

June at the Oakwood Club

by **WILLIAM P MONTAGUE, MG**

The Oakwood Club was founded in 1905 with our first nine opened in 1906 and a second nine built in 1915 to a Donald Ross design. We are a private club with full facilities from bowling alleys, indoor tennis, exercise rooms, Olympic size pool, eight outdoor tennis courts, and the list goes on with a 66,000 square foot clubhouse. Our course measures out at 6,289 from the white tees with bent tees, greens, and fairways. Greens are maintained at 0.137 of an inch, tees and fairways are cut at 7/16 of an inch. Many of our greens are still the original push up greens from 1905 and two are 1972 built to USGA specifications, each green has its own personality in management needs. We are located on heavy clay soil that drains very poorly and to add to that we have a mile of creek running through our course that drains the neighbourhood. If we receive more than a half inch of rain in a short period of time two of our fairways will be under water for several hours.

Oakwood Club is located on the border of what is called the "snow belt". In Northeastern Ohio. This area receives excessive snow fall and rain from a "Lake Effect" caused by Lake Erie to our north. Our average snowfall for the months of November through April approaches 100 inches yearly. Last November we had over 20 inches of heavy snow in a one week period which was devastating to our trees, all of our Hawthorns were wiped out, and the damage to other trees was in excess of £20,000 in clean up costs alone.

In the past five years we have installed a new irrigation system, completely renovated all 68 bunkers, added additional tees, and will start on building a new 12,000 square foot practice green on September 2 of this year. We are now in the process of a large scale tree preservation program for £150,000. On top of our tree

preservation, since we are a very old club and the city has closed in around us, we will be screening our fence lines with over 450 additional trees and shrubs this year. Our 1997 spring was one of the wettest and coldest on record through mid May, so much so that I saw active fusarium on our fairways on May 16 this year.

June in this part of the States usually brings us our first heat of the summer, and sometimes a very dry stretch. Our 2,000 gallon per minute pump station is ready to go to boost our city water pressure, we purchase city water at a tab of about £50,000 per season. Due to the media our membership allows us to make chemical applications on Mondays when



'Our average snowfall approaches 100 inches yearly'

we are closed or at night only. We spray every Monday, one week greens and tees, and the next Monday fairways. When we do need to spray at night it is because of bad weather on Monday or something unexpected shows up. Due to the close proximity of houses and membership concern we apply as much as possible in granular form. We buy all of our chemicals with safety to operator and environment being our main concern and the cost we just deal with accordingly.

Our summer schedule kicks →

Course tired, listless, feeling worn out?



Golf course turf is continually under pressure, constantly suffers from stress and is regularly subject to an amazing range of injuries deliberately inflicted. Is it any wonder that sometimes it looks a little off colour!

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Pulling out the tulips...

into high gear in the month of June. Every Tuesday is ladies' day at our club, Wednesday is typically packed, and Thursday in the last two years has been almost as busy as Wednesdays anymore, Friday mornings are slower with the course filling up by 2pm. Saturday and Sunday the members do not want to see us around, and by 10am our maintenance crew can hardly move around the course it is so full.

Our tulips, which we are known for, have just expired (over 12,000 new ones each year) and will all be pulled out this month so we can begin planting our annuals which will number about 300 flats. By the middle of this month we will hopefully be up to full staff although the labour market is extremely bad at our location, being an in town facility most city kids have no idea what work is all about and many of them go to work for fast food chains or department stores. June is the most pleasant

month for us as staff because the members are enjoying the course, playing all they want and getting ready for their matches. The crew is enjoying working outside after months of cabin fever, working on equipment, and plowing snow. Almost everyone is happy with the first great weather of the year and we are at full speed ahead for the next four months.

Most of our June work is involved with bringing the course to the finest condition possible for July and August, and maintaining it through Labor Day at its peak. Our Club Championships are held in Early August and finish in mid August. A few weeks after Labor Day, September 1 this year, our play will diminish rapidly.

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Staff from Wilders at Jacobsen E-Z-GO headquarters with Peter Bell, left

Dealer appointed

Jacobsen E-Z-GO has appointed Walter Wilders as the official dealer for North Surrey, Middlesex and West London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Depot Manager Jason Scott commented, "We are delighted with this appointment and the opportunities it provides, and we feel we can provide our existing customers with an even better service and look forward to attracting new customers now that we have this premier range of fine turf

equipment to promote."

He added, "It is our goal to be the easiest company to do business with, achieving this through one stop shopping."

Walter Wilders is a well established company with over 50 years in business behind them. The main groundcare office is in Reading but it also has an additional depot in Wallingford. In the last two years they have been successfully promoting the Iseki brand of compact tractors for which Jacobsen is now responsible.

WHOLE IN ONE

"Tournament[®] has been used at Barton-on-Sea Golf Club for the past five years, with superb results. The density of the sward has greatly improved. We also use the product at half rate in early September to enhance colour and quality of sward for our traditionally late major competitions."

Tony Gadd, Course Manager
 Barton-on-Sea Golf Club

"I have been using Tournament[®] for over two years and usually apply it to the greens two or three times between April and September. Major benefits include a rapid, consistent green-up, which lasts 4-6 weeks, and steady nitrogen release as opposed to a 'flush' of growth which quickly tapers off."

R. Thomson, Head Greenkeeper
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INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS

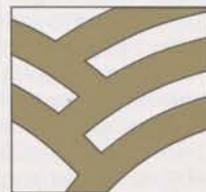
"Agriland Tournament[®] was applied to the Show and Practice courts prior to the Direct Line International Championships, June 1996. The condition and appearance of the turf was considerably enhanced, and recovery of the most heavily used practice facilities was greatly assisted by the product."

Roy Charman, Turf Manager
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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

"I first used Tournament[®] just before the play offs in 1995. Since then I have used the product regularly and the pitch has continued to improve. I applied Tournament[®] just prior to the Euro'96 Cup Final because I knew I would get a quick green-up without the worry of any blackening of the turf."

Robert McCullagh, Head Groundsman
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