**CONTINUE TO LEARN**

“it’s been a fantastic show, one of the best ever. The education has been great. I’ve just come out of the ‘Wimbledon Fortnight: Before, During and After’ session and people were so enthused. All around you see smiling faces and there is a feel good factor coming back to the industry in general.”

Billy McMillan

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**BAYER’S BUZZWORD SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT AT BTME**

"Neonicotinoid" became something of a buzzword last year as a potential ban on products containing that chemistry loomed - and one of BIGGA’s Continue to Learn seminars covered this very topical issue.

Pressure groups and activists latched onto research that suggested these chemicals were killing bees and were to blame for the decline in bee population. Consequently, products containing either Clothianidin, Imidacloprid or Thiamethoxam have been suspended for plant protection purposes for two years, at which point they’ll face a review.

Bayer’s Technical Manager, Dr Colin Mumford.

"The second thing is that Imidacloprid is still approved for professional amenity and sports turf. This approval has been sustained as managed amenity and sports turf is non-flowering. Therefore our message is simple. Any product containing Imidacloprid is still fine for professional use on sports turf.”

Colin went on to explain that while pesticides have been known to affect bees who come in to contact with them on flowering crops, they form a small part of a much broader spectrum that accounts for a possible decline in bee population. He added that interestingly, pesticides come relatively far down the list of primary causes.

"When asked what the main role was to bee health out of these eight primary causes, a survey of beekeepers and laboratories by the European Commission suggests that exposure to pesticides was actually one of the least likely causes; even deliberate poisoning was considered more of a hazard than unintentional contact with pesticides.”

Bees play an important role around the vicinity of a golf course, but on the playing surfaces such as tees and fairways, products such as Bayer’s Merit® Turf are vital.

Colin concluded: “Merit® Turf is an essential weapon in the fight against Leatherjackets and Chafer grubs and maintains its approval for use on sports turf.”