

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

January 2006

Happy New Year to all

December Review

The first half of December was a continuation of being wet & mild followed by thick fog before settling down to near normality. As such, much of the work centered around playability with more traffic control measures and sanding being carried out. This will help protect areas for future recovery and to give as good as possible playing conditions while wet weather persists. When odd 'windows' of fair weather opened, most main playing areas were mowed since growth hasn't quite stopped yet, in spite of being year end. This is a change to even 5 years ago when mowing generally stopped around mid-November. In between periods of rain and fog, ditches on the 3rd, 5th and behind the 9th Green have been cleaned out stopping moisture running through the bank onto playing surfaces and paths. Refurbishment of the tee markers and hazard markers has commenced. Turf repairs on the 11th and 8th tees have been deferred until mid January due to poor weather conditions and the millennium trophy. The greens were showing signs of disease and now have been slit tined and a winter tonic has been applied. Recovery has been excellent on the infected greens.

January.

Greens: Mowing height & frequency will remain the same at 6mm as long as conditions remain constant. All greens that have been affected by disease are now on the road to a good recovery, however we will be monitoring for disease on a day to day basis. All greens will be slit tined again this month to aid further recovery. Odd damaged areas will be 'plugged-out' otherwise it will be more of the same unless temperatures drop below zero.

Tees: The main emphasis will be turfing the weak teeing areas on 11 & 13. This can not start until after the millennium trophy. All tees will be deep tined but only when conditions are favourable. Bins and ball washers will start to be re-furbished but this will be on-going over the next 3 months. A comprehensive divetting will be carried out and a light sand dressing applied to help dry the wetter tees.

Surrounds: Further worm control to key areas is now necessary following continued mild weather. All surrounds will be slit tined and any badger damage repaired. A soil exchange and then turfing to the 4th and 17th aprons will take place mid January (as with the tees) due to the millennium trophy.

Fairways: Further filling of drain lines on the 5th, 7th and 16th will continue until all are complete. Slit tinning will be in progress throughout the next 3 months. Many areas will need further applications of worm control but that will largely depend upon ground conditions and temperature.

Other: Additional sand to be added to bunkers and the drains located and cleaned on most holes. This will commence when weather conditions favor as silt and rain wash off will silt up the drainage. Path edging to continue and filling up of pot holes as per last month. Continued painting of hazard markers and tee markers.

Finally I would like to welcome Liam Somers to the Greenkeeping team as Deputy Course Manager. Liam started on 2nd January and has come with some great ideas.

Course Manager:

Craig Earnshaw