The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can’t match its ZERO leak points. They can’t provide individual reel control to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer programmable frequency-of-clip from an LED screen. And they can’t get anywhere near the programmable frequency-of-clip to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer from control mower. They can’t match its. They can’t provide anything except hope you don’t see it. I guess we just ruined that for them, too.
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NEWSDESK
The latest news from around the globe

Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph
A promising teenage greenkeeper helped his club scoop a coveted trophy — after being called away from repairing a bunker to play a crucial round.
Trainee Callum Long, 17, had to race to the first tee to compete in the St Ives Junior Cup final after a player dropped out at the last minute. Despite still wearing his work clothes, he held his nerve together with teammate Michael Catu to win the cup in a dramatic sudden death play-off.
Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as part of his work-based training. He said: “I was repairing a bunker when the junior organizer came over to tell me someone had dropped out. I still had my work clothes on. It was raining because I had got up that morning at 5.30am to start work, and because it went to a play-off I didn’t finish until about 6.30pm, but I knew I had to keep my concentration because it was an important competition. “It just goes to show that maybe you don’t need to do too much preparation, my partner and I played some good golf on the day and I was very pleased to help us win the cup.”
Callum was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates.

SOUTH COAST DEFEAT SECRETARIES IN CARE CUP
South Coast Greenkeepers achieved a notable victory in the 16th Annual Course Care Cup. Held at Rushmoor Golf Club, the Wessex Secretaries were keen to reverse last year’s close defeat in fine weather. The match was again hard-fought and extremely close, with the result coming down to the final two holes of the day — and the greenkeepers prevailed winning by three matches to two.
An excellent meal followed and thanks from all were extended to HighSpeedGroup for sponsoring the event. PICTURE: HighSpeedGroup’s Area Manager, Paul Dyter is shown presenting the trophy to Tony Gill, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section.

HOME COMFORTS FOR VERULAM
Verulam Golf Club took full advantage of hosting the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy by winning the competition on home turf. The event, sponsored by Tciota, provided an excellent prize list.
The Verulam team of Robin Forster, Chris Carpenter, Don Longavie and Nettle Custance triumphed with 85 points. Second place went to Buckingham Golf Club with 81 points, the team included Peter Peggott, Peter Frost, David Barnes and Chris Wilkes. Third place went to John QOuattro Golf Club with 77 points on count back.
The format was a stableford, four ball better ball with the best two scores on each hole to count.
Verulam’s Pin was won by Paul Taylor from St Neots Golf Club and the Longest Drive winner was Simon Wooley from Brickenden Grange Golf Club. Thanks to all who attended.

Attention BIGGA Members
Have you got anything that you think might be of interest to other BIGGA members reading these pages? We are always on the lookout for news, stories and goings-on within our membership. Also, if you are doing something outside of your day-to-day greenkeeping role, let us know about it. Maybe you have an activity or a sponsored run? Please feel free to get in touch with our new Communications Executive, Steve Castle at 01234 73 3800 ext 513 or via email stevercastle@bigga.co.uk with your news (and photographs)!

North and South Wales Come Together in Battle
An idea which began over a chat at the last BTME resulted in the first BIGGA golf battle between North and South Wales BIGGA members.
The tournament was the brainchild of Gareth Knight from Trefloyne Golf Course and Rhys Butler of Aberdovey Golf Course – and Rhys agreed to host the inaugural event.
Gareth, South Wales Secretary, takes up the story: “Rhys kindly booked the dormy rooms for the south teams and we played out on two teams of eight players. “We were very lucky to gain sponsorship for both teams, John Mooney of Rigby Taylor organising the North Wales team sponsorship and Peter Holmstrom from Countrystyle sponsoring the South Wales team. “We teed off at 2pm. It was a light breeze at Aberdovey for the North Wales Links Boys, however blowing a gale as far as we were concerned! Strong winds and a tight Links course made it tough conditions for some of the inland parkland greenkeepers.
“The course was excellent, a beautiful coastal setting, the true undated elements of the natural rolling links creating an exhilarating rustic and natural course.
‘Colt, Braid and Fowler have all had a hand in shaping the course over the years, with tight lies, rolling fairways, natural bunkers, undulating approaches, dry firm surfaces and true, fast greens, a joy for any standard of golfer. “The match was very close with three of the games heading to the 18th hole, the result being 3-1 to the North Wales team.
“We all sat down to a beautiful meal after and were joined by Richard Dixon of the Golfing Union of Wales who said a few words, speeches were made and the rest of the evening was enjoyed by both teams exchanging the delights that Aberdovey had to offer. “Thank you to Rigby Taylor, Countrystyle and Farmar for their continued support and assisting this event. Trade involvement is so important to all section events. Thank you to all the BIGGA members that travelled far and wide to support the day, and to Richard Dixon of the GUW for his support and Aberdovey for hosting the event.
“The Organisation for next year’s event is already underway and we hope it to be as successful as the last. This proves once again how important networking can be at the BTME show.”
Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph

