



**Analysis and report on User Assessment  
Forms at  
Stourport and Leighton Buzzard Cricket  
Clubs**



## User Assessments 2014

The following is a review of the user assessment forms obtained from Stourport and Leighton Buzzard during 2014 and looks at how the assessments reflect the performance characteristics of the pitch systems. The detail concentrates mostly on the results from Stourport Cricket Club as the greater number of forms submitted and the higher number of individuals involved give a much better impression of the overall opinion of the pitches.

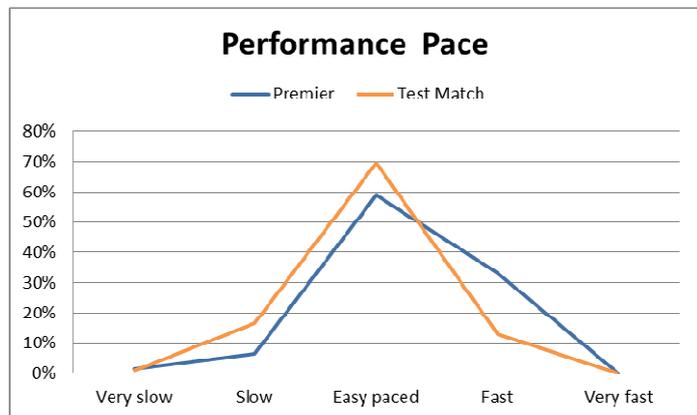
### Stourport on Severn Cricket Club

#### Pace

**Premier** – The distribution of assessments put this at easy paced to fast and what is interesting is the similarity of the distribution to that for bounce height which illustrates how a player's perception of a pitch being fast can be influenced by the level of bounce.

**Test Match** – This distribution was fairly evenly distributed either side of easy paced and was only slightly skewed towards slow.

The distribution profile is once again mirrored in the bounce height.

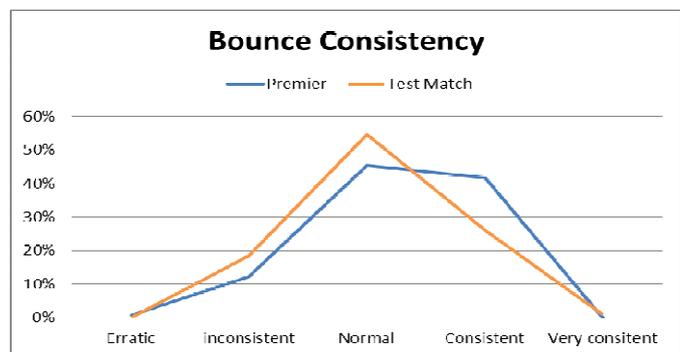


Both systems had high percentages in the easy paced category with the more even distribution of the Test Match system reflecting that this system is more affected by weather conditions.

#### Bounce Consistency

**Premier** – The distribution is heavily skewed towards being rated as consistent with almost four times the number of ratings of consistent compared to ones of inconsistent.

**Test Match** – This is evenly spread either side of normal with a slight bias towards consistent. More than 50% felt the level of consistency was normal with a total of 81% indicating it was normal or above.

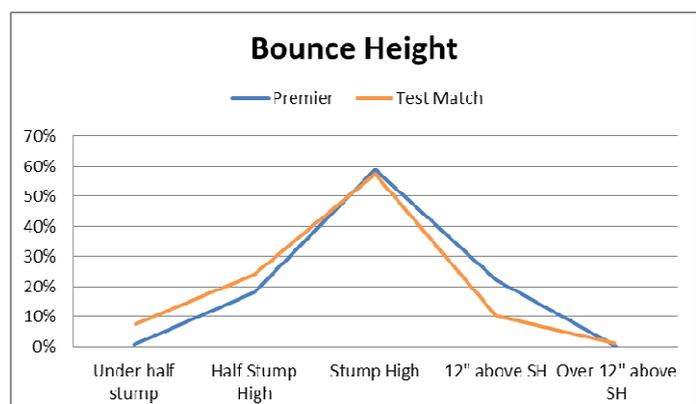


There is always likely to be some inconsistency on any pitch due to weather and the condition of the balls used, particularly on practice facilities. The results illustrate the greater consistency of the Premier system and how the Test Match system can be affected by weather. Neither system was felt to give erratic ball bounce by any of the users at any time during the season.

#### Bounce Height

**Premier** – 59% felt that the bounce was stump high with the distribution very slightly skewed towards 12" above stump high and none below half stump high.

**Test Match** – 60% felt the bounce was stump high with a bias towards the low side. It was known that bounce was low during the season as the club was unable to roll the pitches after their roller was stolen early in the season.

