



Greens and Course Report – August 2016

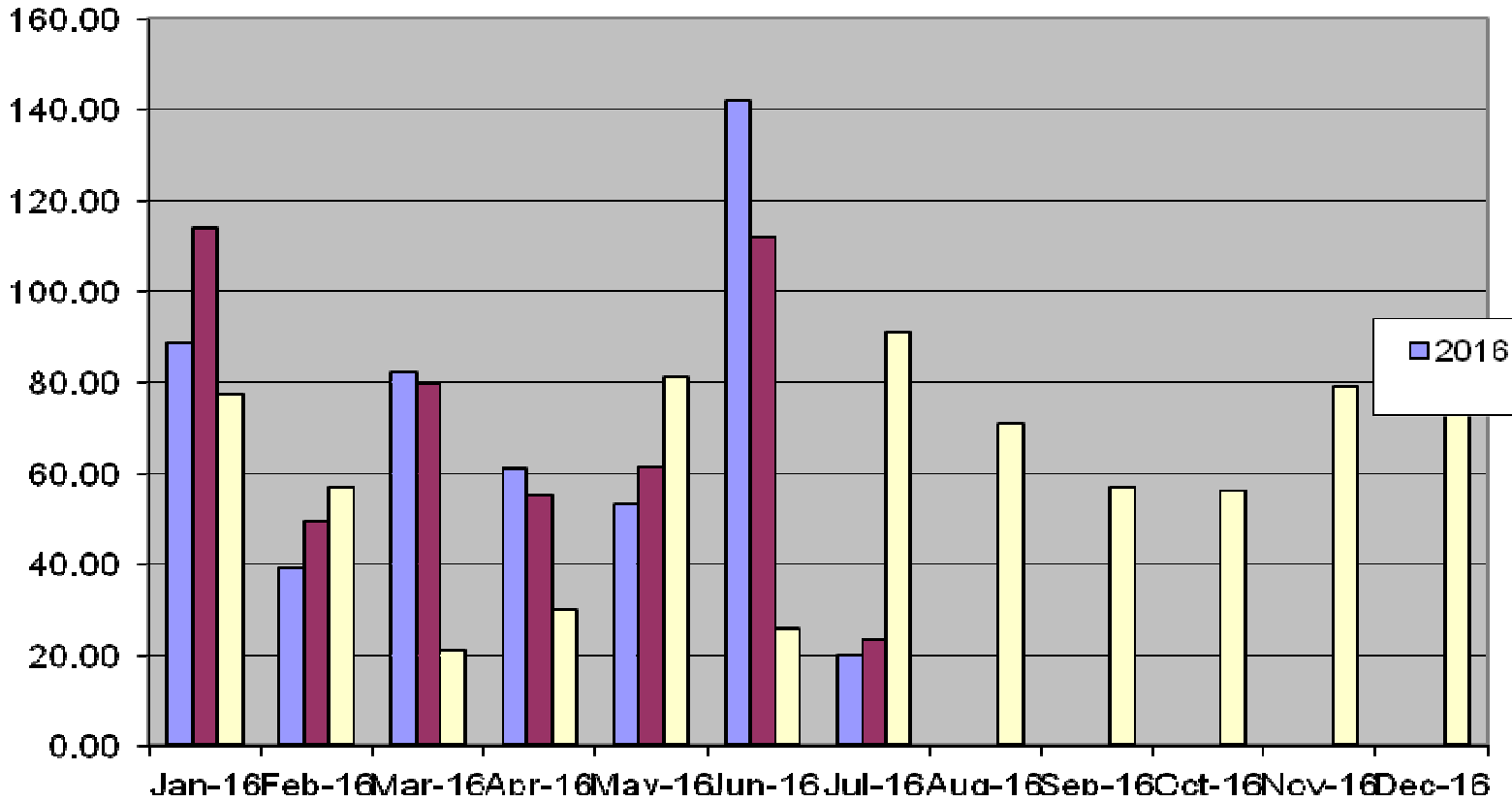
After the challenging wet month of June with its relentless rapid growth of the rough we had a glorious July with long hot days with were perfect for golf. We hope it carries on right through to autumn. As I write this we have just finished the greens renovation which went extremely well, all completed by 10am on the Tuesday. The work consisted of passing the Graden machine over the surface slicing 2mm grooves at 10mm spacing to a depth of 15 mm deep removing Thatch as it works, Blowers remove the debris at the same time as recycling root zone back into the surface. We Over-seed using a Fescue/Bent seed mix and apply a low nitrogen feed; finally the greens are Top-dressed using pure sand dressing which is worked into the surface with a metal chain linked mesh mat and irrigated well after. This year I think recovery from the work may take a little longer due to the high temperatures we are experiencing. The purpose of this work is promoting root growth, remove thatch build up and improve the drainage of the top profile of the soil and to introduce fine leafed grass plants.

Growth on the course has been rapidly reduced due to the lack of rain which has been a blessing to all. We have been troubled with a faulty irrigation system this year which has let us down on several occasions, priority as expected is first to the greens and secondly to the tees. The tees recovered well from a brief lack of irrigation and were treated to a course of over seeding with a fescue/rye grass seed mix. The system is back working but more replacement parts are still required.

Treatments to the greens continue weekly with the fertiliser programmes, growth regulators, bio stimulants, seaweed and wetting agents. To highlight the benefits of bio-stimulants I did a little test in my garden taking two Penstemon plants of similar sizes feeding one with a small amount of Bio stimulants and the other just watering as you can see the one on the right fed with the stimulant looks far healthier than the plant on the left.



South Beds Rainfall 2016



Tom Hooper
Course Manager