



Greens and Course Report – March 2016

March was unfortunately colder than normal but still warmer than last year with four times the rainfall during the same period. This has helped give the course a bit of early colour which is good to see and gets all the machinery back out on the courses. Fingers crossed for plenty of sunshine broken up with warm April showers. Unfortunately the two courses have suffered from vandalism with two motorbike incidents and the magpies attacking the turf increasing the work load greatly. Aeration work is being carried out, mainly in the form of Sarel rolling. An application of Iron was applied last month to enhance the greens colour and increase resistance to disease. Holes continue to be trimmed and re-shaped at the start of each day. Monthly applications of dew suppressants have been applied which also helps with disease activity build up. The forthcoming month will see the bulk of the fertiliser applied to all areas.

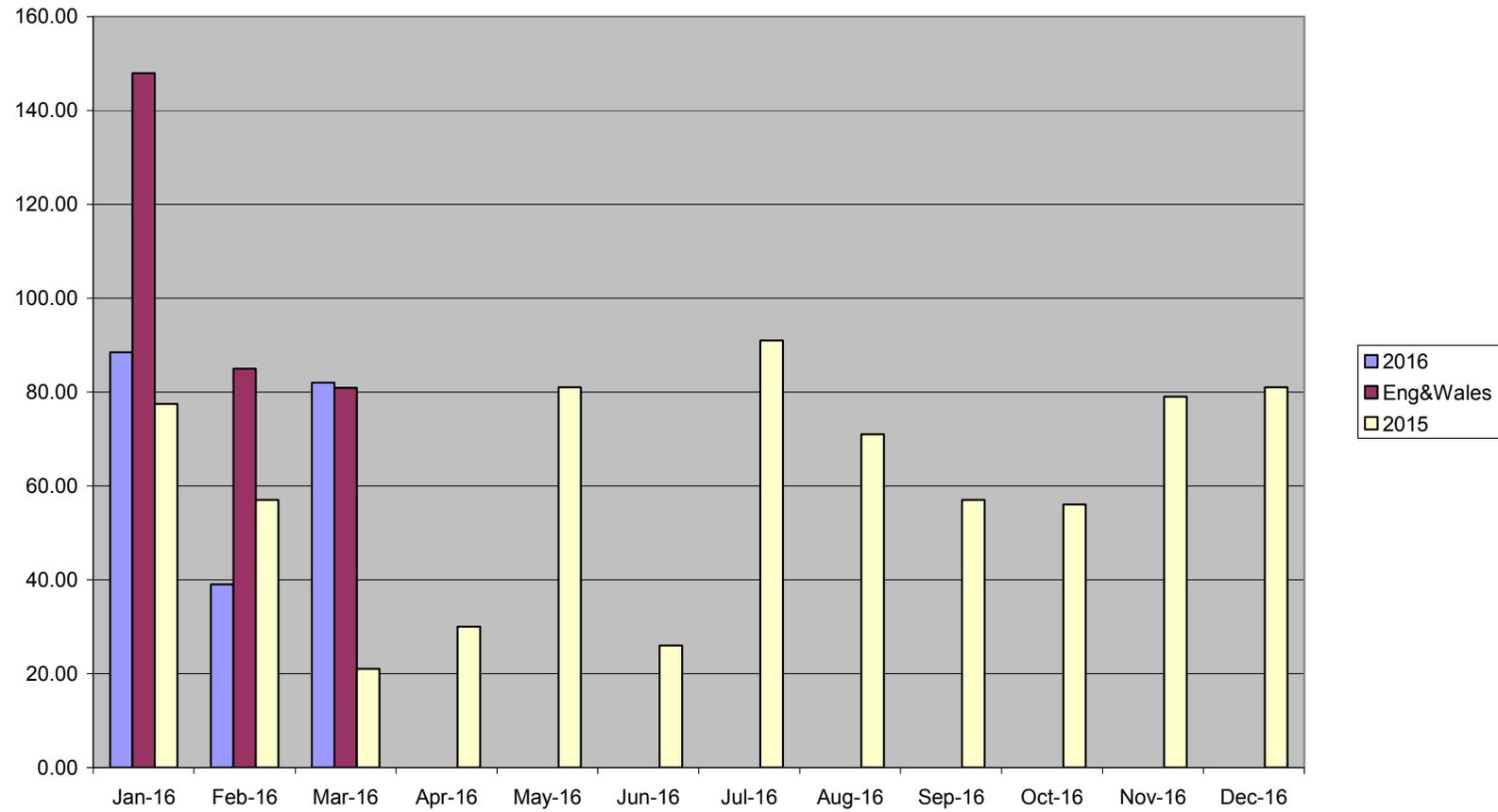
April is an important month for work on the greens with the need to stimulate consistent growth and introduce finer species of grass plants to the surface. The greens committee have set the 11th of April to start the work. This is achieved by using the Graden machine to open up the surface with 2mm grooves 10mm apart into which seed can be sown along with soil conditioners followed by the first topdressings of the season. This operation will inevitably create a slower putting surface for a couple of weeks until the new plants are established. The cutting height will remain at 5mm to protect the new plants and will be reduced to 4mm when established. On completion of this work temporary greens will become redundant and left to merge back into the fairways.

The irrigation system was started up on the 8th April with a few areas that need attention for repair and we are waiting for parts. This season we will be having a new tank erected to replace the oldest tank which has started to leak, also a new computer programmer as the old unit had become unreliable.

The tees are now cut once a week and they have received a treatment of feed which is a slow controlling nitrogen feeds for up to three months. A new Beech hedge has been planted around the back of the 1st tee to make it more aesthetically pleasing as a starting hole. There has also been a hedge planted behind the 16th tee. The fairways and semi-roughs are still not showing many signs of growth and applications of fertiliser have already been applied. The chain harrow was used throughout the long rough to rake out as much moss and dead matter.

Tom Hooper
Course Manager

South Beds Rainfall 2016



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