

PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM IS THE REAL ENEMY WITHIN

A succession of alien insect pests and diseases have entered the UK over the last decade almost entirely via other EU nations, and by taking advantage of inter-EU 'free trade' accompanied by no quarantine measures worthy of that name. Heaven knows why the government publicly took on Chalara ash dieback disease caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*.

This is a spore spread pathogen causing internal vascular wilt disease in one of the UK's most frequently occurring and ubiquitous trees (common ash – *Fraxinus excelsior*). Once in the UK it was beyond eradication, here to stay and with the fate of common ash in its hands.

Chalara fraxinea is highly host specific and has so far only been found infecting members of the *Fraxinus* genus. A number of *Fraxinus* species of European, Asian and North American origin are planted in the UK as ornamental ash trees but *Fraxinus excelsior* is the only native *Fraxinus* species.

Only other trees (shrubs) at possible risk from this pathogen are privet, common lilac and patio olives, because like *Fraxinus* species they are members of the plant family Oleaceae (olive family).

As bad as it is for common ash there are other alien diseases in this country here for much longer, with a much broader host range and the capacity to wipe out a whole range of trees and shrubs important to the amenity, landscape and forestry sectors.

Greenkeepers may remember *Phytophthora ramorum* which was dubbed 'Sudden Oak Death' because a strain of the fungus-like pathogen was ripping through native North American oaks and tan oaks in California and neighbouring West Coast States. First identification of *Phytophthora ramorum* on a mature tree in the UK was in November 2003 on a 100-year old North American red oak (*Quercus falcata*) in Sussex.

Ironically the two genetic lineages (strains) of *Phytophthora ramorum* now causing havoc in the UK did not arrive from North America. They are European strains which slipped in through the EU 'back door', probably on *Viburnum* imported from the Netherlands or Germany.

Everyone thought *Phytophthora ramorum* would decimate English oaks but they have proved to be much more resilient than their North American counterparts, probably due to the extraordinary thick bark. However, *Phytophthora ramorum* was soon found on a number of UK broad-leaf trees including common beech, southern beech, sycamore, holm oak



and sweet chestnut though mercifully only relatively small numbers have been involved. Last count showed *Phytophthora ramorum* infecting 130 species across 75 genera in no less than 37 plant families. This host range includes many popular shrubs and ground cover plants including *Rhododendron*, *Viburnum*, *Pieris*, *Syringa*, *Camellia* and *Vaccinium* (e.g. bilberry).

The real damage subsequently caused by *Phytophthora ramorum* is on-going in commercial forestry. The pathogen has found wild *Rhododendron ponticum* foliage to be the ideal template for infection, disease development and spore production. From there the pathogen has proceeded to scythe through Japanese larch (*Larix*

kaempferi) and has essentially destroyed this conifer as one of UK forestry's premium softwood timber trees.

Many greenkeepers are probably unaware of these developments but those who manage golf courses in western England (Devon, Cornwall, Forest of Dean and Lancashire) in Wales, western Scotland and Northern Ireland where this moisture-loving pathogen and disease is rife will be only too well aware. Many thousands of hectares of Japanese larch have already been felled either because the trees were infected or as a precaution against further spread of established infections nearby.

Dr Terry Mabbett

TURF MANAGERS' CONFERENCE 2014 – BE THERE!

Book your spot at www.bigga.org.uk, www.btme.org.uk or contact the L&D team at BIGGA House



The Turf Managers' Conference 2014 is at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 20 January 2014 featuring cutting edge presentations, seminars and debates full of critically important information for you as a delegate to take with you in your career.

You will spend a day in a room full of your peers from across the UK, Europe and the world allowing you a day of unrivalled networking and the opportunity to chat with greenkeepers from all manner of courses.

For BIGGA members it costs just £105 plus VAT for a truly unrivalled day of insight which is essential to equip you with

the tools you need to succeed in your future career.

