AIRBORNE CHALARA SPORES DEBATE AT CONFERENCE

A Conference* held in London appears to have ‘said the ghost’ of long distance airborne travel of ascospores of the ascomycete fungus Hymenoscyphus pseudalbidus (imperfect or asexual stage Chalara fraxinea) to rest, while raising the possibility of another unexplored avenue of transcontinental movement for the fungal pathogens and disease.

Arguments in favour of long distance airborne travel of chalara ascospores from continental Europe and into Eastern England rely heavily on circumstantial evidence relating to the high concentration of reported disease outbreaks in East Anglia. The long distance movement and survival of completely different fungal spores in other parts of the world is used as supporting evidence.

The arguments used against rest on a clear mismatch between long distance airborne movement with the time lines and distance lines of chalara outbreaks and spread of the pathogens across Europe over the last 20 years, coupled with the known high susceptibility of the ascospores to UV [ultra violet] light and desiccation. Speaking at the Fraxback Conference Dr Anne Chandelier presented detailed results from chalara spore trapping research carried out in Belgium which throw light on the situation. By trapping chalara ascospores up a vertical profile she showed spore concentration was thirty times higher at 0.5m than 3.0m above ground level. Lateral movement for the majority of spores was no further than 50 m from the point of liberation.

Dr Chandelier showed that Chalara ascospores liberated from apothecia (chalarian fruiting bodies) on fallen ash leaf stalks are concentrated at only 0.5m from ground level, indicating little opportunity for lift off into the atmosphere and subsequent long distance dispersal in air currents. Moreover any ‘high flying’ spores would clearly be exposed to correspondingly high levels of UV light and stronger drying out forces compared with the same spores close to ground level.

In these respects the Chalara fraxinea situation is completely different to that for Phytophthora nanorum the spores (econarials) of which are released from infected khaya at the tops of tall African kobs. Defra’s claim that chalara ash dieback arrived in the UK via airborne spores from Europe is clearly questioned by these findings. Evidence supporting the airborne movement of viable chalara ascospores from continental Europe and into the United Kingdom would clearly counter Defra from accusations that they acted too slowly in banning the import of infected ash planting material.

However, there appears to be one unexplored avenue of chalara entry into the UK and a corresponding avenue of ‘escape’ for Defra. Apart from the role of infected ash planting material, comments made by Dr Chandelier’s about infected ash leaf stalks being capable of producing apothecia (chalara fruiting bodies containing ascospores) for two to three years after leaf fall raises the spectre of another avenue of disease entry into the United Kingdom. Could infected ash leaf stalks attached to the wheels of European vehicles be responsible for spreading chalara ash dieback and providing a further unreconised and unexplored route of entry for chalara ash dieback into the UK?

After all this was considered to be the most likely mode of spread of horse chestnut leaf miner (Cameraria ohridella) across Europe and into the UK, with dead horse chestnut leaves containing live overwintering pupae adhering to the wheels and bodywork of transcontinental vehicles. Be that as it may, you still have to explain why chalara ash dieback took almost exactly 20 years to move the 1000km from Poland to the Poo de Calais region of France and exactly what articulated lorry loads of soil from Denmark were doing inside ancient East Anglian woodlands.

* FRAXBACK is a 4-year action plan initiated in 2011 and funded by COST (The European Cooperation in Science and Technology). Generation of a comprehensive understanding of chalara to produce practical guidelines for pan-European sustainable management of Fraxinus (ash) species are the aims.

Dr Tony Abrahart

Tributes to BIGGA Life Member Henry Fry

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Henry Fry on 29 January, aged 84, following a brief illness. A Life Member of the Association, he replaced his father when he became Head Greenkeeper at Clyne Golf Club in South Wales and was also BIGGA’s South Wales Section Secretary before his retirement in 1994. He was also a Chairman of the BIGGA, as was his father, and a凑culty in the past and was also BIGGA’s South Wales Section Secretary.

As a well-known and respected figure during this period he assembled many colleagues and friends whilst organizing many golf days and other events, in which he could be found improving his game. He was a good golfer but never took the game too seriously. As a young and approachable figure and was happy to pass on his many years of experience and advice on to young greenkeepers.

“He was also well known for his mechanical skills and could often be found repairing, improving and improvising on machinery in the workshop. He was frequently many people’s first port of call regarding any mechanical problems and always offered in a helping hand.”

