**MEMBERS : STRI Advisory Report**

During the summer of 2021 the Green Committee approached the STRI group for support in addressing historic drought damage on the fairways.

Further to a site meeting with Mr Gwynn Davies we have taken a whole course approach which will be implemented by the Head Green Keeper and his team.

The common words within the report are the following:

* Aeration
* Moisture retention
* Eradicating weeds
* Traffic management
* Disease control

We have summarised the works recommended for various parts of the course. Those highlighted in red are to be implemented and blue are already used as best practice.

**Greens**

Traffic management on worn areas

Keep pH <6.5. Test water in irrigation pond

Monitor and reduce irrigation use

Localised seeding of bare/diseased areas

Look at dressing turf plugs with seed

Holistic approach of Integrated Turf Management

Aeration – pencil and hollow tine. Slitting if required

Wetting agent to retain moisture

Parkland greens need to be thatched

Acelepryn used to control leather jackets

Increase top dressing to 100 Tones/annum. 30T following Spring and Autumn hollow tyne and 40T as a light dressing over 4 applications during the summer

Fit brushes on green mower to promote upright growth and remove dead vegetation.Triplex Brush by Campey Turf Care System sports metals. Extract brush

Rolling of greens to promote speed and trueness

Use plant growth regulator

**Approaches to greens**

Historic drought damage and dead turf needs restoration via – hollow coning, racking, heavy seeding

Look at irrigation to some areas

Traffic management especially during winter months

**Tees**

Tees were noted as generally being in good order

Suggest arrowing of spacings

Removal of clippings

Aeration via hollow tining

Add Fescue to divot mix

Reduce 14mm cut height

**Fairway** – Recover offer historic drought

Need to improve moisture retention ability of the soil. Plants only rooting to 50mm

Spray in spring and late summer to kill off weeds

Rack the fairway to remove dead regtation and thatch

Aeration via slitting and coring

Wetting agents used every 3-4 weeks throughout autumn

Look at introducing new fescues into the seed mix

Use of slow release fertilisers which include seaweed, liquid iron and nitrogen

Multi application of new seed

Work on the fairways have started with slitting and seeding.

Once the weed eradication plan is implemented the work on the fairway in September/October 2022 will be significant but hopefully set the course back on track.

**Irrigation**

Work on irrigating the 3, 5, 10 and 18th tees is now almost complete.

With regard to irrigation the fairway the cost and availability of water are prohibitive. STRI are confident that with time and investment that we can re establish a good grass covering.

**Investment**

Greens course cost are likely to increase from say 15k per annum to 30k in the short term.

**Traffic management**

New paths were looked at in 2020. We will be posting a proposal for your observation soon relating to the 5th and 6th holes.

If you require clarification on any points please feel free to contact me on

On another note : We are looking for a part time green keeper assistant to cover 4/5 months of the summer period.

If you know of any one please contact the manager or Head Greenkeeper.