A promising teenage greenkeeper helped his club scoop a coveted trophy — after being called away from repairing a bunker to play a crucial round.

Trainee Callum Long, 17, had to race to the first tee to compete in the St Ives-Junior Cup final after a player dropped out at the last minute. Despite still wearing his work clothes, he held his nerve to help his club scoop a coveted trophy.

Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as part of his work-based training. He said: “I was repairing a bunker when the junior organizer called me over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could come over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could play in the Junior Cup Final. It was a bit of a surprise to say the least, but luckily I had my golf shoes at the club. Before I knew it I was in a golf cart heading to the first tee. I still had my work clothes on. It was tiring because I had got up that morning at 5.30am to start work, and because it went to a play-off didn’t finish until about 6.30pm, but I knew I had to keep my concentration because it was an important competition. ‘It just goes to show that maybe you don’t need to do too much preparation, my partner and I played some good golf on the day and I was very pleased to help us win the cup.”

Callum was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates.

South Coast Defeat Secretaries in Care Cup

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Gareth, South Wales Secretary, takes up the story: “Rhys kindly booked the dormy rooms for the south teams and they played off on two teams of eight players.

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North and South Wales Come Together in Battle

Kings of the Castle

Bothwell Castle Golf Club have appointed a new Head Greenkeeper and an Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Alasdair McDermid, who has been Acting Head Greenkeeper for the past year at the parkland course near Glasgow, has accepted the permanent role of Head Greenkeeper. He’s been with the club for 20 years.

Stewart Carraway, who has been employed by Bothwell since 2000, is now Assistant Head Greenkeeper. Stewart has been Acting Assistant since last year.

Everyone at BIGGA congratulations Alasdair and Stewart, and wishes them every success in their permanent roles.

Picture: Stewart (left) and Alasdair

Attention BIGGA Members

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Also, if you are doing something outside of your day-to-day greenkeeping role, let us know about it. Maybe a fun activity or a sponsored run? Please feel free to get in touch with our new Communications Executive, Steve Castle on 01347 833800 ext 510 or email steve.castle@bigga.co.uk with your news (and photographs)
Native common ash (Fraxinus excelsior) now faces an unprecedented threat from the latest alien plant pathogen to arrive in the United Kingdom (UK). Chalara ash die-back caused by the fungus Chalara fraxinea sailed into the country in style on a consignment of 2000 ash trees exported by a Dutch nursery to nursery in southern England.

The south of England nursery based in Buckinghamshire subsequently sold the consignment by mail order to 90 customers throughout the UK. Forestry Commission (FC) and Fera (Food and Environment Research Agency), which subsequently intercepted Chalara fraxinea on the trees, identified the 90 customers and gave out instructions for them to dig up, chop up and double bag the trees before taking them to a landfill for deep burial.

This is somewhat surprising since standard biosecurity practice in such potentially catastrophic pest and disease situations is for the destruction of trees on site by burning followed by a thorough clean up including tools, soil and compost by professionals drafted in specifically to do the job. Transporting tree material infected with a new alien pathogen into the wider environment flies in the face of standard biosecurity practice and common sense.

Be that as it may, FC and Fera have since found the disease in the wider environment on some 500 ash trees planted in a Leicestershire car park and sourced from a nursery in Lincolnshire. Fera is also investigating outbreaks of the disease at nurseries in Surrey and Yorkshire.

Chalara fraxinea was able to ‘walk into’ the UK because although it is rampant across continental Europe, including France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, it is not an EU regulated pathogen. That means common ash trees can be imported into the UK from any other EU country with absolutely no restriction, inspection or documentation (an EU Plant Passport) that would otherwise declare a clean bill of health.

