

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

November 2006

October Review

The above average temperatures and high rainfall throughout the month forced a change in plans and some delays to the planned work programs. Mowing regimes were increased to combat the subsequent flush of grass growth. Irrigation was last used at the end of September and moisture levels are now penetrating deeper into the soil. Temperatures at 2 inch soil depth on the fairways at the end of October were still at 14 Celsius, a few degrees higher than normal. Due to the mild and wet conditions, a contact and systemic fungicide was applied to all greens; the contact stops fusarium from spreading further and the systemic will prevent continued outbreaks over a period of time. Applications of carbendazim and chlorpyrifos have been made to reduce worm casting and the 'leatherjacket' population on greens and selected areas on the course. Bunkers on the Woodland course have been edged and weeded, although further attention will be required this month on both Village and Woodland courses.

November

- Greens:** All main end of season work is now complete and apart from raising mowing height to 5.5 mm now that colder temperatures have arrived, the main emphasis will be to aerify using a variety of tine sizes at varying depths. This is necessary to ensure maximum oxygen movement within the soil and to help reduce thatch levels and prevent any black layer from forming (anaerobic conditions devoid of oxygen). A light sand dressing will be applied mid-month; a 'winter tonic' consisting of chelated iron, high potassium and phosphite will occur. Mowing will reduce and pedestrian mowers will be used throughout the winter period.
- Tees:** Temporary mats will be in operation on the short holes to enable the scarifying and overseeding an opportunity to promote the regeneration of grass to reduce the amount of turfing work on the tees. Aeration work will continue and light feeding and dressing will take place.
- Surrounds:** Aeration will continue to increase drainage potential and fortify the plant this winter. Light feeding will take place with fertilizer that is low in Nitrogen and high in Potassium; levels of iron will be increased now winter is here.
- Fairways:** Applications of iron and high potassium based fertilizer have been made with good signs of recovery on many of the scarified fairways. Weak areas will receive a granular feed to encourage some re-growth. Leveling of sunken drainage channels will continue throughout the winter period. Carbendazim and chlorpyrifos will be applied to all fairways this month.
- Other:** Traffic control will be introduced to many areas especially greens approaches and walk off areas; this will be in the form of rope and posts and although it will inhibit the 'easiest route' it will reduce the amount of wear and tear close to greens.

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