“Clyne Golf Club recognised his outstanding contribution by electing him an Honorary Life Member in 1994 and he also became a Life Member of BIGGA. To mark the end of his time at Clyne the Henry Fry Retirement Event was held in September 1994. The clearest ever indication of the respect in which Henry was held by the club’s members was the fact that he was accorded a standing ovation by the large crowd present.”
The delegates for the second Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen have been announced, and they will head to Ipswich later this month for three days of superb education and networking.

The inaugural 2013 event, aimed at promising greenkeepers looking to make the step to Course Manager, was such a success BIGGA and Jacobsen have agreed to repeat it.

It will be held at Ransomes Jacobsen HQ between 25-27 March. Course Managers from some of the UK’s top golf facilities will be mentoring, there will be sessions covering everything from interview techniques to building a budget and Dr Frank Rossi Ph.D, Director of Turfgrass Agronomy at Cornell University in the USA will be the special guest speaker.

The feedback from last year’s event was terrific and Daniel Scott, Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf & Country Club, spoke for many of the attendees when he said: “It was a superb programme with excellent speakers, I learnt so much during the three days that will be relevant to my career progression.”

For 2014, the candidates will have sessions covering effective communication strategies, interview tips, volunteering opportunities at tournaments, dealing with club politics plus an open forum on challenges in the workplace.

They will work with five hugely experienced mentors – Steve Chiappelli, Head Greenkeeper at Glenagles’ PGA Centenary Course, Matt Plenert, Course Manager at Muswell Hill Golf Club, Michael Srawicki, Head Greenkeeper and Club Manager at Woburn Golf Club, Lee Strutt MG, Course Manager at Lyman Golf Club.

The candidates will also have a factory tour and play RJ National – the three hole course on site. They are:

John Bateson - St Andrews Links Trust
Sean Brocklehurst - Harpenden Common GC
Stewart Brown - Royal Aberdeen GC
Joe Buckley - Queenswood GC
Duncan Cairnie - Carnoustie Golf Links
Rob Donald - Hockley GC
James Fox - Trentham GC
Gary Fraser - Rockcliffe Hall GC
David Gibbons - Little Aston GC
Kevin Glazer - Royal Mid Surrey GC
Steven Haire - Ealing GC
Jamie Hughes - RJ National
Richard Jenkinson - G West
Derrick Johnston – The Wentworth Club
Harry Larkins - Northamptonshire County GC
Gregor Mackintosh - Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course
Peter Moor - The Wentworth Club
Graeme Roberts - Tandridge GC
Richard Sheldon - Stonebridge GC
Chris Taylor - Woburn Park GC
Myles Wood - Berkhamsted GC

Thanks to all who applied, commiserations to those who did not make it this year.
The delegates for the second Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen have been announced, and they will head to Ipswich later this month for three days of superb education and networking.

The inaugural 2013 event, aimed at promising greenkeepers looking to make the step to Course Manager, was such a success BIGGA and Jacobsen have agreed to repeat it.

It will be held at Ransomes Jacobsen HQ between 25-27 March. Course Managers from some of the UK’s top golf facilities will be mentoring, there will be sessions covering everything from interview techniques to building a budget and Dr Frank Rossi Ph.D, Director of Turfgrass Agronomy at Cornell University in the USA will be the special guest speaker.

The feedback from last year’s event was terrific and Daniel Scott, Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf & Country Club, spoke for many of the attendees when he said: “It was a superb programme with excellent speakers, I learnt so much during the three days that will be relevant to my career progression.”

For 2014, the candidates will have sessions covering effective communication strategies, interview tips, volunteering opportunities at tournaments, dealing with club politics plus an open forum on challenges in the workplace.

They will work with five hugely experienced mentors – Steve Chiappell, Head Greenkeeper at Glenagers’ PGA Centenary Course, Matt Plested, Course Manager at Muswell Hill Golf Club, Michael Siewicki, Head Greenkeeper and Club Manager at Duhrich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club, Lee Strutt MG, Course Manager at G West and Stuart Varwood MG, Course Manager at Lynn Golf Club.