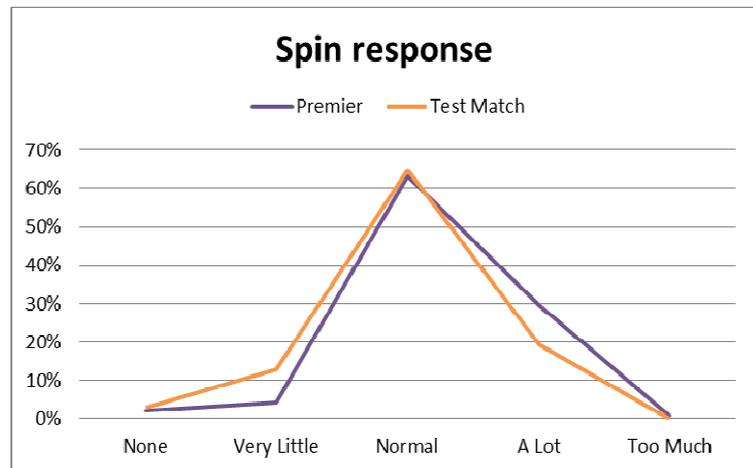


The Test Match systems are perceived to be slower and lower than the Premier systems and this is reflected in the lower formal rebound bounce results. However despite these different results, the Test Match system being 29% lower than the Premier, the same percentage of users assessed the bounce as stump high. The site is part of the River Severn flood plain and so ground water is affected by the river water level which is more likely to affect the Test Match system particularly bearing in mind the club had no roller.

### Response to Spin

**Premier** – The distribution of this was significantly skewed towards the ball turning with 29% feeling that the spin was a lot. This high level may be due to the high bounce as a player’s perception of turn correlates strongly with the height of bounce, NCA/SC cricket pitch consortium 1980.

**Test Match** – This was more evenly distributed around the norm with a slightly higher percentage feeling there was a lot of spin compared to those that felt there was very little.

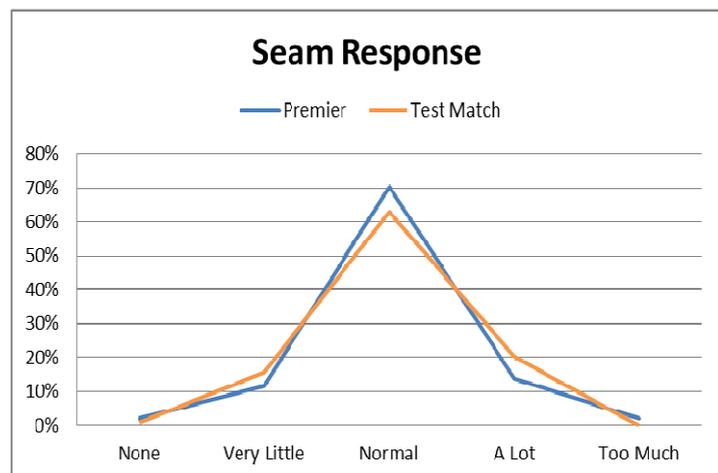


Both systems had a similar percentage that felt the level of spin was normal but with more feeling that the Premier system gave a lot of spin. This reflects the difference in the formal tests for hardness where the Premier system is softer than the Test Match system, thereby giving more for the ball to grip into and therefore a greater likelihood and degree of turn. With the Test Match system being fairly evenly distributed around the norm the level of spin assessed on the Premier is likely to be higher as inevitably it will be compared to the Test Match and vice versa.

### Response to Seam

**Premier** – The distribution is fairly even either side of the norm with 70% feeling that the response was normal. Though a small percentage thought there was too much seam, which could be influenced by the level of bounce, there was not a large difference between those that thought very little compared to those that thought there was a lot.

**Test Match** – This was fairly evenly distributed either side of the norm.



Unlike the spin assessments there was less variation in the two distribution shapes. This could be due to there being a greater expectation of a pitch to seam than there is for one to seam resulting in less users feeling that a pitch might exhibit a lot of seam. The fact that more assessed the response to be either side of normal for the Test Match system might well be a further reflection of the greater variability of the Test Match system.

### Quality

**Premier** – All areas of assessment were more than 90% in the good – excellent range with the number of excellent classifications more than four times those of terrible. The highest number of poor/terrible ratings related to seam response and the quality of bounce. With respect to seam response there could be two dimensionally opposite explanations for this.

Either - They felt there was too much seam due to the high bounce and fast pace.

Or – They felt the level of seam movement was low due to an expectation that it would be more like the spin movement.

