

**Report supporting Principal's letter of 28.03.2022 with regards to the proposal to develop the school grounds to enable the Sri Lankan Cricket Board (SLCB) to lay turf (5 strips) and 5 Net practice strips.**

As most of you are aware Principal wrote to the Sports Ministry on **28<sup>th</sup> May 2020** requesting assistance in setting up a turf pitch at JCC.

From our initial discussions with the SLCB we were informed that SLCB were carrying out such works for 25, 1<sup>st</sup> Division schools around the island

SLCB visited the North during **January 2022** and whilst they are aware that JCC play in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and are aiming to promote themselves into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division they did recognise that JCC could benefit from a turf facility as it is geographically well situated and suited for such facilities. With this in mind they have advised that they are willing to carry out the following works for JCC during 2022. The team from SLCB allocated a budget to provide Turf pitches with practice facilities and machineries:

- A. To construct 5 Turf (using Couch grass) wickets together with 1 Matting pitch
- B. To construct 5 turf practice pitches with net facilities
- C. To provide machineries for the maintenance of the above.
- D. To provide training and education for 2 groundsmen to maintain these pitches and continue supporting them with material and advice

They have allocated Rs 10 m towards this project and wish to commence work as soon as possible. The condition to this works discussed at the meeting are:

1. The school carries out the ground development works to ensure that the water drainage system is adequate to remove excess rainwater from the grounds
2. That a Memorandum of Understanding is agreed between both the School and Jaffna District Cricket Association.
3. A Contour report is carried out before the project commences.

With regards to the above conditions:

1. LOBA have carried out an initial feasibility study at their costs by inviting 2 sets of contractors to advice, measure and carry out costs analysis and how to carry out these works in conjunction with the timing of SLCB's proposed works. The report from Indoo Constructions and Panangala & Sons is enclosed together with their final costings after considering the following:
  - a. The costs of soil to level the slopes from the middle to the 4 sides to the boundary.
  - b. The costs alternatives between digging and constructing culverts and taking the water to the outer drains on both end of the school premises or burying perforated pipes all along the boundary and draining the excess rainwater.
  - c. The alternate costs of putting Malaysian buffalo grass and retaining the existing couch grass.

The overall costs of the ground development project come to roughly Rs 20m.

2. The MOU is being drafted by Mr Nishanthan (President for Jaffna Cricket Association) and to be reviewed by LOBA and the school administration. Upon agreement both JCC and SLCB to sign this MOU in due course.
3. We have an existing contour report (2017) (see enclosed) which SLCB is happy to accept at present but have asked for a new report to be commissioned before works commence. We expect this professional report to cost approx. Rs 80 to Rs100k.

We strongly urge that the reports and costings are read in conjunction with the reports and costings done by Sai Construction (produced during 2017). These reports were already provided to all OBA's previously but please do request if you don't have a copy.

**We do appreciate that many of you may have your reservations of this project and have many questions. We have drafted a few Q & A's and hope it helps you to decide if this project is worth supporting.**

1. This project was tried and failed before and why would you start again and spend this much of monies?

Yes it was a failure but on this occasion SLCB have come forward with help and we have done lots of research into its feasibility and how the outfield and drainage can be developed in supporting SLCB's turf and nets project. We see an opportunity to work with SLCB who are investing well over Rs10m for the above.

2. Was a detailed study carried out and consultations held with JOBA, the school POG's for Cricket, Football and athletics including school admin, to ensure this project services all communities of the school.

During the week commencing 21st February 2022 LOBA Secretary was present at the grounds with the contractors. All the above members and officials were present at the grounds and expectations of all school personnel were discussed at length. The contractors together with the POG's and the current groundsman (Sanjeevan) did a detailed measurement for all sporting facilities. It was proven that by laying these turf (and cordoning them off during non-play) none of the other facilities would be disrupted. (Please see drawing annexed).

Schedule of meetings:

21.02.2022 – Indoo Construction (Ravi Jeyandran) -, a turf specialist who advised on the method of laying the turf and repositioning the matting pitch.

22.02.2022 and 23.02.2022 – Carried out a full grounds maintenance to enable a full visible measurement of the ground for the different sports facilities.

23.02.2022 – Meeting with JOBA to discuss the viabilities of the project. There were several questions asked and answered and some of the attendees were present on site and understood the viability of the project.

24.02.2022 – Meeting with team from Panagella & Sons. Provided them accommodation for two nights to carry out their measured survey. Carried out measurements for football and athletics and detailed understanding of the construction of the 5 turf pitches and repositioning of the matting pitch and the 5 net turf pitches. We also did detailed measurements of how the repositioned matting strip will affect the boundary lines as required by the playing conditions for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division cricket.

25.02.2022 – Meeting with Principal and staff, provide drawings and agree the proposal in principle with admin. Discuss the process and requirement for the school's approval letter to SLCB, Global OBA's, MOU etc.

04.03.2022 – A meeting was held with COBA officials to discuss the viability of the project and requested their participation. Based on the drawings and explanations there was no objections raised from COBA.

The costs of the above works and study, paid for by LOBA amounted to Rs 47k.

3. What is the width of the 5 turf and 1 matting strip and explain the Div 2/3 playing conditions? How is the turf going to sit on the present ground?

The 5 turf strips would be 15m. The matting strip would be at either end at 5m. The turf and matting strips have to be north facing due to the way the sun faces the pitch and hence will remain the same as it is currently positioned. The width of the grounds is 115m wall to wall.