The candidates will also have a factory tour and play RJ National – the three hole course on site. They are:

- John Bateson - St Andrews Links Trust
- Sean Brocklehurst - Harpenden Common GC
- Stewart Brown - Royal Aberdeen GC
- Joe Buckle - Queenswood GC
- Duncan Caimie - Carnoustie Golf Links
- Rob Dye will - Hickley GC
- James Fox - Trentham GC
- Gary Fraser - Rockcliffe Hall GC
- David Gibbons - Little Aston GC
- Kevin Glazer - Royal Mid Surrey GC
- Steven Haire - Ealing GC
- Jamie Hughes - RJ National
- Richard Jenkinson - G West
- Derrick Johnston - The Wentworth Club
- Harry Larkins - Northamptonshire County GC
- Gregor Mackintosh - Turnberry Hotel & Golf Course
- Peter Moore - The Wentworth Club
- Graeme Roberts - Tandridge GC
- Richard Sheldon - Stonebridge GC
- Chris Taylor - Willies Park GC
- Myles Wood - Berkhamsted GC
- Peter Moir - The Wentworth Club
- Graeme Roberts - Tandridge GC
- Richard Sheldon - Stonebridge GC
- Chris Taylor - Willies Park GC
- Myles Wood - Berkhamsted GC

Thanks to all who applied, commiserations to those who did not make it this year.
BIGGA have chosen the greenkeepers from across the UK and the world who will be assisting the home greenkeeping team at Royal Liverpool GC at the 142nd Open Championship in July.

We had over 140 applications and as always, it was a tough decision to select the team.

BIGGA’s General Manager Tracey Maddison explained more about the process in Greenkeeper International in April last year. She said: “We look at every single application thoroughly - it’s vital we get a good mix of experience, younger members and overseas members.

“It’s important to ensure there is a core of people who have Open Championship experience in the team to act as mentors for those who are involved for the first time.

“As part of the process there is a guarantee that a certain number of first-time applicants are selected as well as a good number of members who are engaged with BIGGA at Section level or through CPD.”

Here is the team for 2014...

Paul Armour Head Greenkeeper, Lochgelly GC
Tony Bartram Greenkeeper, Richmond GC
Graeme Beatt Greenkeeper, County Sligo GC
Graham Blackburn Head Greenkeeper, Ryburn GC
Harvey Brooke Greenkeeper, Redditch GC
Martin Brown Deputy Course Manager, Aldwickbury Park GC
Jack Bryson Greenkeeper, Huddersfield GC
Andrew Clark Greenkeeper, Broadstone GC
Stephen Dale Head Greenkeeper, Withenshaw GC
Neil Davey Greenkeeper, Worpleston GC
Jack Davies First Assistant Greenkeeper, Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club
Joe Domett Greenkeeper, West Sussex GC
Michael Ellis

BIGGA’s General Manager Tracey Maddison explained more about the process in Greenkeeper International in April last year. She said: “We look at every single application thoroughly - it’s vital we get a good mix of experience, younger members and overseas members.

“It’s important to ensure there is a core of people who have Open Championship experience in the team to act as mentors for those who are involved for the first time.

“As part of the process there is a guarantee that a certain number of first-time applicants are selected as well as a good number of members who are engaged with BIGGA at Section level or through CPD.”

Here is the team for 2014...

Paul Armour Head Greenkeeper, Lochgelly GC
Tony Bartram Greenkeeper, Richmond GC
Graeme Beatt Greenkeeper, County Sligo GC
Graham Blackburn Head Greenkeeper, Ryburn GC
Harvey Brooke Greenkeeper, Redditch GC
Martin Brown Deputy Course Manager, Aldwickbury Park GC
Jack Bryson Greenkeeper, Huddersfield GC
Andrew Clark Greenkeeper, Broadstone GC
Stephen Dale Head Greenkeeper, Withenshaw GC
Neil Davey Greenkeeper, Worpleston GC
Jack Davies First Assistant Greenkeeper, Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club
Joe Domett Greenkeeper, West Sussex GC
Michael Ellis

BIGGA have chosen the greenkeepers from across the UK and the world who will be assisting the home greenkeeping team at Royal Liverpool GC at the 142nd Open Championship in July.

We had over 140 applications and as always, it was a tough decision to select the team.

BIGGA’s General Manager Tracey Maddison explained more about the process in Greenkeeper International in April last year. She said: “We look at every single application thoroughly - it’s vital we get a good mix of experience, younger members and overseas members.

“It’s important to ensure there is a core of people who have Open Championship experience in the team to act as mentors for those who are involved for the first time.

“As part of the process there is a guarantee that a certain number of first-time applicants are selected as well as a good number of members who are engaged with BIGGA at Section level or through CPD.”

