

Oak Park Golf Club

December 2006

As many of you will have heard Spencer Hawkins has now left Oak Park to start a new career outside of Greenkeeping. I would like to thank him for his hard work as Course Manager and wish him luck.

As the new Course Manager I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Craig Earnshaw and I have been Greenkeeping now for 14 years. Most of this time was spent in Devon at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club where I worked up the ranks to First Assistant. I progressed up to a deputy position at their sister course called 'The Lambourne Club' in Buckinghamshire where I spent two years working alongside the course manager. Last year I moved into the position of deputy course manager here at Oak Park, and enjoyed working closely with Spencer. In this time I began to feel the need for a more challenging role and when the position as Course Manager became available I jumped at the chance. I look forward to working through the difficult winter period and ensuring that Oak Park provides the surfaces and surrounding that golf courses in the area aspire to.

November Review

Continued milder than expected temperatures and high levels of rainfall throughout November meant that a lot of time was spent repairing washout damage to bunkers and overflow ditches after some typical Autumnal weather. More traffic control measures were put in place to minimise any turf damage as well as more frequent sanding. Worm control was eventually completed on tees and surrounds but due to the heavy weather fairways are still in need of some further applications. So far disease has been kept down to a minimum with the putting green worst hit. The Greens have been slit tined and have been fed with an autumn turf tonic. Growth has slowed down but most areas are still being cut each week, which is very unusual for late November.

December

Greens: Mowing height will remain at 6mm, and cut twice per week following the level of rain that has fallen recently. Aerifying work will be via 4 inch deep star tines, 12mm width, with all greens being lightly rolled and sand dressed afterwards, albeit a very light application to prevent smothering the grass when damp. This will help restore surface firmness. A fungicide will be applied if necessary and each day the greens will be monitored in case of a sudden outbreak.

Tees: The areas still to be re-turfed are the back section of the 13th the back of 11th and the back of the 6th. All these tees suffer from shade and some tree surgery will commence in the new year. Some grass tees will remain in play but in the main most iron tees will be rested. This will be kept under review regarding soil conditions.

Surrounds: Some aerifying of the weaker surrounds will commence through the winter along with on-going traffic control measures and sanding. Re-turfing of the 4th and 17th aprons, along with mixing an organic material within the root zone to retain moisture this will commence from the 13th of December weather permitting. Possible further worm control to key areas will be applied if necessary.

Fairways: Further filling of drain lines on the 5th will continue until all are complete. Any key junctions will be turfed to prevent further washout. The lower left side of the 5th will be sand dressed to help prevent wear and firm up the surface.

Other:

Due to the very wet autumn Trolleys will be stopped. If the course is too wet or frosty NO TROLLEY lines will be painted around the front of green aprons. Trolleys must be pulled around the line and parked off the surround.

Course Manager: Craig Earnshaw