

# Durant Cricket Bespoke Netting System

Nottinghamshire proud of Durant Cricket installation at Lady Bay Sports Club training ground







**Nottinghamshire's Lady Bay Sports Club training ground has just taken delivery of a bespoke netting system from Durant Cricket, installed under the expert eye of former Glamorgan CCC groundsman Keith Exton.**

The new system is designed to give far greater flexibility to groundsmen in getting optimum use out of their practice squares in order to provide the players with the very best surface to train on.

Mick Newell, director of cricket at Nottinghamshire CCC, picks up the story. "With more coaches around and innovations like the Sidearm 'dog stick' throwing tool, players practise more than they ever have in the past," he says. "The installation of these new nets means we now have one of the best training facilities in the country, with the option of more than 50 quality grass pitches now available. This allows the nets to be used throughout the club, including academy and junior county teams."

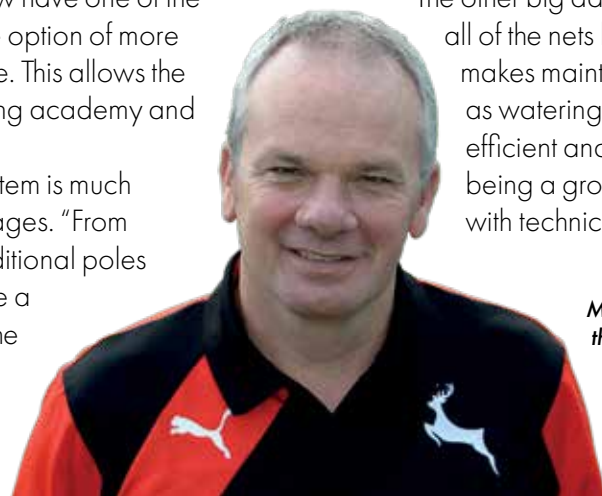
Newell also referenced that the new system is much safer than traditional fixed nets or roll-on cages. "From a coaching perspective, not having the traditional poles and uprights associated with nets has made a huge difference. Balls tend to ricochet off the

uprights and can be extremely dangerous – particularly with the power the ball is hit with on a consistent basis nowadays. The new system means that when balls are struck, they are absorbed by the netting which is so much safer."

The new netting system allows for nets to be set up anywhere on the practice square and also provides the option to turn the net around to bowl the opposite way, further extending its use.

Steve Birks, head groundman at Trent Bridge, believes the system has made a huge difference. "You can move the nets anywhere you like which means that you can use your netting surface far more efficiently," he says. "We cut the pitches five feet wide which means we have 40 or more pitches over there, compared to having just a few fixed nets.

The other big advantage is that you can push all of the nets back and tie them up, which makes maintenance so much easier, such as watering and cutting. It is so much more efficient and saves hours. Everyone thinks being a groundsman is manual job but with technical advances like this netting →



*Mick Newell is impressed with the new nets at Lady Bay*



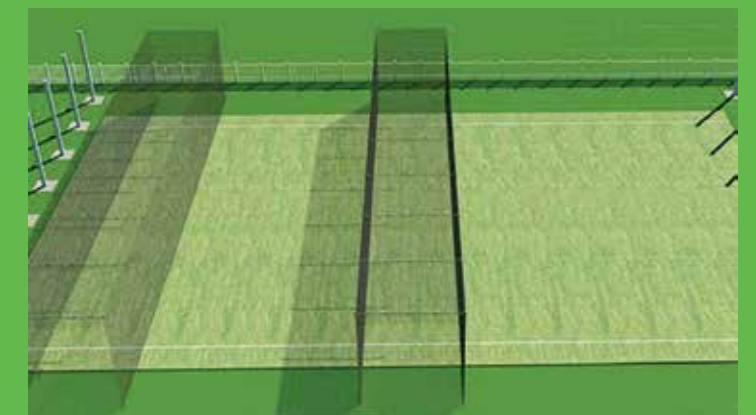
*Steel uprights sunk in to concrete allow the wires to be tensioned across play*



*Fully enclosed tunnel netting systems in high quality knotted netting*



*Unique torque winch allows tension to be consistent across all bays*



*Full design and installation service available*





Mat Dowman is part of the Durant Cricket team, and also played for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire



Tying up the nets allows for easy pitch maintenance

system, it makes the work a lot more efficient."

Former Nottinghamshire CCC and Derbyshire CCC cricketer Mat Dowman was part of the Durant Cricket team that worked on installing the nets. He explained just what a difference the new system would make for players, compared to when he was a professional 20 years ago. "We used to use the fixed nets at Trent Bridge, where the pitches would often get pretty tired. That meant batting became very difficult mentally, where you might be preparing for a big match, but keep playing and missing with the ball misbehaving off cracks or turning square. By the

time you got to match day, your confidence could be shot to pieces! With so many more pitches now available thanks to the flexibility of this system, the quality of practice will be transformed, both in terms of technique and confidence and that will naturally extend to improved performance in those big games."

At Trent Bridge, the big games will come thick and fast. The summer of 2019 will see the ground host a one-day international between England and Pakistan plus five Cricket World Cup fixtures, along with the county season.

And Newell points out, there certainly will not be any respite in 2020. "The flexibility of having Lady Bay is crucial this year with all of the international cricket taking place at Trent Bridge. Then next year, we will have two new teams playing out of Trent Bridge [the men's and women's Hundred teams] – and there simply isn't any more net space available on the ground unless you tear up some outfield. Having the number of nets at Lady Bay is invaluable."

  
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