

Grand Finale

Wentworth's Chris Kennedy is honoured during the 2012 BMW PGA Championship

The sun beamed down on Chris Kennedy, Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth, for the BMW PGA Championship, his 52nd and final European Tour event as world number one, Luke Donald produced a dominant display to successfully defend his BMW PGA Championship title.

Chris described the conditions running up to the tournament which brought drought then heavy rain with low temperatures throughout, as 'the most difficult build up I have ever known', a strong statement after 22 years at Wentworth and 50 all told in the industry!

Nevertheless the yet again rejigged West Course was immaculate and the most recent course changes notably at holes 12, 15 and 17 as well as the raised landing area on 18 were seamless in appearance.

The great weather for the week brought out a record crowd of over 95,000 for the four tournament days to witness Europe's finest players



competing for the Tour's flagship title. Donald's closing 68 for a 13 under par total of 275 saw him cruise to a four shot victory over Paul Lawrie and Justin Rose.

It was an eventful week for Chris beginning with a tribute from the Association of Golf Writers and closing with the presentation of a silver salver on the 18th green during the main prizegiving from the European Tour's Chief Executive George O'Grady (right).

Congratulations to Chris on his well earned retirement and we wish him well as he relocates to his native Scotland.

Good luck also to Kenny Mackay as he takes over the reins from Chris for the next

chapter in the Wentworth story.

As usual a Support Team of BIGGA volunteers co-ordinated by Clive Osgood assisted with the event, providing back up on the first two days and then each individual match was accompanied over the weekend, by a member.

A full complement of forty-five BIGGA Members, from all over the country, took part and had to take on plenty of water in the course of their duties, because of the high temperatures with hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky over the last two days.

By all accounts everybody was kept on their toes with frequent visits being made into many of the well-placed and



formidable West Course bunkers throughout.

27-year-old Mike Ellis, Course Manager at the Lakeview Country Club in Cornwall, had the honour of accompanying the last match out, and safely brought the winner home on Sunday.

Thanks to all of the volunteers for giving up their time to assist with the event, they did the Association and the event proud.

Wentworth Club's Chris Kennedy Awarded Tribute from AGW

The Association of Golf Writers paid tribute to Chris Kennedy, the retiring Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth Club, during their annual lunch at Wentworth Club on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship.

The BMW PGA Championship was the 52nd European Tour event where Kennedy had managed the course preparation at Wentworth and his contribution was recognised by the AGW with Chairman Bill Elliott and John Jacobs,

the founding father of The European Tour and Honorary Life Vice President of the AGW, presenting a silver Quaich.

Elliott said: "We as golf writers talk so much about how much equipment has moved on in our lifetimes and so much over the last 20 years and actually I think the greatest advance in that time is the conditioning of golf courses.

That's down to fantastic skill, commitment, enthusiasm and passion, no



one has that more than Chris Kennedy here at Wentworth. You have been a terrific asset to this club and an example to greenkeepers across the country and we thank you for what you have done here."

Jacobs was also joined by Judy Williams, the wife of the

late Michael Williams, golf correspondent of the Daily Telegraph for some 25 years, to present Colin Harding with the Michael Williams Hoggett, awarded to the winner of the Golf Writers' Spring medal played over Wentworth Club's Edinburgh Course.