



Course and Greens Report – April 2016

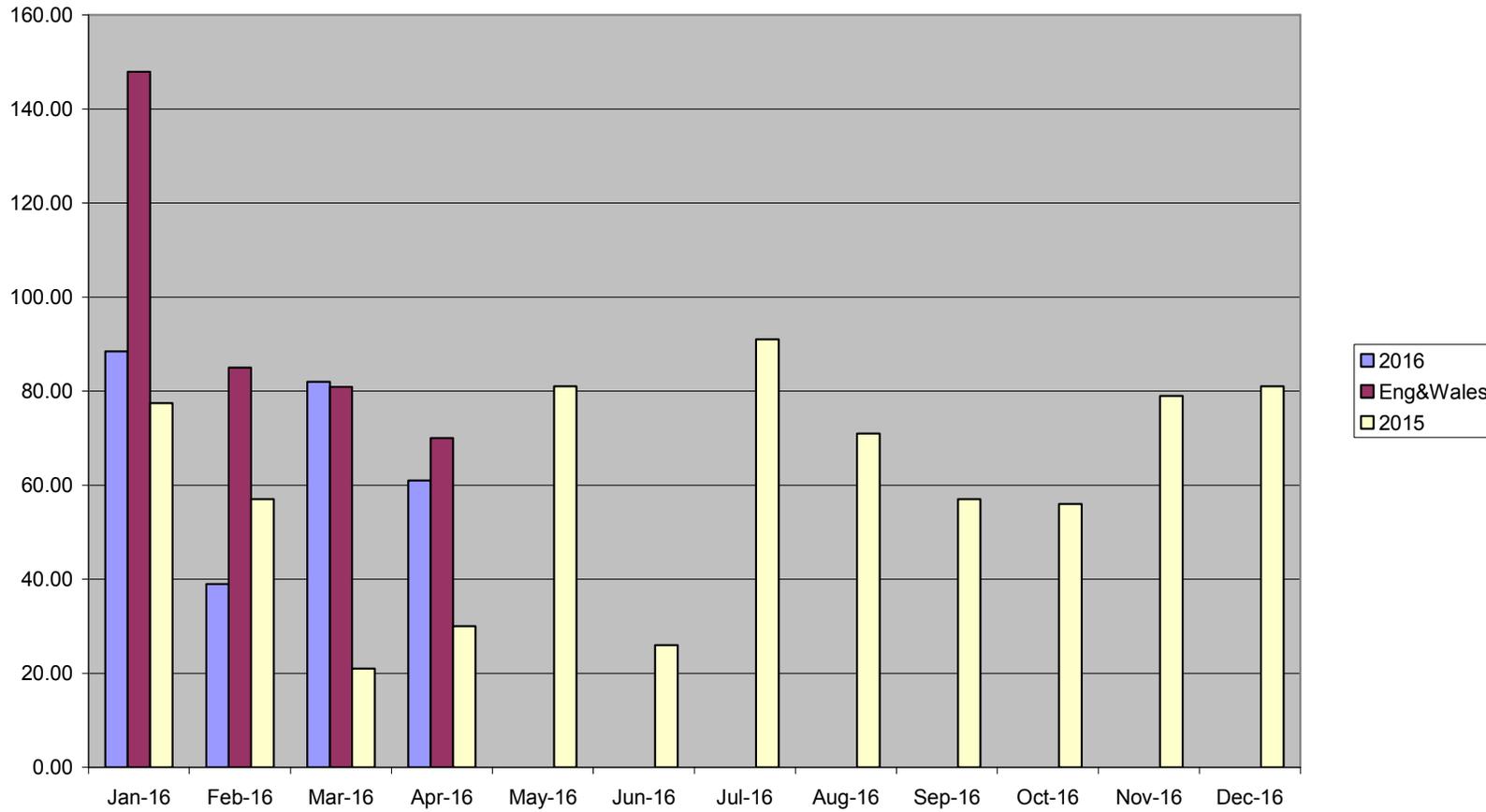
A dry and cold April was not the ideal start to the season but followed a very similar pattern to last year. The weather did pick up in the middle of the month with some warm days but low temperatures at night kept the ground temperature too low for good early growth. We finished the month with a really cold snap including a little snow and frosts. Hopefully May will see a significant increase in temperatures.

The spring renovation was successfully completed over two days on the 11th and 12th whilst trying to fit in with golfers to cause as little disruption as possible; the team worked extremely hard completing 14 greens on the Monday and the remaining 5 the next morning to finish the job. The renovation work is essential for reducing thatch and providing a healthy sward for even growth. The work consisted of a pass over the greens with the Graden machine which slices through the surface creating a 2mm wide channel 10mm apart at a depth of 12-15mm deep. Once the debris is removed using blowers and shovels, a Fescue mix of seed was spread across the surface followed by a soil conditioner and to finish, 20 tonnes of pure sand topdressing is worked into the turf canopy by drag matting. Recovery time is expected to be two weeks for the channels to grow over and the seed to establish. The height of cut has now been reduced to 4mm and going into May, verti-cutting and grooming of the greens will commence.

The first application of bio stimulants have been applied to the greens in April and will be continued on a monthly basis. Grooming of the greens will commence in May to remove Annual Meadow grass seed heads. Wetting agents have been applied to help reduce dry patch forming and to aid water through the soil profile; this will also be applied monthly through out the summer. The tees recovered well from the winter wear and have been over seeded and a base fertiliser has been applied which will last for up to 12 weeks. We are now cutting twice weekly and divoting three times a week. They have been treated to an early spring application of fertiliser which will be followed up in May with a second application. When ever applications of chemicals are being applied we apologise for the disruption of the noise of the machine as we are unable to turn it off as the machine is constantly agitating the chemicals in the tank.

The fairways have been treated with an application of fertiliser, wetting agents and a selected number with a herbicide, they will continue to be treated with monthly feeds when conditions allow. The semi-roughs are cut weekly preferably at the start of the week so that by the weekend there is some definition between fairway and semi-rough. Rough mowing has commenced but the growth is patchy, the usual areas will be left as unmanaged rough to create definition to the holes and provide cover for the wildlife and encourage wild flora. The bunkers have been topped up with sand, edged and trimmed around this practice will be repeated as often as possible throughout the season.

South Beds Rainfall 2016



Tom Hooper
Course Manager