

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

September 2008

August Review

A wetter than average month with rain occurring on about 20 days. Only during the last week was it relatively dry. This meant that additional mowing, often during wet conditions was the norm, along with more frequent strimming and tidying up work around bunkers, ditches and odd corners of the course. Coring and dressing took place as planned with recovery relatively quick due to higher soil temperatures and hours of daylight at this time of year. A few signs of end of season turf stress from anthracnose foliar blight were noted on a couple of greens e.g. 4th 15th 16th; this being due to constant leaching of nutrients, lack of sunlight and prolonged low mowing heights. Feeding requirements have been increased mowing height stayed at 4.5mm.

September

Greens: Mowing height likely to remain at up to 4.5mm with brushing/grooming etc eventually returning to weekly intervals. At this time of year, irrigation will be used sparingly and more during the day time with a view to keeping surfaces drier through the night. To aid this objective, a dew dispersant/penetrant will be applied since damp surfaces and high humidity are ideal breeding grounds for fungal pathogens to take on a more parasitic (attack) role. If necessary, a preventative fungicide will be applied in addition to a probable application of iron to lightly 'acidify' the surface; this helping to ward-off any likely Fusarium Patch disease. Cross or soral-tining will continue on a fortnightly basis to maximize air movement.

Tees: Similar to the above 'nutrient loss' aspect, a foliar feed will be applied this month to give the tees more of a boost to combat wear. Regular divoting will continue and the weaker tees such as the 10th will be over-seeded and top dressed. The wet areas at the back of the 5th and 11th will be cored and Axis added for improved air space within the soil and to absorb excess water.

Surrounds: Much the same as in the previous month with most areas showing good growth and grass cover. The LHS of the 1st and 18th to be over-seeded and top dressed. Mowing to continue when surfaces are dry whenever possible.

Fairways: An application of carbendazame will be applied to fairways to eliminate the worm casts. This should keep the surface mud free in those wet conditions the aim will be to start Fairway aeration end of September early October.

Other: Ditches on and around the course to again be strimmed and glyphosate applied. Bunkers to be given a light trim & edge, with sand again being added to those green-side bunkers where previous wash-outs have reduced the depth of sand. Bunker renovation work to the 8th to start commence late September.

:All works are subject to weather conditions:

Craig Earnshaw

Course Manager