



Essex Grounds Support Network

Welcome

The aim of the Essex CCB Grounds Support Network (EGSN) is all about supporting recreational cricket from the grassroots up. It will work alongside with the Essex Cricket Groundsman's Association. The EGSN is made up of 5 volunteers based across the county who are here to support clubs directly by being able to provide local advice and support to a range of queries. As the IOG RPA for the East Region and an ECB trained Pitch Advisor I will work closely with the group to provide additional technical support where required and we hope this will enable the group to help sustain growth in participation across Essex and East London. In addition to this support the EGSN will continue to deliver its core programmes which include Pitch Advisor visits, regular Workshops & other Events, AGM and to provide continued training, all of which we believe plays a key role in supporting the network to enhance our wonderful game. We are here to be of help when needed so please do not hesitate to contact us on any cricket ground related query.

The IOG in partnership with the ECB through the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GanTIP) are focussed on raising standards, raising awareness and improving education within groundsmanship across major sports. The Introduction of the proposed EGSN is an exciting opportunity for Essex to make positive steps forward in order to achieve these targets.

The ECB is fully committed to further developing the network of knowledge and best practice in groundsmanship in Essex. We will achieve this through our support for the Grounds Support Network, in partnership with the IOG and the ECB Pitch Advisor and will further develop the Grounds and Natural Turf Programme with the aim of improving the playing surfaces for cricket.



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Meet the Essex Grounds Support Network Team

Chris Russell – Essex North Region



My name is Chris Russell. I am Head Groundsman for Tendring District Council. My duties include football pitches, rugby pitches, grass athletics tracks as well as three cricket squares at Clacton CC, Harwich & Dovercourt CC and a square at Kirby Playing Fields.

I started as an apprentice in 1989, passed my City and Guilds in golf greenkeeping at Writtle College. I assisted the previous Head Groundsman for 20 odd years and became Head Groundsman in 2012.

Phil Adcock – Essex South Region



My name is Phil Adcock and I've been involved in cricket since the 1970's, mostly playing for my village club Great Wakering, in the early 1990's the club moved to the local school and under the supervision of Cedric Simpson laid a new pitch. Together with another guy we started looking after the square, we went on a pre-season IOG course and in 1995 the first match was played, probably the last 10 years I've been mostly on my own. I've enjoyed and learnt a great deal from the sessions we've had with the Essex Groundsman Association and think that's a fantastic opportunity for anyone just starting to learn the basics and then to improve pitches all over the county.



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Paul Jackson - Essex Central Region



Paul has been the volunteer groundsman at Little Baddow Cricket Club since 2004. The pitches at Little Baddow are widely recognised as excellent and have been consistently rated in the top 3 in local leagues. Paul has been Groundsman of the Year in the T-Rippon Mid Essex League twice, most recently in 2015, and won Groundsman of the Year in the NatWest OSCAs in 2016.

Paul Elby - Essex West Region



Capel Manor trained, RHS qualified horticulturist and groundsman that can advise, diagnose and assist with a wide range of ground, garden & horticultural requirements. Many formative years were spent working alongside a fantastic mentor and groundsman at Nazeing Common, before taking over in the noughties when he felt my twenty-year apprenticeship complete. But we never stop learning, and I try to keep up to date with all the latest ideas, concepts and even perform my own experiments to drive the grounds industry forward.

I am a member of the institute of horticulture and Hon. secretary of the ECCBGA.



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Jamie Foyster – Chairman Essex CGA