The disease is particularly prevalent in Denmark where up to 90 per cent of trees in many locations are infected and all are expected to die. Chalara ash dieback has the capacity to inflict on common ash what Dutch elm disease did to English elms in the 1970’s. That is to essentially wipe out the species as a forest, woodland, amenity and landscape tree in the UK.

So what’s the damage? Chalara fraxinea infects ash trees of all ages but is more likely to be terminal in ash saplings. Symptoms are seen on the leaves, shoots and branches. Trees with advanced infections have defoliated crowns and prolific epicormic growth on trunk and branches. Leaves display dark coloured lesions at the base and along the mid-rib, accompanied by obvious signs of wilting. Dieback of shoots and twigs is common. Small lens shaped lesions form on the bark of stems and branches, subsequently enlarging to form perennial cankers which cause shoot and branch wilt and dieback especially in the upper crown. The wood underneath bark lesions is brown/grey in colour which often extends longitudinally beyond the necrotic area of bark. Advanced infections of whole trees is characterised by withered tops and shoots in the crown, marked dieback of shoots, twigs and branches and prolific epicormic growth lower down.

The causal pathogens, which can be isolated from leaves, shoots, stems, branches and even roots of symptomatic trees, is spread by rain splashes and disseminated by insects. Long distance spread is most likely through trade in living trees and the movement of saw logs from infected trees. Ash dieback caused by Chalara fraxinea may be confused with similar symptoms caused by completely different fungal pathogens, insect pests and even physiological problems caused by environmental factors. Cankers caused by the fungus Nectria galligena and even bark necrosis caused by ash bark beetle (Hypothenemus vanillae) could be mistaken for ash dieback.

Other factors which may be confused with ash dieback are larvae of Prays fraxinella (bud moth) that mine into shoot bases causing them to wilt and die. Even frost and drought damage could conceivably be confused with ash dieback.

Native Common Ash Trees Face Surprise Disease Threat

Ash Tree Alert

Dr Terry Mabbett reports on an unprecedented potential threat to your course
Native Common Ash Trees Face Surprise Disease Threat

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This is somewhat surprising since standard biosecurity practice in such potentially catastrophic pest and disease situations is for the destruction of trees on site by burning followed by a thorough clean up including tools, soil and compost by professionals drafted in specifically to do the job. Trans- porting tree material infected with a new alien pathogen into the wider environment flies in the face of standard biosecurity practice and common sense.

Be that as it may, FC and Fera have since found the disease in the wider environment on some 500 ash trees planted in a Leicestershire car park and sourced from a nursery in Lincolnshire. Fera is also investigating outbreaks of the disease at nurseries in Surrey and Yorkshire.

Chalara fraxinea was able to ‘walk into’ the UK because although it is rampant across continental Europe, including France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, it is not an EU regulated pathogen. That means common ash trees can be imported into the UK from any other EU country with absolutely no restrictions, inspection or documentation (an EU Plant Passport) that would otherwise declare a clean bill of health.

Advanced infections of whole trees is characterised by withered tops and shoots in the crown, marked dieback of shoots, twigs and branches and prolific epicormic growth lower down.

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Ash dieback caused by Chalara fraxinea may be confused with similar symptoms caused by completely different fungal pathogens, insect pests and even physiological problems caused by environmental factors.

Causers caused by the fungus Nectria galligena and even bark necrosis caused by ash bark beetle (Aegosoma ventralis) could be mistaken for ash dieback.

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Trees with advanced infections have defoliated crowns and profuse epicormic growth on trunk and branches. Leaves display dark coloured lesions at the base and along the mid-rib, accompanied by obvious signs of wilting. Dieback of shoots and twigs is common.

Small lens shaped lesions form on the bark of stems and branches, subsequently enlarging to form perennial cankers which cause shoot and branch wilt and dieback especially in the upper crown.

The wood underneath bark lesions is brown/grey in colour which often extends longitudinally beyond the necrotic area of bark. Necrosis caused by Chalara fraxinea is characterised by withered tops and shoots in the crown, marked dieback of shoots, twigs and branches and prolific epicormic growth lower down.
Impact on golf courses

Trees are an important and integral part of virtually all golf courses in the UK and their continued health is vital to the structure and appearance of the course as well as the health and safety of members, players and staff.

