

Keep um Running!

Information to provide advice for good winter care of Cricket Machinery

(Machinery defined as cylinder & rotary mowers)

Suggested equipment - Dust pan brush or large paint brush (2"+), WD40 or GT85 or MO94

Your Club's machinery is not only one of the most expensive assets but also a vital tool in the preparation of fine wickets and grounds. The following advice is aimed to provide appropriate end-of-season /winter care. In an endeavour to insure that when requiring the use of your machinery in April, it will a)start and b) operate as it did in September. Hopefully saving £'s in unnecessary repair bills.

1. **Cleaning** - Take 15 minutes to clean each machine down, either with a dust-pan brush or large paint brush. Clear away all excess grass which will root and soil dust. Thoroughly empty all grass collection boxes.
2. **Lubricating** - After cleaning spray WD40,GT85 or MO94 (all obtainable usually on special offer from Halfords) all over the machine with the exception of any clutches or brakes. In particular spray the sides of the cylinder, rear roller, front roller or wheels (to provide bearing lubrication) and moving hand controls i.e. throttle, clutch etc. Any visible springs should also be sprayed.
3. **Oil** - Assure machinery has at least 50% engine oil. Do not fill to max as Oil will need replacing before you start use next season, new oil will just deteriorate in the winter months.
4. **Fuel** - Assure you have a third of a tank, again not much more as this will also deteriorate over the winter months. It is also a good idea to add an appropriate amount of fuel preserver.
5. **Storage** - Obviously all machinery should be kept under cover in as dry an environment as possible. If your club storage facility is damp or not great then ask a members who might have spare room in a garage, outbuilding or barn to store for winter months.
5. **Winter Run-up** - The most important winter care, every 4-6 weeks start each machine and allow to run for a good 10-12 minutes. This keeps everything moving.
6. **Professional Servicing** - Whilst the specialist will offer November discounts and everyone wants their machines serviced in March, it is better in my opinion to have the equipment serviced as close to the beginning of the season, this assures the best chance of pre-season start-up and efficient operation.

Any club wishing to discuss cylinder mowers (including outfield cutting equipment), for free servicing advice on the way forward for older/new machines please feel free to contact the SCGA via matthew.counsell@somersetcricketboard.org