Here is the team for 2014...

Paul Armour Head Greenkeeper, Lochgelly GC
Tony Bartram Greenkeeper, Richmond GC
Graeme Beatt Greenkeeper, County Sligo GC
Graham Blackburn Head Greenkeeper, Ryburn GC
Harvey Brooke Greenkeeper, Redditch GC
Martin Brown Deputy Course Manager, Aldwickbury Park GC
Jack Bryson Greenkeeper, Huddersfield GC
Andrew Clark Greenkeeper, Broadstone GC
Stephen Dale Head Greenkeeper, Withenshaw GC
Neil Davey Greenkeeper, Worpleston GC
Jack Davies First Assistant Greenkeeper, Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club
Joe Domett Greenkeeper, West Sussex GC
Michael Ellis
Deputy Course Manager, The Point at Polzeath
Asa English
Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Rothley Park GC
Sam Evans
Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Oakland Park GC
Tom Evans
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Harleyford GC
Geoff Fenn
Course Manager, Bedford & Country GC
Stuart Ferguson
Course Manager, Dundas Parks GC
Tom Freeman
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Kingdon GC
Paul Gater
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Caddy GC
Kevan Glass
Head Greenkeeper, Brokenhurst Manor GC
Tony Gooch
Head Greenkeeper, Torrington GC
Jaey Goodchild
Course Manager, Bowood Golf & Country Club
Steve Hensley
Head Greenkeeper, Bolton Old Links GC
Jack Hetherington
Assistant Greenkeeper, Puntanka GC
Richard Hood
Head Greenkeeper, Sharpley Springs Golf Course
Stuart Ineson
Head Greenkeeper, Dunstanborough Castle GC
Richard Jenkinson
Deputy Course Manager, Ochil Developments - G West
Harry Larlams
Greenkeeper, Northamptonshire County GC
Ben Lowery
Greenkeeper, Elsham GC
Dan McCluckin
Greenkeeper, Middlesbrough Municipal GC
Rodney McKay
Greenkeeper, Galgorm Castle GC
Ronan McRown
Golf Course Superintendent, Montgomerie Links - Vietnam
Bobby Merritt
Head Greenkeeper, Beacon Park GC
Tim Needham
Head Greenkeeper, Beedles Lake GC
Pinball O’Mahoney
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Linlithgow GC
Ian Sempill
Course Manager, Old Course Manor GC
Andy Stirling
Greenkeeper, Hallifax West End GC
Tom Smith
Course Manager, Colne Valley GC
Chris Taylor
Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Willesley Park GC
Steven Thompson
Greenkeeper, Trentham GC
David Thompson
First Assistant Greenkeeper, Henham GC
Andy Unwin
Greenkeeper, Rotherham GC
Sami Voas
Head Greenkeeper, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club
David Wilkinson
Head Greenkeeper, Whitley Bay GC
Martin Woods
Course Manager, Bedlingtonshire GC

Commiserations to the applicants who were not selected this occasion.
The introduction of the new CPD programme offers members a wider variety of opportunities to claim credits either via education, networking or professional activities. The other category is Personal Learning credits.

Firstly, let’s talk about what CPD is and this will help you to understand how Personal Learning Statements (PLS) can help to inform and enhance your development.

**CPD**

As part of the reorganisation of the BIGGA CPD Scheme, we investigated and researched other professional bodies’ CPD schemes. The main conclusion we drew from this was that there is not one system that is the same. Every organisation has something different to fit their members and their industry. However, the one core element that was fundamental to all CPD schemes was REFLECTION.

The concept of reflection is not new and we do it all the time, consciously and unconsciously. For example, dreaming is reflection, as our brains seek to make sense of our experiences whilst we are sleeping. What CPD programmes aim to do is to formalise the process of reflection so that it can be evidenced.

Reid (1993) identifies the process of reflection in a simple quote: *Reflection is a process of reviewing an experience of practice in order to describe, analyse and evaluate and so inform learning about practice.*

**Personal Learning**

So what is a Personal Learning Statement (PLS)? The PLS is a downloadable document (from the CPD Resources page in the Member’s Area of the website) that asks you a series of questions to help you in your reflection. (Fig. 1.)

