

Flexi-wickets : Guidance from John Ayling of Damazan CC

A. Here is a suggestion for those clubs who cannot leave their flexi-wicket down permanently (either because they share the space with rugby/football; or because they would otherwise run the risk of loss or damage):

1. Place your wicket where you intend to play throughout the season.
2. Mark the four corners and take the wicket away.
3. A week to 10 days before the first match, flood the area within these marks.
4. Get the heaviest garden roller you can and while the area is still flooded, roll it for an hour (up and down).
5. After 6 days, roll again (if the ground conditions are suitable, i.e. if mud does not stick to the roller).
6. On the first match day, lay the wicket down in the morning and roll the wicket for an hour.
7. If you are able to leave the wicket down after a game, roll the wicket for an hour following any heavy rainfall.
8. Always roll the wicket for one hour before each and every match.

B. And if you are given a piece of ground for your own use.....

1. Dig out 30metres by 2.74 metres to a depth of 15cm
2. Back-fill with fine calcaire .
3. Use a Shatter plate to compact the area to a fraction below the level of the surrounding ground.
4. Top up with sieved calcaire .
5. Use the Shatter plate again; water the area and then Shatter plate again.

This procedure will give you good, flat surface. You can fix the flexi-wicket into this area and leave it down for the whole season.

This preparation is also suitable if in the future your club is able to afford a carpet wicket.

Questions & remarks to john.ayling@aliceadsl.fr who can send further information and is generously prepared to come on-site to give you hands-on guidance.

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