The boundary line requirement for Div 3 cricket is 37m radius from the centre of the pitch whilst for Div 2 we need to allow for a 40m radius (Please see drawings which shows that by increasing the number of playing turf pitches to 3 plus a matting pitch will still allow us to be within the playing conditions. The remaining 2 strips can be left for practice.

The turf will be built according to the specifications in the report enclosed at a height of approx 10 inches. We will need to import soil to create a slope of approx 6 inches going downwards to the proposed culverts around the boundary.

4. Big Match – Where would the tents and spectators be placed?

All spectators would be seated on the Pavillion and Scoreboard side (ie South east) and the school has assured us that they could also obtain permission to put tents on the road by blocking the entrance on both sides of the school.

We have been assured that School is able to deal with the logistics with SJC

5. How are we going to resolve the drainage issue?

There is a culvert along the boundary wall on the library end. We can cut a culvert around the three boundary walls and create an outer drainage with covers to take the excess water

to the two main culverts near the library and Vembadi road. We can also dig trenches and bury pipes which will do the same job and the different options are feasible. Please see costings. Both methods have their own advantages and disadvantages. Costs should be our deciding factor as the end result is draining the excess rain water.

6. What's the difference between Couch and Buffalo grass and what is the costs?

Currently the grounds is fully covered with COUCH GRASS. By retaining this grass, it flushes with the centre turf COUCH GRASS to be planted by SLCB. However, COUCH GRASS needs maintenance as we have experienced that it grows wild during rainy season. BUFFALO GRASS does not grow wild and allows water to drain easily. However, to reseed or plant MALAYSIAN BUFFALO GRASS for the whole outer field the costs is higher as evidenced in the quotations enclosed.

7. What machineries would be needed and who is covering these costs?

SLCB will be providing some of the machineries and a list is available with Nishanthan To the best of our knowledge the following are included

A heavy 4- or 2-Ton roller  
Turf wicket cutter  
Grass cutter slicer  
Scruffier and Turf grass shaver

We will need to budget for the maintenance of these machineries.

8. What would be the costs of ground maintenance? Who will be funding?

We need one head groundsman and one assistant throughout the year. Both will need to be employed by the school even if funded by the OBA's. A contract for at least 3-4 years needs to be signed. A heads groundsman will cost roughly Rs 40k per month and a budget of Rs 100k will need to be budgeted for each month for staff wages and machinery maintenance. This aspect of care and attention to the turf and nets will determine the future of turf cricket for our school. Emphasis must be placed on the education and training of the groundsman to be made our main priority. The OBA's will need to fund the maintenance costs.

9. What happened to the previous ground development project and Is there a Steering committee that we can rely upon to deliver this project successfully?

Neither the writer nor the people that have come forward are able to provide a satisfactory answer to what happened previously and we cannot be revisiting the past forever. We can only learn from the mistakes they made.

Yes, UKOBA initiated this project once they heard that SLCB have come forward. There are the following individuals who have put their time so far and have offered their valuable time to be part of the Steering committee. Mr Ranjithkumar, Mr Balakrishnan, Mr Selvakumar, Mr Rajeevan and Mr Paul Ranjith. We welcome any enthusiastic old boy who wish to come on board and drive this project forward.

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10. Where is the monies coming from?

As explained above SLCB are funding about Rs10m towards the 5 turf strips and 5 nets together with the machineries. The Global OBA's will need to fund the remaining Rs20m for ground development and drainage.

11. What guarantee is there that SLCB will deliver? Is there an insurance cover in the event the works goes shambolic?

There is no written contract with SLCB other than an MOU to be signed by Jaffna District Cricket Assoc and the school. Principal has issued the approval letter to SLCB to go ahead with the turf project. We are on constant touch with them. They have asked for accommodation for a team to stay at our pavilion to carry out initial feasibility studies. That's all we have at this moment. We are working on the MOU which hopefully once signed by both parties will bind them to deliver. There is no insurance cover for such development works. SLCB would no doubt guarantee their works but if we fail to maintain the turf then there is the possibility that the pitch could go shambolic and there is no insurance cover for this. However, any renovation works to be carried out subsequently would not be costly and the strips can be repaired.

12. Time scale for completion of project.

SLCB wish to commence works in **June 2022** and have indicated a timetable of 6-8 weeks for the nets and 6-12 weeks for the turf both being done simultaneously. We need to carry out ground development in tangent with them.

13. Who decides on the hire and terms of hire of pitches?

School will decide who and when to hire the grounds. SLCB have asked inclusion within the MOU for the grounds to be made available for use when the school is not using it for its other activities. School does not see this as a problem as we there are activities all year around.

14. Why would we want this project to go ahead?

Because the boys will gain valuable experience when they go to compete against Div 1 & 2 schools in the south and around the island. Schools in the south during 2021 played around 400 matches and 80% of those matches were on turf strip whilst our boys have played all their matches on matting strips.

Finally, we are sure that there must be many more question and we are happy to address them if you write to the sender. Meanwhile this project needs your urgent attention as we are now nearly three months from when SLCB initiated their interest.

The short of it is that we need to raise Rs 20m in the next two to three months and its no easy task. We want all OBA's to come forward and take ownership of this project as it is an opportunity that we must latch on.

We have a Bus society that is already constitutionally in existence and functioning effectively. We could either use their expertise or set up a fund for ground development. Either way we need to start the collection process (Rs 20m) as we believe SLCB do want to commence this project at its soonest.

Please go through all attachments and let's have your comments be it positive or negative. All we ask at this time is if you feel this project would be a failure, please provide reasons and solutions and not mere negative emotions.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of UK OBA

Secretary

T Selvakumar

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022