**General:**

The main talking point for this month’s course report will obviously be the water situation at Devonvale and how it will affect the course for the following month. We have now reached the stage where we can only irrigate greens and tees. Our water budget made allowance for the irrigation of greens, tees, surrounds and spot irrigation of fairways up until the end of February.

Believe it or not, but from climatic point of view, there have been subtle changes during the past few weeks. We have experienced some mornings where we have had dew on the greens which is a good sign. The next month will be crucial in maintaining our greens and tees to the best of our ability with our limited resources and hopefully some respite in the weather.

A survey was completed by the WPGU with regards to all hazards and stakes on the course. A detailed report was then drafted highlighting the recommended changes to staking from a rules point of view. We have taken this report and made the necessary changes to OB stakes, lateral as well as water hazard stakes.
1. **Course Condition**

**Greens:**

Our greens have held up very good during the summer, especially if we take the extent of the drought and weather into consideration. There are three greens that have given us some minor problems from a disease point of view but overall, our greens management practices have been the best since STM’s involvement at Devonvale.

The Maredo program, for one has been a huge success in controlling thatch and relieving compaction and still allowing for minimal disruption on the greens surface. It is of utmost importance that we reduce thatch and compaction during the peak summer stress period. Greens are also dusted during this operation in order to fill in the small indentations left by the Maredo attachments.

---

**18th Green & Bunker**
Tees, approaches, fairways & rough:

Our tees and greens approach maintenance program is still in progress and we are removing badly stressed patches of turf and replacing it with healthy Kikuyu sod and plugs. All tees are granular fertilised on a monthly basis and followed up with a foliar and wetting agent application two weeks thereafter. All tees are also solid tined on a monthly basis as part of our regular summer maintenance plan.

Unfortunately we do not have any water resources to irrigate fairways for the rest of the summer. Fairways however are mowed in order to retain their shape.

2nd Hole
2. **Machinery:**

Why do we solid tine or vertidrain turf? Attached is a graphic illustration regarding the benefits of decompacting turf on a regular basis.
3. **Irrigation & Water Management:**

Our current irrigation situation for the month of March 2017:

- Greens and Tees irrigation only.
- No fairway and rough irrigation.
- Greens approaches to be irrigated based on available water on hand.
- Impact sprinklers and hand watering of stressed areas.

![Main dam level - 22 February 2012](image)

**Dams & fish stock update:**

Please note that all dams have now been netted and cleared of all larger fish. The reason for removing the larger fish is that with the low dam levels, we will reach a point where there is no or very little oxygen available for the fish which will lead to fish dying. This has also afforded us the opportunity to move and redistribute more favourable species to all our dams, such as the Tilapia and Grass Carp.
Removing fish from dams

4. Rainfall February 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>1044</td>
<td>1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average:
5Yr Ave | 17 | 15 | 26 | 48 | 58 | 143 | 122 | 135 | 59 | 30 | 42 | 11
5. **Wildlife feature – Our resident Spotted Dikkop @ 10th Tee**

The **spotted thick-knee** (*Burhinus capensis*) also known as the **spotted dikkop** or **Cape thick-knee**, is a **wader** in the family **Burhinidae**. It is native to tropical regions of central and southern Africa.

![Spotted Thick-knee](image)

**Description**

The spotted thick-knee, which can reach up to 45.5 cm (17.9 in) in height, has long legs and brown-and-white speckled plumage which provides **camouflage**, making it difficult to spot the bird in the grasslands and **savannas** where it roams. Its head is large and round with a prominent yellow eye and a short, stout beak. When in flight or standing in a characteristic position with its wings raised, it shows a striking contrasting pattern. Its legs are long and yellow and the tibiotarsal joint is expanded, giving it the name "thick-knee".[2][3]

**Behaviour**

The spotted thick-knee is nocturnal and squats on the ground during the daytime, making it difficult to spot. It hunts exclusively on the ground, feeding on insects, small mammals and lizards.
Breeding

Usually 2 eggs are laid at a two-day interval. They measure some 5.2 cm × 3.8 cm. They are marked with sepia brown and ash grey on a pale, clay-coloured background. [4]

Spotted thick-knee nestling

It nests on the ground, lining a scrape with grasses, feathers, pebbles and twigs. The female typically lays two eggs, and males and females rear the offspring together, with both bringing food back to the nest. The birds will defend the nest and adopt a defensive pose with wings spread and tail cocked and will even peck an intruder. Sometimes they will fake injuries to lead predators away from the nest. [2][3]

Distribution

The spotted thick-knee is native to the grasslands and savannas of sub-Saharan Africa. Its range extends from Senegal, Mali and Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa in the east and south. [1]
**Status**

The spotted thick-knee has a very extensive range, and its population is believed to be stable. For these reasons, the [IUCN](https://www.iucnredlist.org) has rated it as being of "Least Concern.

6. **Objectives:**

- Plugging and resodding of collars and approach areas – work in progress.
- Service main dam intakes & dam maintenance.

**Congratulations on beating STM Mupine in the semis and playing the finals against STM Arabella**

**Kind regards from the STM team**