In relation to the bounce level the lower quality assessments are most likely due to the bounce being higher than those users might like.

Test Match – This also had more than 90% ratings in the good –excellent band but with a higher proportion rating Ok and much less rating as excellent. The number in the poor and below classifications is higher than the Premier system and probable reflect the greater variation in performance that the system exhibits. The lowest marking was for the quality of bounce and this is most likely due to the low bounce which has been explained more fully above.

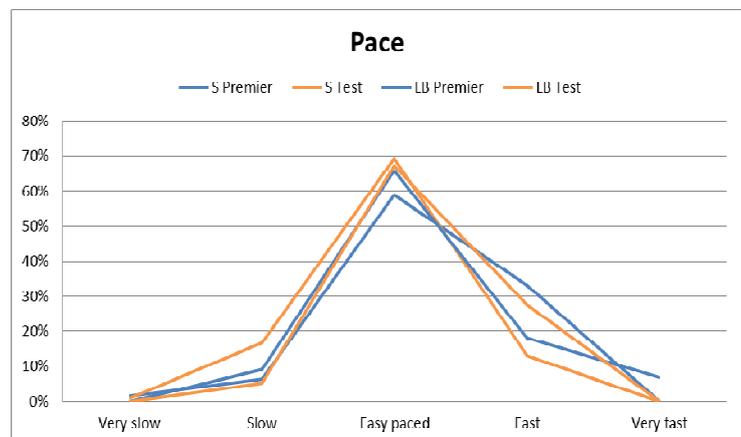
## Leighton Buzzard Cricket Club

The results from Leighton Buzzard are more difficult to analyse in a similar fashion due to the lower number of forms completed and the low number of individuals that did complete them. It is a shame that they did not undertake them in the manner that Stourport did or even just in the manner that they did in 2008 when they were also part of the re-approval process.

With a small number of individuals the results are significantly affected by an individual’s personal opinion and bias. This is compounded by much of the assessment being based on u10/u11 by a guy who feels the bounce on the Premier systems is too high for them.

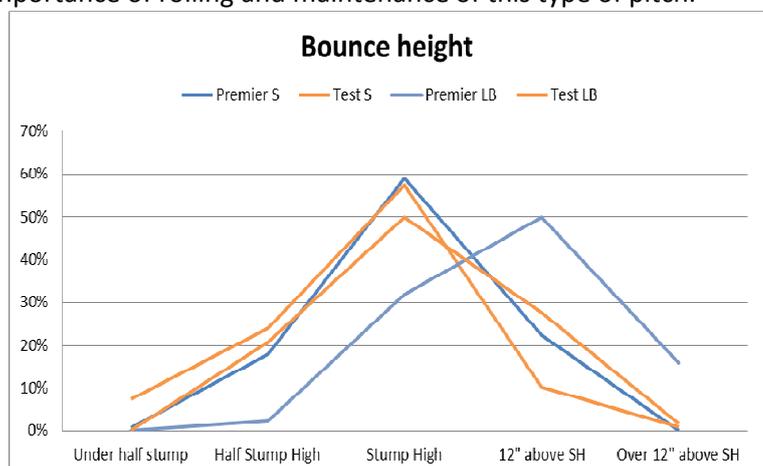
Having said this, the general profiles of the distributions for both pitch systems are quite similar to those at Stourport.

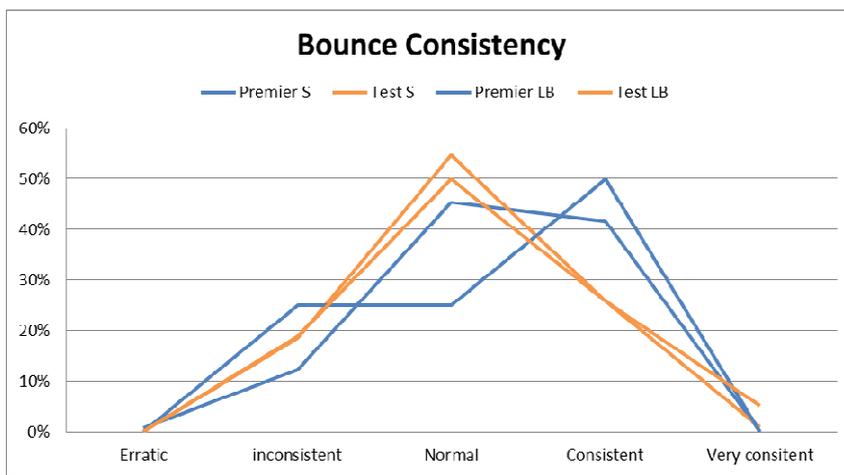
The hardness tests at Leighton Buzzard indicated that the base of the Test Match system there is harder than the Test Match system at Stourport. This is reflected in the pace assessments where a higher proportion felt it to be fast at Leighton Buzzard. This extra hardness is probably due to the bases being older and more established at Leighton Buzzard compounded by the lack of a roller at Stourport.



