



Greens and Course Report – July 2016

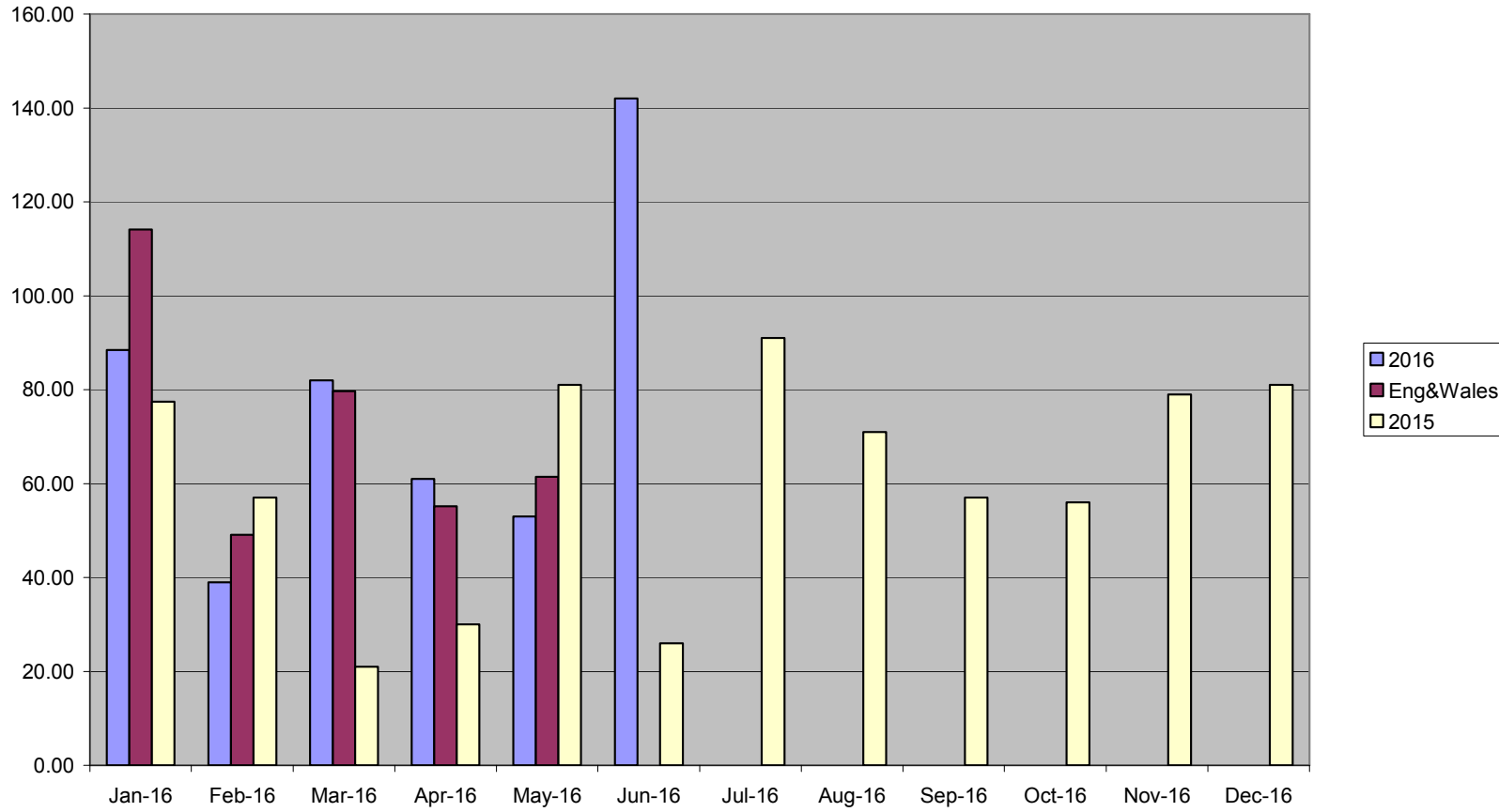
Throughout the South east and I'm sure the majority of the country's Greenkeepers have struggled to keep on top of the growth this June. Compare 2013 when we had 33.5mm to this June when we have had 142mm. As with everything many factors need to be looked at with the struggle with flash floods, the damage they do with washed out bunkers and paths disappearing to flooded sheds and club houses all adding to the work load. After all of this we have managed to keep up with our treatment programme for the course applying all the products required in time for the major competitions of course there is never a month, week or day goes by when you wish you had the resources to get that extra job done. With cutting being carried out to the maximum the machines are working at their full potential. For example when we last restructured the machinery we combined two £35K machines into one thus saving £35k and allowing one machine to complete the work of two in one week period (two and half days cutting semi-rough and the remaining time cutting rough every week).

Usually going into July I am talking about the mysterious looking Fairy rings (the dark green rings of lush growth that is caused by a fungus) that become visible but due to the wet conditions they have been disguised by the lushness of growth, but I am sure they will soon be showing when the weather finally dries up. The cutting of fairways has been increased on selected fairways from once a week to twice to keep on top of growth. The fairways and semi-roughs have also been treated with a herbicide and an application of fertilizer applied. This year the club has invested in the irrigation system with a much needed replacement tank and a new programmer, the old tank had far out lived its time and had the potential risk of a major leak and the programmer had become unreliable over the past few years.

I would like to thank David McFarland for completing his two week work experience, David assisted with strimming around trees and moving flags when the sprayer was being operated and general assistance to the team, I would also like to thank Doug Christie who volunteered his time to assist the team tidying up the tee markers and fairway markers. This is something which is open to the members who have spare time and would like to offer some assistance in what ever form they feel happy with.

Unfortunately we are still witnessing damage on the course from persons practicing. One morning recently I had to repair approximately 20 pitch marks on the tenth green where none were present on the eleventh. On a few occasions multiple divots have been taken from the fairways in one spot. This is unfair to the membership. It increases the work load and is against the clubs rules. Please be aware of this situation.

South Beds Rainfall 2016



Tom Hooper
Course Manager