

Oak Park GOLF CLUB

April 2007

March Review

Almost a month of two halves with the first part being very wet followed by drier and at times warmer temperatures. The 'early' Spring gave us the opportunity to mow and trim virtually all areas of the course and present the course in reasonably good shape for late March. Grass cover is generally good apart from the high wear areas around greens and some walkways, which are still being sanded periodically and where traffic control measures remain in force. General turf renovation programs gathered pace from Mid-March with all greens now star tined, and now ready for deep aeration. Tees were also tined and weak areas seeded, dressed and an application of feed applied, along with a few key areas on the front approaches to greens. Bunker trimming, edging and re-sanding work is about half complete. Turf on the 13th 11th 6th and the 8th are doing well, these will be dressed and the heights will be brought gradually down to 15mm. The irrigation has started and completed on the 1st 2nd 3rd 5th 17th and 18th greens. This work will be ongoing throughout this month, with one temporary green in play each day.

April

- Greens:** Main pre-season work completed. Mowing height will remain at 6mm, and lowered to 5.5mm then 5mm by the end of the month. Deep aeration will be under way this first week of April followed by a base granular feed. Towards the end of the month we will apply one of many foliar feeds containing a mix of ingredients targeted to the needs of the plant. The aim will be to lower the overall Nitrogen input onto these sand based greens to below 140 Kgs/ha, with the continued aim of deeper rooting and healthier turf. We are awaiting a delivery of new flags, pins, and cups, these will be placed out on the course on arrival.
- Tees:** All will be top-dressed during the first week following recent tining. Some will be over-seeded, especially the short holes followed by a general feed giving a fairly quick response to aid recovery. Foliar feeds will then follow as and when required. All Bins and ball washer will be cleaned and painted and our aim is to complete this by the end of the month.
- Surrounds:** All key areas to be tined, top dressed, over-seeded where necessary and then fed with a controlled release product giving 3 month longevity. Traffic control measures to be 'relaxed' as and when recovery to these worn areas are complete.
- Fairways:** The 16-4-8 (npk) Spring feed will now be applied as soon as conditions are favorable. On mossy fairways such as the 6th and 7th woodland and the 1st and 2nd village we will be Applying sulphate of iron and this should knock back the moss and the let some better grasses come through. Divot filling will continue as and when time permits but a working party of juniors and members will hopefully be in place late May.

Other: Completion of bunker work re edging, trimming and topping up of sand levels. All ditches to be strimmed and cleaned. The irrigation system is still being upgraded and this will be ongoing over the next two months. We will be priming up the system on the 10th this will mean we can still water the greens as the irrigation work commences.

Craig Earnshaw
Course Manager: