



# **NORTH RIDING COUNTY FA GRASS PITCH 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**
- + PitchPower**
- + Power up your Pitch:  
Football Foundation Funding**
- + County FA Partners**
- + Hive Learning**





**ANDY CLAY**

Football Development Manager  
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**North Riding County FA's role within the Grass Pitch Programme is to strategically deliver natural grass pitch improvements across the North Riding of Yorkshire.**

By 2024, collectively we need to ensure that there are 146 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.



**IAN POWELL**

Regional Pitch Advisor Football North East  
[ipowell@thegma.org.uk](mailto:ipowell@thegma.org.uk)

Ian has been with the programme from its inception in 2014 and holds a wealth of managerial expertise with 20 years' experience working alongside national and local key industry partners managing projects, budgets and timescales. He has provided technical assistance to clubs, grounds staff and pitch advisors, linking to development through funding streams and therefore has extensive knowledge of the grounds industry at all levels.

Ian holds the Level 2 Diploma in Sports and Amenity Turf Maintenance with distinction along with an EDI Level 3 Certificate in Project Management, GMA Level 1 Preparation & Renovation Modules, GMA Level 2 Understanding Science, GMA Level 3 Management Practices, a Diploma in Sports Psychology.



# 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 the Football Foundation website
- + Please ensure you use PitchPower on all your pitches if you want to apply for funding



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

**JUL - OCT**

**NOV - MAR**

**APR - JUN**

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# 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 £2,500**

**9v9 £2,000**

**MINI SOCCER £1,500**

## 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. More details can be found on the FAQs.



# 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).

## What else can the grant be spent on?

- + Grass Pitch Drainage
- + Changing Pavilion/Clubhouse Refurbishments
- + 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, [click here!](#)**



# GRASS PITCH PARTNERS

North Riding FA is delighted to announce a new partnership agreement with Agrigem, which will enable our affiliated clubs to access special prices on a wide range of grass pitch-related products.

Agrigem are a fast-growing company who supply materials such as fertilisers, grass seed, selective weed control, top dressing and line marking paint to sports clubs and contractors.

Whether you are creating a brand-new pitch, improving your current playing surface or trying to increase the number of games you are able to play each week, their unique understanding of both professional and grassroots pitches will ensure all affiliated clubs will receive fantastic service and support in developing your pitches.



**In addition to the highest level of customer service, all NRCFA affiliated clubs will receive a discount on all products of 10% off RRP.**

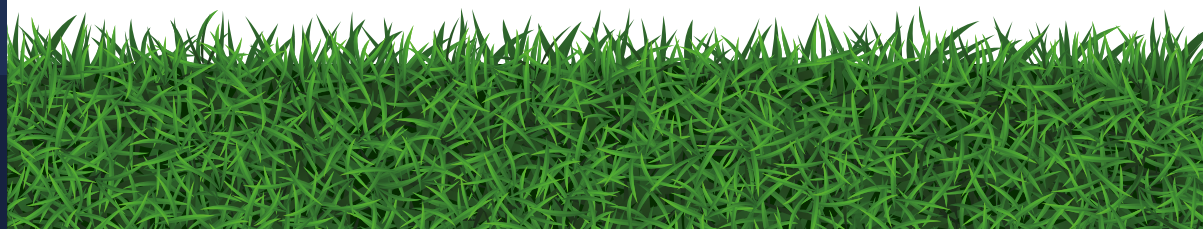
To take advantage of this offer or discuss how Agrigem can support the development of your grass pitches, please contact Martin Ford at [martin.ford@agrigem.co.uk](mailto:martin.ford@agrigem.co.uk)



@AgrigemLtd



[agrigem.co.uk](http://agrigem.co.uk)



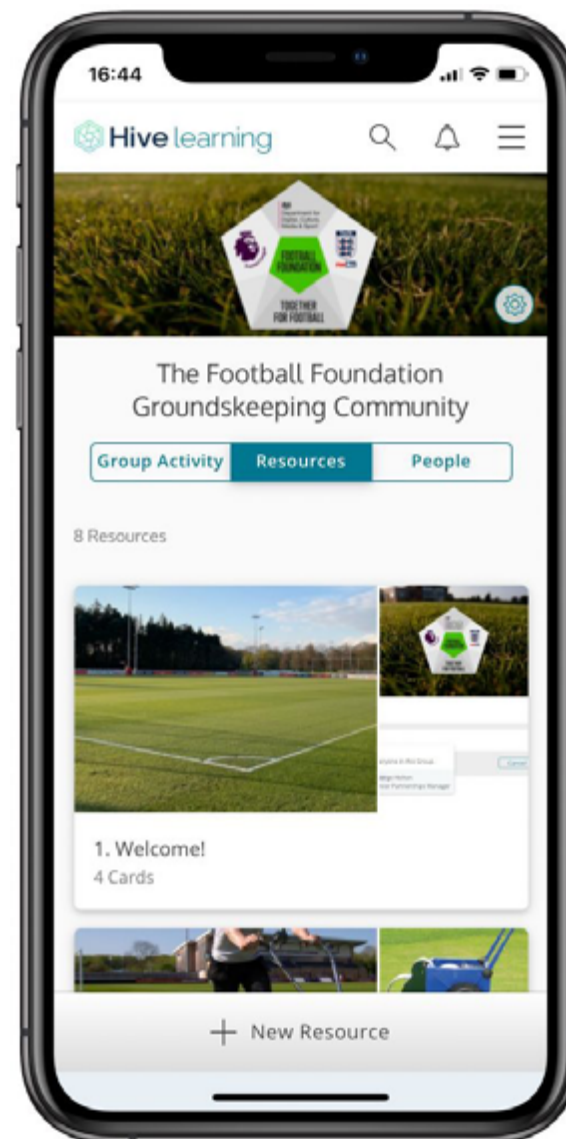




An online community for advice and best practice tips from GMA Pitch Advisors and grounds keepers. HIVE is a great platform for the grounds maintenance workforce to share ideas, challenges and best practice amongst one another.

## ONLINE SUPPORT

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



[footballfoundation.hivelearning.com](https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com)

INSPIRING AND  
DEVELOPING OUR  
BEAUTIFUL GAME, SO  
THAT IT MAY GROW.



GROUNDS  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