Common ash is spread through-out the UK. The ash tree population was recently estimated at 80 million but this is almost certainly a gross underestimate.

Common ash is a pioneer tree which freely germinates from naturally dispersed seed to establish in groves where opportunities arise in woodland, copses and rough open land.

Many if not most golf courses will have ash trees that have naturally established in this manner. Common ash is also widely planted on golf courses, prized for its fast growth, an open and light shade casting canopy which does not kill the turf grass beneath. And a light leaf fall which rots away quickly in autumn and is relatively easy to clear away.

PC and Fera are now recommending that landowners who have planted ash trees in the last five years should inspect them for symptoms of Chalara ash dieback disease.

Greencroft keepers should follow this advice even if the trees were purchased from a UK nursery. The nature of trade between EU nations means they could have just as easily come from any one of 26 other EU countries the vast majority of which have endemic chalara dieback disease.

Help is at hand...

Greencroft keepers who suspect they may have Chalara ash dieback disease on their courses should contact:
-
Forest Research Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service.
Tel 0131 314 6644.
E-mail planthealth@forestry.gov.uk
-
Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.
Tel 01904 660625.
E-mail planthealth. info@fera.gov.uk

BIGGA Welcomes Communications Exec

BIGGA are delighted to announce that Steve Castle has joined the Association as Communications Executive.

An appointment that strengthens the editorial team at Greenkeeper International, Steve has bedded in comfortably. Finding his feet in his new role, whilst mixing in very quickly and easily with everyone at BIGGA House, Steve, who even managed a game of golf with his new colleagues, one night, brings with him experience of working as reporter for Ross Parry Agency Ltd, which syndicates news stories to national newspapers and magazines.

"I covered court cases, inquests as well as anything from press conferences with lottery winners to exclusive and sensitive interviews with members of the public," Steve told us.

Looking forward to writing for GI, Steve has expressed interest in finding out more about you, the member.

BIGGA AND GCMA DATE

The BIGGA and GCMA screenings plan by the South West Section on Thursday October 18.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Club is the venue for a host of speakers including former Brithish Women’s Open champion Viven Saunders and Tara’s Andrew Brown who will be looking at water resource management. There will also be an afternoon presentation outdoors showcasing the benefits of the Blinder Blunker Liner so members will be required - the dress code for the day is casual. Lunch and refreshments will be supplied.

By attending this seminar, BIGGA and GCMA members will receive Continuing Professional Development Points. This exciting seminar costs just £25 per person (£20 for three delegates) and the closing date for registration is Friday 12 October. There is a minimum of three delegates per club. If you are a group manager, manager or course manager, please send cheques made payable to GCMA, not individuals, to Karen Drake, Westen Super Mare Golf Club, Uphill, Uphill Road, Weston super Mare BS23 4NQ.

For any queries, or further information about the day, please contact Karen on 01934 620989 or at kdrake@eurotelbroadband.com

North East Competition Venue Change

Please note the venue has changed for the North East Autumn competition. It will be played on October 10 at Tynebridge GC. This replaces the original venue of Wooler GC.

Julie joins BIGGA

Julie Willsher has joined BIGGA as Account Account. Julie has a wealth of experience in the financial area, starting off as an office junior. Her last position was at VMC in Warwickshire as Finance Assistant.

She said: “I’m really looking forward to the opportunity and have been made to feel very welcome by all the team. I’m particularly looking forward to increasing my financial knowledge working with Finance and Procurement Manager Steve Wragg.

“I’ve also moved to a lovely part of the world which is a bonus, and am looking to join a local golf club.”

Julie, who hails from Staffordshire, is also a keen cyclist.

Jack and Rita award McMillan

Tankard to Ernest Doe’s Steve

Steve Aldagher scooped the McMillan tankard at the recent Surrey Section golf tournament.

Now in its 23rd year, the popular tournament again attracted many competitors and their guests to the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

Scoring proved tough on a breezy day with many balls finding the heather off the fairways. However, Steve defied the conditions, finishing level on 34 points with Mark Brooks from Sunningdale. Steve emerged victorious after enjoying a better score on the final six holes.

Mark did win the nearest the pin competition with Anthony Freeman from Merrow Wood winning the longest drive.

Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing another magnificently prepared course fully appreciated by all on the day.

FICTIVE: Jack and Rita McMillan present the winner’s tankard to Steve.