

OAK PARK GOLF CLUB

May 2007

April Review

Almost a complete drought with .5 mm of rain recorded and this extending back to Mid March, giving a 6 week 'run' with virtually no rain. Higher than average day time temperatures but cold overnight, with the result that soil temperatures have remained 2 or 3 degrees below 10 Celsius; this the critical temperature needed for growth to start. As a result, growth and recovery from winter wear has been very slow in spite of the work carried out to the main playing areas, namely greens, tees and surrounds. The dry weather however, has given us the chance to complete all bunker edging and trimming plus ditch strimming & tidying.

May

Greens: Following last months granular feed, foliar feeds with wetting agent will be applied every 3 to 4 weeks along with a light dressing. Irrigation will continue as required but only to benefit the turf. Mowing height will remain at 5 mm until conditions are more favourable for growth. This will also signal the start of regular verticutting. The current objective is to gently encourage growth while maintaining a smooth surface. Irrigation. All woodland greens have new sprinkler heads and are in use, these are still not connected to the computer system so we are still manual watering,

Tees: The irrigation is underway on the tees now and is slowly hole by hole being completed. We should have irrigation to all tees by the end of the month. Soon as each set of tees is complete we can water, there will be a massive difference in germination and divots will recover a lot quicker. Apart from re-painting a few ball washers and bin posts, all main work has been completed. Winter playing areas or sections of tees have been renovated but will probably require a second 'hit' unless recovery exceeds expectations.

Surrounds: Similar to the teeing areas, all main work has been completed but turf density remains weak in places from the lack of growth. Once rain eventually returns, it will probably be necessary to re-seed and top dress key areas. Most of the areas where growth is weak are not covered by irrigation.

Fairways: The planned 16-4-8 Spring feed is still waiting to be applied since conditions are too dry for this to be applied. If there is no break in the weather, then a liquid feed using prilled urea will be applied to give more of a 'cosmetic' appearance although there will be some response in growth. Mowing height will remain at 15mm for the time being. Selective weed control has also been held back until conditions improve.

Other: Areas of semi-rough to be treated for weed control, mainly on holes 6 and 7. The Crown Golf Development Team have arrived and as some may see have started on some course improvements> The 3rd tee woodland has been completed and is ready for irrigation then turf. The very poor 14th bunker has been reshaped drained and will have new sand that's along with the 15th right hand green side and left fairway bunker on the 10th. Next plans are to drain the 10th fairway and back of the 5th green woodland course.
We only have this team in for a limited time and we thank you all for your patience whilst these improvements take place.
We have had the last delivery of machinery this week this will give us a boost.

Craig Earnshaw

Course Manager