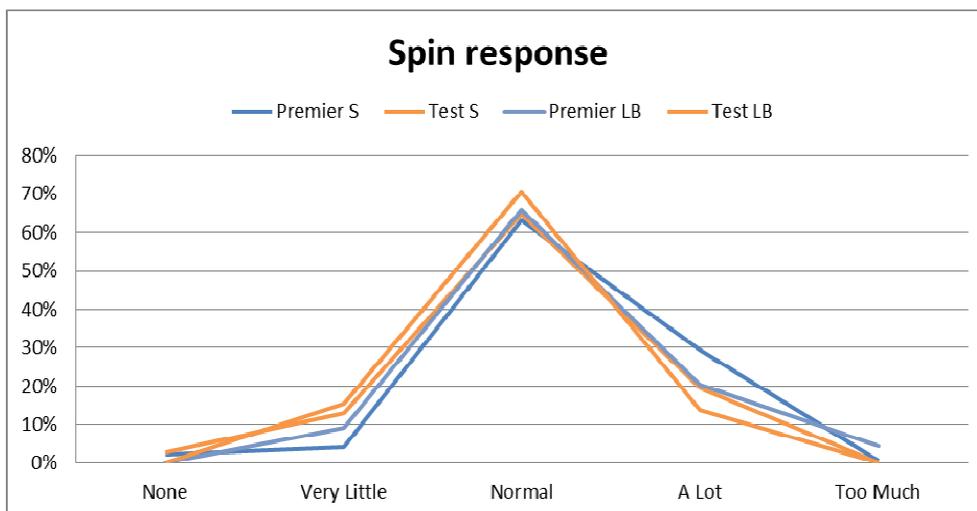
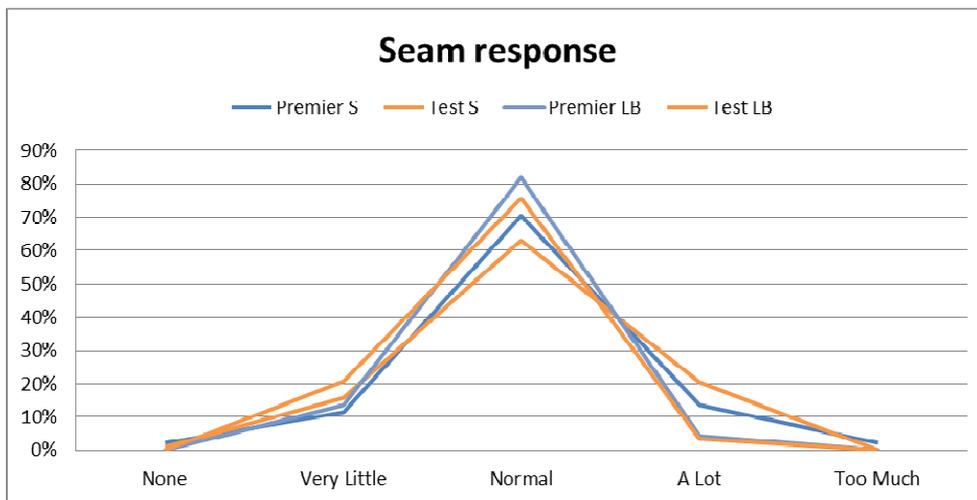
This difference is not reflected in the formal rebound bounce test as the pitches were rolled prior to the tests being undertaken. This confirms the importance of rolling and maintenance of this type of pitch.

With the greater pace perception of the Test Match system a lower proportion at Leighton Buzzard felt the Premier system was fast, though there were some rankings of very fast. This illustrates how a users’ rating of a pitches performance can be influenced by comparison with another pitch.





The consistency profiles for the Test Match system are very similar from one site to the other. However there is a paradox on the Premier system where the proportion at Leighton Buzzard increased for both consistent and inconsistent.



## Summary

The following attributes are claimed for the two pitch systems.

Premier – Greater consistency, higher bounce, more responsive to spin and seam

Test Match – More variability, greater emphasis on rolling to aid performance, will vary with climate and weather.

All in all the pitches, particularly at Stourport, reflected accurately the claims made for them all within the formal performance parameters required within TS6.