They provide you with the opportunity to identify a significant learn

**What’s in a Statement?**

What CPD programmes aim to do is to formalise the process of reflection so that it can be evidenced. Reflection is very personal and will require you to examine what you felt about the experience - it’s a fantastic tool for any practitioner to use but it does involve a little work. Initially, it took me a while to get the hang of it during my time as a lecturer. However, PERSEVERE, because once you understand it your skills as a competent and motivated professional will increase significantly.

**General Tips for Completing a PLS:**

- Any experience can be used, as a competent and motivated professional will increase significantly.
- The more information you put on your form, the more you will be able to drive the benefits of the PLS.
- It has identified that for me to gain a clear perspective on a subject I need to able to review.
- There was a lot of IT talk, which can be difficult to comprehend, not being IT trained!
- It helped clarify my position in the project and how it would be best to move forward.
- It has increased awareness of the size of the accreditation project.
- How to manage an e-learning project.
- There is so much technology available to record and manage learning.
- An increased awareness of the size of the accreditation project.
- How to manage an e-learning project.
- There is so much technology available to record and manage learning.
- An increased awareness of the size of the accreditation project.
- How to manage an e-learning project.
- There is so much technology available to record and manage learning.
CPD networking or professional
of opportunities to claim
new CPD programme offers
Learning Statements (PLS) within CPD
This month Stuart Green explains the crucial role of Personal
CPD: Personal Learning…

What's in a Statement?

Firstly, let's talk about what
meaning has something different to fit
that is the same. Every organisa-
main conclusion we drew from this
professional bodies' CPD schemes. The
the BIGGA CPD Scheme, we inves-
Statements (PLS) can help to inform
- do is formalise the process of reflec
our experiences whilst we are sleep-
schemes was REFLECTION.
for any practitioner to use but it
you to examine what you felt about
is very personal and will require
in your reflection.  (Fig.1.)
ber's Area of the website) that asks
CPD Resources page in the Mem-
Statement (PLS)? The PLS is a
So what is a Personal Learning

What can I claim for?
Good question! Pretty much
anything that helps you develop
the skills you need for your personal
and professional development. It
can be used to identify transferable
skills, such as communication, and
people skills from an event or activ-
ity that does not fit the designated
CPD categories. This may include
coaching and organising youth
teams or being involved in commit-
tees outside of work.

It could also be mentoring a
young apprentice, dealing with a
challenging issue involving a col-
league or how you dealt with an
awkward committee member. By
formalising your feelings and expe-
riences, it will open up opportuni-
ties for personal growth. It may also
be used to review your own CPD
programme. So you can get credits
for gaining credit!

When completing a PLS, there
is no right or wrong answer, it's
about your personal feelings,
conclusions and decisions. How-
ever, they should not be seen as
easy CPD credits, as a form with
minimal input will be of no benefit
to you. A PLS should only be used
to demonstrate that learning has
taken place, that it’s had an impact
on you and is being used to inform
further development of skills and
attitude.

You are able to claim up to 15
credits per three-year cycle. You
can claim more, but only 15 will
be used in any one cycle, the rest
will be carried over, but they have
a lifespan of three years from the date
submitted.

To summarise, here are some
general tips for completing a PLS:
• Have you had any experiences
that could help you in your profes-
sional or personal development?
• Use the form to guide your
thoughts and feelings by answer-
ing the questions.
• The more information you put
down on your form, the more
you will be able to drive the benefits of
learning.
• Any experience can be used, as
long as you can identify that what
you learnt is transferrable.

Reid B (1993) ‘That We’re Doing It
Already!’ Exploring a Response to
the Concept of Reflective Practice in
Order to Improve its Facilitation,
Nurse Education Today, 13: 305-
309.

What did I find easy to do or understand and why?
The experience of realisation. That moment of “getting it!” was really a fundamental
moment for me.

What did I dislike and why?
The experience of realisation. That moment of “getting it!” was really a fundamental
moment for me.

What did I find difficult or challenging to do or understand and why?
For me it was realising the importance of expressing my thoughts and feelings in a
reflective manner. I found this difficult to achieve.

What did I find difficult or challenging to do or understand and why?
For me it was realising the importance of expressing my thoughts and feelings in a
reflective manner. I found this difficult to achieve.

It has identified that for me to gain a clear perspective on a subject I need to able to
reflect on what I have seen, reflect on it and revisit it again with a fresh approach.

Action to be taken
Is there any action that I will take as a result of what was done?
I will review my notes from the event and develop the project plan to break it down into
three distinct projects with separate timelines and relationships. I will also seek more
input on the running of the project and will carry out further online research.

