



Regional pitch advisor Ian Powell undertakes Performance Quality Standards tests at a sports ground

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

Ian Powell explains how variety is the spice of life for a regional pitch advisor



By Ian Powell
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There is no such thing as a typical week for me (and nor, no doubt, for the other regional pitch advisors). As much as I try to plan my diary, everything can change due to an email or a phone call. However, variety is the spice of life, so they say, and as a regional pitch advisor for the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), I certainly have plenty of that.

Occasionally, a whole week can be spent in my home office compiling and collating reports from site visits to clubs where I've inspected the playing surfaces and discussed maintenance regimes. Plus, where cricket is concerned, spending time providing the County Grounds Associations and County Pitch Advisors with ongoing support and direction. Another task is to update the reporting spreadsheets for the programme's stakeholders – the Football Association, Football Foundation and the England and Wales Cricket Board – as well as tracking pilot projects in my region.

PROGRESS REPORTS

With the programme now having completed its three-year cycle, a number of GaNTIP projects are coming to fruition, either via the allocation of funding for machinery – which means ensuring that clubs have been quoted for the best equipment for their needs – or from the implementation

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of improved maintenance routines, which I need to confirm are being carried out as per the recommendations provided in my initial reports. All of this will result in additional information that has to be passed back to the clubs, funding organisations and the relevant National Governing Body; and/or an additional visit by myself to the club.

SITE VISITS

Mondays to Thursdays are usually allocated as site visit or report days, depending on the month and the workload. Typically, a site visit linked to one of my six County FAs will entail three new club visits in a day or, occasionally, a second site visit as previously mentioned, as well as a catch-up meeting with the County FA manager. Friday, when possible, is 'admin day'.

[i] Call the IOG for more info on GaNTIP
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