



Greens and Course Report – February 2016

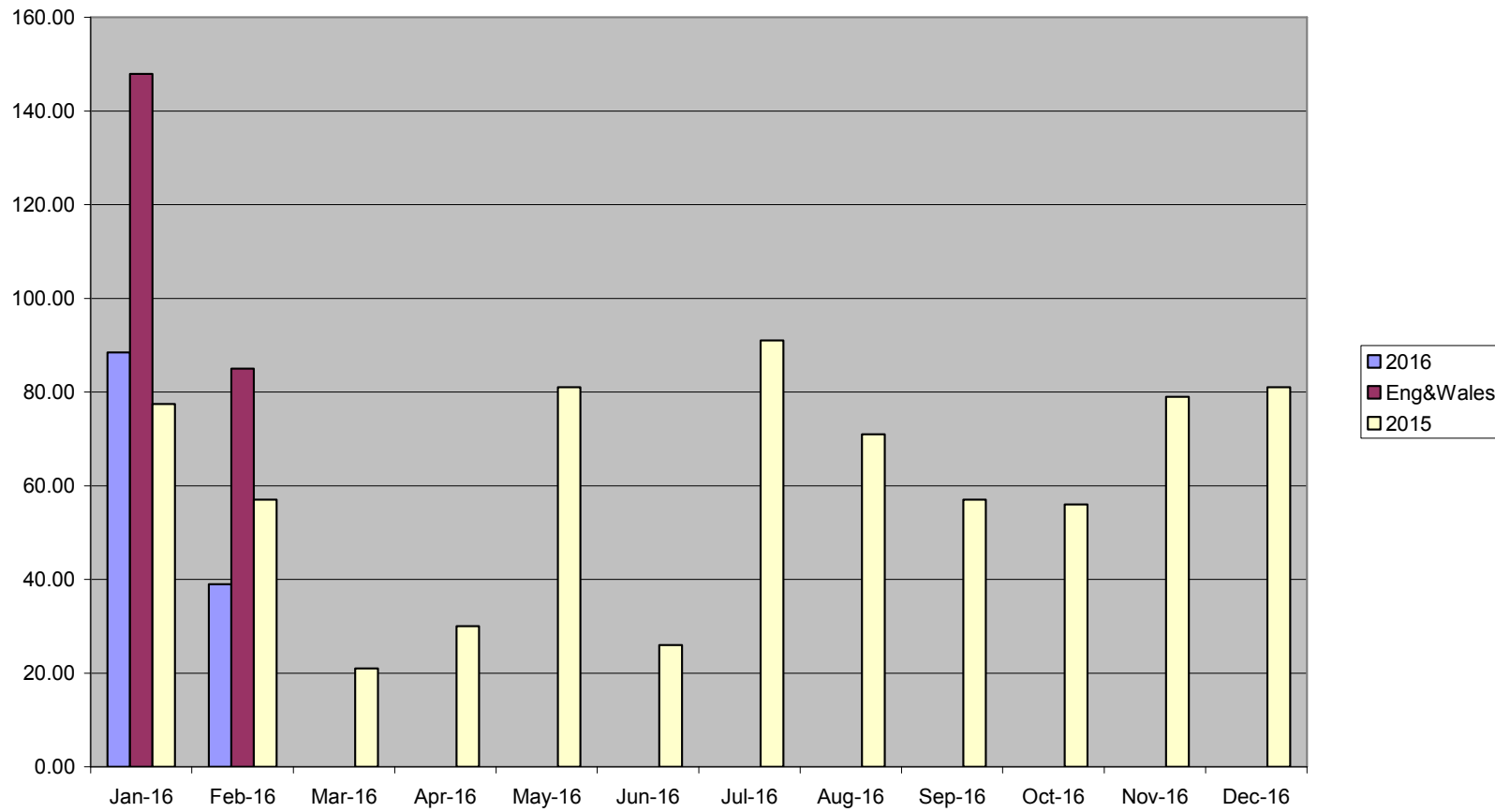
The majority of us love to see the back of February and the winter months whilst look forward to the prospects of a warm spring. However, most of the forecasts are pointing to a cold spring so lets hope it doesn't develop into a similar spring to 2015 which seemed to last till July. The 1st of March marks the start of spring if you are looking at it Meteor-logically although we have to wait till the March 20th for the Astrological season of spring to start. I prefer the Meteor-logic season, the sooner we see the back of winter the better. The Verti-drain was carried out successfully with all the greens completed on Monday 8th February and the greens were back in play by the Friday. Aeration work will continue on the greens using the Verti-drain with smaller pencil tines and Sarel rolling. We have applied a wetting agent which acts as a soil penetrate that promotes a quick movement of excess moisture away from the surface. We have also treated them with a liquid iron to enhance their colour and to fight any build up of fungal activity. Protection on the course from wear and tear continues with stakes and ropes to direct traffic away from stressed areas. These restrictions are moved weekly and have visibly been a success, hopefully soon the weather will improve, growth will start and a reduction of restrictions can commence.

The fairways have been sprayed with liquid iron to enhance colour and combat moss whilst we continue to brush them to stand the sward and it improves presentation. The semi-rough is brushed from green to tee against the direction of play to again stand the sward. The tees are divoted regularly and we will be applying an iron/fertiliser spray application if a window of opportunity arises. The tee mats are scheduled to be removed from the course by the 1st of April depending on the weather and the surface conditions. A beech hedge has been planted around the back and side of the 1st Tee to improve the future aesthetic appearance of the tee. A delivery of granite fines has arrived for topping up and repairing some of the pathways and the path leading away from the 11th green has been raised and resurfaced. Topping up of bunker sand continues with depths of sand closely monitored.

The small bird boxes are scheduled to be cleaned out soon and we are pleased to report several sightings of the Barn Owl at the far end of the course and I have actually seen it entering the Barn box so we know it is in use. We have made an additional four bird boxes for the course. Hopefully we are over the worse of the Magpies pecking at the greens and further repairs can take place.

When the weather has been too inclement on the course, work has been carried out in the work shop with re-organising and improving the security by constructing new doors for the main shed and by moving a shipping container inside to provide an alarmed secure area for small powered tools. Many posts for around the club house have been prepared and painted ready for installation when a new length of rope is delivered, also new tee markers and broken tee boxes. Winter maintenance of the machinery is carried out and any on going repairs carried out. The bench at the 15th tee has been refurbished and soon will be re-installed in its right full position.

South Beds Rainfall 2016



Tom Hooper
Course Manager