Do I need to plug gaps in my knowledge?
Yes. However, by carrying out further research I am to plug these gaps.

Do I need to investigate or research further training?
At the moment.

Figure 1

PERSONAL LEARNING STATEMENT

NAME: Stuart Green
Membership No: XXXXX

Summary of what was done
(Don’t describe everything, be selective)
• Attended the Learning Technologies exhibition at Olympia – Jan 2014
• Met with exhibitors to discuss Learner Management systems and e-learning
• Attended seminars on e-learning

New Learning
What did I learn that was new to me?
• There is so much technology available to record and manage learning.
• How to manage an e-learning project.
• An increased awareness of the use of the accreditation project.

What insights did this new knowledge give to me?
That there is technology available to record learning and BIGGA could use that technology
to benefit its members: Also the concept of different types of learning, such as, online,
social and virtual.

Did it help me see something in a new light?
It helped clarify my position in the project and how it would be built to move forward.
Did it help me understand something that I don’t understand before?
There are so many varying tools available that it highlighted that the accreditation project
would be broken down into three distinct projects.

How do I think this might be useful in practice, in my studies, in my life?
It has identified that for me to gain a clear perspective on a subject I need to able to
reflect on what I have seen, reflect on it and revisit it again with a fresh approach.

Personal Reaction

How did I feel about what was done? (Did it affect me emotionally and if so how?)
I felt really good. It was very tiring as I had to concentrate a lot to take in everything
that was being said. It felt good to be able to reflect on the most important.

What did I like or enjoy and why?
“The experience of realisation. That moment of “getting it!” was really a fundamental
moment for me.”

What did I dislike and why?
I didn’t like the feeling of not knowing enough when I was speaking to exhibitors. But
that soon changed after a few conversations.

What did I find easy to do or understand and why?
Talking to people has always been easy for me and I enjoy it. Once the concept of a
learning management system was explained generally, in a practical form, I could grasp
the concept of how the system may work for BIGGA.

What did I find difficult or challenging to do or understand and why?
There was a lot of IT talk which can be difficult to comprehend, not being IT trained.

Sponsors
David Barker
Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton,
Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild,
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn
MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas
Gold Key Individual Members:

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1

L&D NEWS

Figure 1
HIGHSPEED GROUP SUCCESS CONTINUES

Tillers Turf had a record-breaking show and had great interest in their range of turf including Greens and Hybrid Turf and their new “Pore” Wildflower Turf. They’ve already rebooked their stand for 2015 following their very successful BTME 2014.

After successfully exhibiting at BTME and the GIS, Highspeed Group continues to expand their teams to help increase their coverage in the East of Scotland. Ryan will now work alongside Blair Young and Jim Darling. Ryan has worked in the industry for a number of years and was a greenkeeper at Brownsea Island Golf Club and Muirfield. He later moved on to become Head Greenkeeper at Melville Golf Club before expending some time in the trade with Piert Line Markers.

Robert George, Head Greenkeeper at Thorndon Park Golf Club, scooped an Xbox One as part of a Bayer competition at BTME.

Robert said that he “was obviously delighted” when he was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interface®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert. “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty much disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interface® is its residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since. Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, shares the view that prevention is better than cure. He said: “If you can keep a plant in perfect condition and cut it without bruising and blunting, you will maintain good healthy plants. A surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants.

Peter Todd, Course Manager at the London Golf Club, shares that view “Cutting grass leaves cleanly, without any tearing is essential for both the best finish and plant health.” Warren continued: “When I joined Lancaster Golf Club ten years ago, I was given the opportunity to overhaul the fleet of mowing equipment and it was paramount to me to have a set of grinders to keep the new equipment as sharp as the first time they were put out. “Obviously, sharp cylinders and bottom blades promote a finish on the turf of tournament quality, and produce sharp definition between the different heights of cut. As a secondary benefit, but equally importantly, I get a plant that is cut cleanly without bruising or tearing. This produces a surface with far better ball roll, but also less susceptible to disease. “The surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants. This has been beneficial to me as a turf manager in keeping my pesticide input down and gives my members smooth, consistent putting surfaces.”