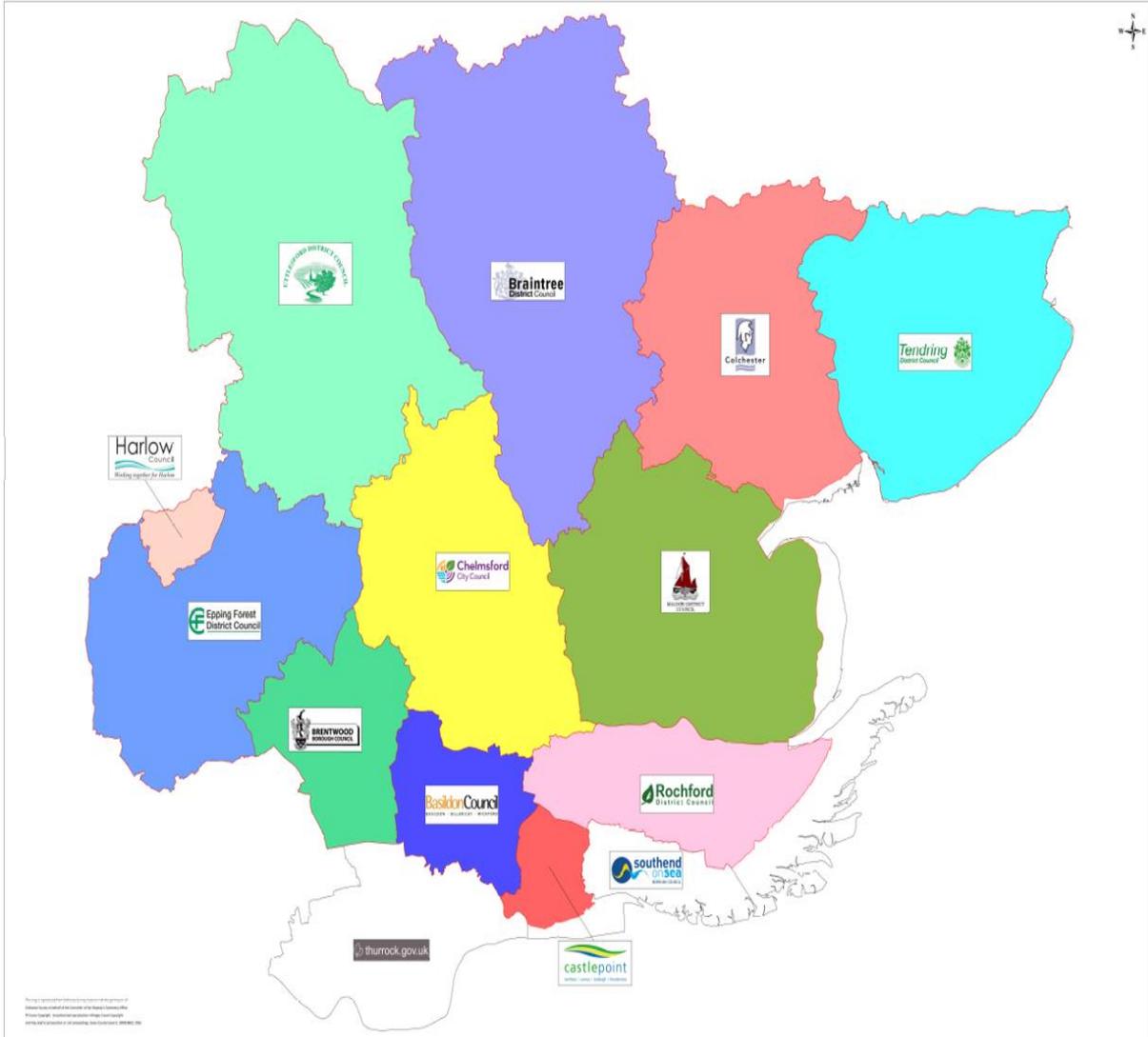
I fully maintain eight cricket squares all year-round including outfield on two of the grounds.

I also carry out remedial works to install, improve and rectify squares and carry out full end of season renovations.

I started as a volunteer at my local cricket club aged 15 and turned professional in 2008, after 22 years of learning at grass roots level from fellow volunteers and professionals along the way and will never stop learning.



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Essex Grounds Support Network Services

The Essex Grounds Support Network (SGSN) has been set up to support and assist all those involved in maintaining and preparing cricket grounds in Essex.

Levels of Service

- Phone, email and informal visit – Free of Charge*
- Formal visit including practical support & Basic Report (up to 1 & 1/2 hours) - £85 + mileage (£10 of which goes to Essex CGA Funds), mileage to be claimed at 45p per mile
- Essex Pitch Inspection carried out by County Pitch Advisor - £150
- Pitch Quality Standards Assessment (carried out by County Pitch Advisor) - £400

* Please note that there will be a limit to the amount of free advice provided and this will be managed on a case by case basis. In the event of a specific service being required members of the EGSN will provide a list of contractors who may be able to quote. However, the EGSN does not endorse these contractors and suggest that clubs carry out due diligence before engaging anyone and always ensure the clubs receive 3 different quotes for any work carried out.

All payments from clubs for this service are to be made payable to the Essex CGA.



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AGM

The AGM is aimed at providing the network with the chance to learn about the latest developments in world of fine turf as well as networking and sharing experiences with other like-minded individuals.

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

These informal and formal workshops are run in partnership with the Institute of Groundsmanship and cover a range of subjects such as pitch preparation, repairs, maintenance and renovations.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER & DISCOUNTED MATERIALS

A newsletter will be provided to all members at various stages throughout the year to keep them up to date on the relevant news items and planned events along with a consumables discounted rate available to its members

SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with the latest news and events through the social media outlets available and to encourage any questions/queries through these platforms

Any requests to the EGSN by clubs/individuals must be logged with the ECCB (Graham Pryke) along with any reports carried out at each ground so that there is a recorded record of this visit and to help start gathering/compiling data from across the county.

Groundsmen are fundamental to cricket. No other surface affects the sport it is played on more than a cricket pitch, and while it may not always seem like it, groundsmen are vital, as they are instrumental in the enjoyment and safety of those who play on our grounds and pitches.

The aim of setting up a support network and promoting the role of a cricket groundsman is to provide training, help and support for the long-term benefit of cricket that is played in Essex and to improve the pitches/facilities that the game is played on at all levels with emphasis on grassroots and volunteers.