

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

March 2007

February Review

The first part of February was taken up with general mowing while there was a break in the weather and just trying to tidy up the golf course and present it the best we could given the amount of rain we had. The very mild weather has resulted in leatherjacket larvae being active, this caused a second application of pesticide and a penetrant. The greens were again slit tined where possible. The rest of the month was very wet, culminating in just over 80mm of rain falling in about a three week period. Further traffic control was enforced around both courses and a certain amount of sanding has been needed, this work will continue until we have drier weather. As the course has been so wet we have concentrated our work on the pathways (3, 5 and 10). Are other main projects have been turfing the 4th and 17th aprons. This was needed because these areas dry up and burn in the summer, as a result before turfing we mixed in green waste with the soil which will help to hold onto the moisture and prevent this occurring again.

March

Greens: We are looking to continue slit tining at 4 inch depth plus a deep tining with star tines, this will be very effective in relieving compaction and promoting the exchange of gases but giving us minimal disruption on the greens, this to be followed by light sand dressings. Any soft /wet areas, (e.g. 5th woodland) will require an application of axis this helps drainage in the winter and retains moisture in the summer. We have come through the winter with minimal disease scars, although with the weather turning warmer and wetter there could possibly be another outbreak, any bad affected areas will be plugged and moved to the side of the green. Also we will be applying a slow release granular fertilizer to the greens which is high in potassium, this will again promote strong healthy growth and give us a barrier against disease.

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Tees: The new turf put down on 6, 8, 11 and 13 tees has grown in well and will need a first cut soon with a rotary mower. We have started to solid tine the tees but had to stop due to the rain, this will continue now we have reasonable access and all tees will be dressed and overseeded.

Surrounds: A few turf repairs are also needed on those areas affected by last years drought, e.g. the back of 7 and right hand side of 17th green. We are holding off these areas at the moment as phase 2 of the irrigation will start shortly and they will be disrupting these areas. Further slit tining will be carried out when conditions are dry, along with regular sanding following the return of heavy rain. We have new rope and post on order, as soon as we receive this it will be installed on the course replacing the older style posts

Fairways: Carbendazim and Chlorpyrifos will be applied to suppress worms and leather jackets should they return, foliar feed containing prilled urea and/or iron will be applied to enhance presentation without affecting growth. We are still unable to get on fairways 10 - 12 as they are still holding water, as soon as conditions allow us we will mow and present this area better. The new 150 markers will be placed on each side of the fairway.

Other: We still have sand to be added to bunkers on the woodland and village courses. The paths on the 3, 5 and 10 have now been graded and edged with baton. These paths have been backfilled with road plainings as a base layer, we will be topping them off with grundon (crushed red brick) as soon as weather conditions allow us. Thanks for your patience with these areas.
Hazard markers are painted and will be moved out onto the course.
New tee blocks will be moved out onto the course and old ones being brought back in and refurbished.
Ditch clearance along the 9th fairway will continue.
New flags have arrived and will be put out on the course.
There will be some woodland work ongoing by ourselves and outside contractors. The tree surgeons are here every Monday and Tuesday for 8 weeks.
Phase 2 of the irrigation is to start very soon on the woodland course.
The marking out of the temps will continue, they will be solid tined and dressed.
The practice bunker will be turfed and edged out.
Turving is to be done around edge of new paths.

Liam Somers

Deputy Course Manager:

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