Technical Training Manager at Bernhard and Co, Ben Taylor, regularly lectures on how to achieve healthy, disease free turf. He said: “Like to compare the mower to a surgeon operating on our own bodies. When a surgeon performs an operation that requires our skin and flesh to be cut open, they use a surgically sharp scalpel so that the incision is neat. “A neat wound, with a clean cut will not only repair quicker, it will heal with less scarring and will also be less susceptible to any bacterial or fungal infections. “It’s the same with grass. The grass plant is far more susceptible to airborne diseases such as brown spot, when it has a tear, messy, open wound caused by a blunt, poor cut. Use surgically sharp blades on a mower and the plant is protected, and loses less water.”

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

BETTER THAN CURE
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

...the main prize of two full seasons of turf being given away 'Pop' at BTME with a bottle of champagne being given away. "Pop" at BTME with a bottle of champagne being given away. "Pop" at BTME with a bottle of champagne being given away.

Robert George, Head Greenkeeper at Thorndon Park Golf Club, scooped an Xbox One as part of a Bayer competition at BTME.

Robert said that he “was obviously delighted” when he was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interface®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert. “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty much disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interface® is its residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since. Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, shares the view that prevention is better than cure. He said: “If you can keep a plant in perfect condition and cut it without bruising and blunting, you will maintain good healthy plants. A surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants.

Peter Todd, Course Manager at the London Golf Club, shares that view “Cutting grass leaves cleanly, without any tearing is essential for both the best finish and plant health.” Warren continued: “When I joined Lancaster Golf Club ten years ago, I was given the opportunity to overhaul the fleet of mowing equipment and it was paramount to me to have a set of grinders to keep the new equipment as sharp as the first time they were put out. “Obviously, sharp cylinders and bottom blades promote a finish on the turf of tournament quality, and produce sharp definition between the different heights of cut. As a secondary benefit, but equally importantly, I get a plant that is cut cleanly without bruising or tearing. This produces a surface with far better ball roll, but also less susceptible to disease. “The surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants. This has been beneficial to me as a turf manager in keeping my pesticide input down and gives my members smooth, consistent putting surfaces.”

Technical Training Manager at Bernhard and Co, Ben Taylor, regularly lectures on how to achieve healthy, disease free turf. He said: “Like to compare the mower to a surgeon operating on our own bodies. When a surgeon performs an operation that requires our skin and flesh to be cut open, they use a surgically sharp scalpel so that the incision is neat. “A neat wound, with a clean cut will not only repair quicker, it will heal with less scarring and will also be less susceptible to any bacterial or fungal infections. “It’s the same with grass. The grass plant is far more susceptible to airborne diseases such as brown spot, when it has a tear, messy, open wound caused by a blunt, poor cut. Use surgically sharp blades on a mower and the plant is protected, and loses less water.”

BETTER THAN CURE
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE
HIGHSPEED GROUP SUCCESS CONTINUES

After successfully exhibiting at BTME and the GIS, Highspeed Group continues to expand activities with their class leading ClearWater washpad water recycling system.

MD David Mears said: “It was clear at both exhibitions that there is growing demand for an uncomplicated, yet effective water recycling system at a competitive price. ClearWater is the answer, as our recent sales successes are proving.”

ClearWater enables effective washing of machinery, pollution prevention and compliance with the requirements of legislation - a recent sale was as a direct result of an Environment Agency inspection! ClearWater also has a number of advantages over competitive systems, the main ones being that it is silent and, being below ground, it is better protected, operates at a safe, low temperature and is less prone to vandalism. It also looks far more attractive.

Having official UK government backed approval through the WTL (Water Technology List) as a water saving technology means businesses can write off 100% of the cost of investing in ClearWater under the ECA (Enhanced Capital Allowance) scheme has certainly been of interest to purchasers. Highspeed has supplied over 200 systems in the UK, Europe and now the USA.

They also recently landed their first German order from Golf Club Hanau-Wilhelmsbad.

BECK ON CALL FOR AITKEN’S

Aikens Sports turf have welcome a team of Beck to assist their turf buying customer in developing their irrigation systems. After successfully exhibiting at BTME and the GIS, Aikens Sports Turf have a further exhibition at GIS, Highspeed will have their stand for 2015 following their a very successful BTME 2014.

Robert George, Head Greenkeeper at Thorndon Park Golf Club, scooped an Xbox One as a part of a Bayer competition at BTME.

Robert said that he “was obviously delighted” when he was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interfacel®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert. “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interfacel® is the residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since.”

Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, explains that the company’s underlying theme at BTME this year was innovation. “We wanted to create a timeline that mapped our various product innovations and aligned them with other well known technological developments throughout history.”

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Disease control is something greenkeepers and turf managers are up against every day of their lives. Everywhere in the world someone is battling with difficult weather conditions, bugs and mowers plus other threat that damage and affect the health of the turf. There are new products and chemicals on the market that can tackle diseases from several angles, but there are also some good, sound, preventative measures that every greenkeeper could and should be doing to combat and control these.

Warren Brown, Course Manager at the Lancaster Golf Club, shares the view that prevention is better than cure. He said: “If you can keep a plant in perfect condition and cut it without bruising and blunting it, you will maintain good healthy plants. A surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants.”

Peter Todd, Course Manager at the Luton Hoo Golf Club, shares that view “Cutting grass leaves cleanly, without any tearing is essential for both the best finish and plant health.”

Warren continued: “When I joined Lancaster Golf Club ten years ago, I was given the opportunity to overhaul the fleet of mowing equipment and it was paramount to me to have a set of graters to keep the new equipment as sharp as the first time they were put out.

“Obviously, sharp cylinders and bottom blades promote a finish on the turf of tournament quality, and produce sharp definition between the different heights of cut. As a secondary benefit, but equally importantly, I get a plant that is cut cleanly without bruising or tearing. This produces a surface with far better ball roll, but also less susceptible to disease.

“The surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants. This has a benefit as a turf manager in keeping my pesticide input down and gives my members smooth, consistent putting surfaces.”

Technical Training Manager at Bernhard and Co, Ben Taylor, regularly lectures on how to achieve healthy, disease free turf. He said: “I like to compare the mower to a surgeon operating on our own bodies. When a surgeon performs an operation that requires our skin and flesh to be cut open, they use a surgically sharp scalpel so that the incision is neat.

“A neat wound, with a clean cut will not only repair quicker, it can keep a plant in perfect condition and cut it without bruising and blunting it, you will maintain good healthy plants. A surgical cut reduces disease spores infecting turf plants.”

Robert was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interfacel®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert. “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interfacel® is the residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since.”

Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, explains that the company’s underlying theme at BTME this year was innovation. “We wanted to create a timeline that mapped our various product innovations and aligned them with other well known technological developments throughout history.”

LIFE’S A BEECH FOR IAN

Tillers 25th Anniversary prize giveaway was won by Ian Beech, Head Greenkeeper at Newcastle-under-Lyme Golf Club. He said: “I am over the moon with winning, in over 30 years in the industry this is the prize I’ve never won! I would like to wish Tillers a great 25th anniversary and I think their product and service is second to none”.

Tillers Turf had a record-breaking show and had great interest in their range of turf including Greens and Reverting Turf and their new “Flora” Wild Flower Turf. They’ve already rebooked under-Lyme Golf Club before expending some time in the trade with Phil List Markers.

BY GEORGE!

Robert George, Head Greenkeeper at Thorndon Park Golf Club, scooped an Xbox One as part of a Bayer competition at BTME.

Robert said that he “was obviously delighted” when he was told the good news and when asked if he’d be using the console during his downtime, he responded that he wouldn’t personally, but he knew who would. “I’ve got a house full of kids who I’m sure will put it to very good use.”

Since its launch at BTME in 2013, Robert recalled how he’s had very positive results with Interfacel®. “I take a preventative approach when spraying fungicides,” says Robert. “I’m pleased to say that that means we stay pretty disease free.” In spite of this, Robert identifies that what’s impressive about Interfacel® is the residual protection it offers. I sprayed the product towards the end of October, says Robert, and in spite of the challenging weather we’ve had over the winter, I’ve not needed to put anything else down since.”

Bayer’s Product Manager, Claire Matthewman, explains that the company’s underlying theme at BTME this year was innovation. “We wanted to create a timeline that mapped our various product innovations and aligned them with other well known technological developments throughout history.”

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

Got a new appointment, prize giveaway, notable event or any other company news...?

Email your press releases and news items to
Steve Castle
steve.castle@bigga.org.uk

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe
Every February the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Co, head to the Golf Industry Show in America for a life-changing professional and personal experience. This year Tom Brearley, Assistant Greenkeeper at Sunningdale, was one of the ten Delegates to Orlando and compiled a fascinating diary. Here's his review of the show, a visit to TPC Sawgrass and how the week led to a dream Ryder Cup opportunity.