with an increased number set to improve in the near future as the membership of

the programme has significantly increased with a total of 31 sites currently involved. The one simple aim is to improve the standard of grassroots football pitches, here in Lincolnshire we are working with clubs, local authorities and other organisations to improve over 190 pitches across the 31 sites. The good news stories will highlight some of the ways the programme has supported clubs to do this along with the wider benefits of the scheme.

I hope that you enjoy what you read and if you are interested in finding out more about the programme please visit the Lincolnshire FA website, www.lincolnshirefa.com

Adam Thurston
Football Development Manager

Broughton Community & Sports Association

BCSA has been committed to improving the standard of Broughton Recreation Field for nearly 5 years. In this time we have worked alongside all interested parties: Broughton Ravers JFC, Broughton Cricket Club, Broughton Working Mens Club FC, Broughton Town Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

We have been part of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) for about a year. The initial report was damning, we knew something had to be done as in the previous two football seasons many of our teams had to play and train at other facilities. We only had one 5v5 and one 7v7 pitch in a fit state! This was in part to an infestation of Chafer Grub and the associated decimation of the grass by birds feeding on these grubs.

The PIP provided us with evidence, key recommendations and advice which we required to prove things needed to change. The programme also enabled us to apply to the Football Foundation for a grant to help us purchase the recommended machinery as outlined in our initial PIP inspection report.

We took over the site maintenance officially in April 2019 but prior to this we were proactive in organising several 'volunteer repair days' where members of the Community gathered to help repair the damaged areas.

Since the delivery of the recommended machinery and the implementation of a schedule of works (including fertilisation, weed control, deep aeration, seeding and a proper cutting programme) we have really started to make a difference.

ALL of our football pitches are now in use (11v11 x Three, 5v5, 7v7 and a 9v9) and ALL of our junior and senior football teams now train and play matches on the site. We even have other teams hiring out our pitches!!

Visiting teams now congratulate us on the condition of our pitches and cannot believe it is the same site!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those people who have helped us get to this stage:

Lincolnshire FA, Football Foundation, GMA and particularly Julien Morris our Regional Pitch Advisor.

Bottesford Town Football Club

The Pitch Improvement Programme has proved a huge winner to Bottesford!

When Bottesford Town FC joined the Grass Pitch Improvement Programme, pitches were Graded at 'BASIC' and in need of improvement.

The Grass Pitch Assessment Report identified the priority work areas and the machinery required to undertake the works highlighted. We were successful in obtaining a Football Foundation Machinery Grant of £15,530.00 towards the total project cost of £22,525.00! We now have the correct equipment to look after both of our playing sites.

There is a noticeable improvement in the playing surfaces, it's also much easier for me as a grassroots football volunteer to keep on top of the duties required to maintain the pitches.

Steve Altoft



Article featured in the Groundsmanship Journal.

Long Bennington Football Club

LBFC joined the Grass Pitch Improvement Programme, with the site identified as 'BASIC', therefore in need of improvement.

Since the initial visit the help and support from the Lincolnshire FA, GMA and the Football Foundation has been fantastic. The annual site inspections have enabled us to concentrate our maintenance and resources into the key areas identified and all the pitches have improved dramatically.

The initial report identified the need for additional machinery and with the support of Adam at Lincolnshire FA and the Football Foundation, last year we took delivery of a John Deere compact

tractor, Trimax cutting deck and a Redexim Charterhouse multi tool groomer. This has enabled us to increase our cutting regime and incorporate surface aeration on a weekly basis.

The results have been brilliant!!

When the site re-visit took place the pitches improved from a standard of 'BASIC' to 'GOOD'.

Steve Rowley

