

**Research
Dissemination
Seminar**

Dr. U. P. Nawagamuwa

Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
University of Moratuwa

Thursday, 29th May 2014

10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

Board Room
Faculty of Engineering

Seminar Series

Organized by the Engineering Research Unit
Faculty of Engineering

Improvement of local soils in order to make “fast & bouncy” cricket pitches and the curious case of Khetarama Pitch

Abstract - Cricket is easily the most popular sport in Sri Lanka. It has won the hearts and minds of the people of this country so much that it has turned in to a national pastime. It is a very complicated game with many facets to it which often leaves the layman confounded by its complexity.

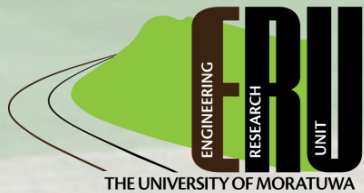
In Cricket, the conditions in which the game is played are very important. Weather, playing surface, ground conditions and many other variables play a part. Especially important among these is the playing surface also called the “Cricket Pitch”. Unlike many other sports, the playing area is not artificial and as a result, the playing conditions in each game are unique. Cricket pitches have over the years been categorized according to their behaviour. Players have learnt to adapt to how the pitches behave in order to perform better. Of these categories of pitches, the most common are the “fast” and “slow” pitches. “Fast” pitches quite commonly are “bouncy” pitches as well while “slow” pitches tend to be “low”, dusty and conducive to “spin”.

Sri Lanka (as well as most of the Indian Sub-continent) is home to “slow and low” pitches and even though it has been attempted, the creation of fast, bouncy pitches in Sri Lanka has eluded us. This study deals with the problem of creating a fast and bouncy pitch by investigating how some of the fundamental physical characteristics of a cricket pitch varies with the soil used to make the pitch.

First part of the presentation will be devoted to discuss the development of fast and bouncier cricket pitches and the second part of the presentation will be on the curious case of Khetarama pitch.

Bio - Dr. Udeni Nawagamuwa graduated from University of Moratuwa in 1999 with BSc Hons in Civil Engineering and then obtained MEng Degree in 2002 from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and DrEng in 2005 from Yokohama National University, Japan. He served University of Ruhuna from 2000 to 2007 and then joined his alma mater in Oct 2007. He has done research studies in various topics of geotechnical engineering and today he will be presenting one of his famous research studies which won the prestigious EOE Pereira award twice.

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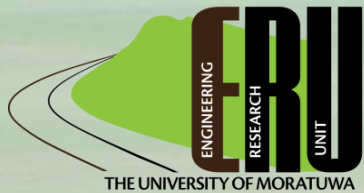
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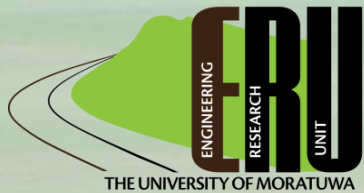
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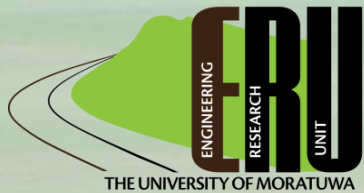
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During the Compaq Cup tournament in Sri Lanka in September 2009, the teams batting under lights at the R. Premadasa (Khetarama) Stadium pitch consistently found it very difficult to bat and thus lost matches. Many were of the view that the pitch was helping bowlers a lot more during the evening making it very unfair for the team batting second. This part of the presentation is based on the study carried out at the request of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to investigate the behaviour of the R. Premadasa Stadium (Khetarama) pitch. The study aimed to find out if there was any truth to the above claim by conducting insitu bounce tests and collecting top-dressing samples from the pitch at regular time intervals. The test was conducted during the hours a normal day/night One Day International match would be played at this stadium and match conditions were simulated as far as possible. The variation of bounce with time was then compared with the moisture variation through the course of duration of play to see whether there were correlations between the two.

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