For 2014, the Conference will be kicked off by Dr Karl Danneberger, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Ohio State University. As you will have seen in last month's Greenkeeper International in his article focusing on pigments and photoprotectants in turfgrass, Karl is an expert in turfgrass ecology and physiology and has received numerous awards for his work.

He will be discussing the research he's undertaken across the world and will be informing you how turfgrass plants respond to low light conditions.

Next up is Tammy Ball, Change Leader

at 'Coaching by the Balls'. American-born Tammy has been a change leadership specialist for 15 years, and she will be introducing the concept of Change Management as well as offering practical advice and proven methods for effectively communicating change in the workplace.

Third speaker is Karl Morris, Managing Director at The Mind Factor. Karl is one of Europe's leading performance coaches and will be introducing his practical approach to performance coaching that understands the role of the mind and how to get the very best out of yourself and others.

Junier Brown, Senior Advisor in Environment and Business at the



Environment Agency follows with a look at the water resource challenges we all face, how to manage these finite resources and will ask whether the country is facing a water resources 'Rubicon'.

Final speaker is the popular Mark Hunt, Technical Director at Headland Amenity. Mark's weekly weather blog which looks at our changeable climate from an agronomic perspective is a firm favourite in the greenkeeping industry.

His presentation will focus on GDD data how it can be used to make management decisions.

As if that wasn't enough, take a look at what just two previous delegates have to say about the event..

"After being a delegate at the last three Turf Managers' Conferences, I have no hesitation in recommending the event to all within the industry.

"The speakers are highly experienced in a wide variation of fields from turf experts, man management to club politics, all of which are playing a bigger and bigger role in our day to day job.

"I believe that the attendance of American speakers in recent years just highlights the popularity and expertise that this Conference carries. It is a must for me every year at Harrogate and I always wait in anticipation for the guest speakers to be announced- I have yet to be disappointed."

Dan McGrath, Course Manager, North Foreland Golf Club.

"The key thing for me is that it does not just focus on agronomy. I've been to the last three and I've seen excellent seminars on presentation skills, interview techniques and management advice. It's a really good mix of subjects.

"The important point is there seems to be a misconception that it's just for Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and Deputies. But any greenkeeper keen to advance their career will gain so much from attending the Turf Managers Conference."

John McLoughlin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Grange Park Golf Club.

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

BIGGA ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BARONESS



BIGGA are pleased to announce a new partnership with Baroness which will enhance the Association's commitment to the continuing education of greenkeepers.

The first of the Association's new client deals will see Baroness, who have been producing specialist grass-cutting machinery for almost 50 years, back a scholarship scheme which will help BIGGA members gain their technical and supervisory qualifications.

Under the terms of the agreement, Baroness will support BIGGA members who cannot access funding for their NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf qualification. If the member meets the required criteria they will receive 50% of their course fees up to a maximum of £1,000.

BIGGA's Learning & Development Manager Sami Strutt said: "We're excited about this partnership which further supports our ever increasing focus on education.

"NVQ Level 3 is a critical level for greenkeepers looking to progress to a supervisory role, and we're proud to be able to offer support to these greenkeepers who are clearly fully committed to achieving the best in their careers.

"We're very pleased that Baroness are supporting this initiative and look forward to helping many greenkeepers access this demanding yet hugely rewarding and beneficial qualification."

Baroness is the brand name for the Kyoeshia Corporation of Japan, who currently offer a wide range of mowers from



hand-pushed to self-propelled walk and rider machines.

Baroness is the market leader in Japan and are continuing to expand worldwide, particularly in the USA and Europe.

They have been a firm supporter of BTME in recent years and have increased their stand space for the 2014 exhibition.

Managing Director Ian Kerry (above) said: "Baroness is very pleased to be working as partners with BIGGA.

"We hope that, especially through our support of the Level 3 Scholarship programme, we can help those in the greenkeeping profession who want to attain a level of competency through personal development that will help them throughout their careers.

"We are looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership as we continue to push forward with Baroness in the UK."

You can check out Baroness's latest machines and meet the team on Stand B78 at BTME.

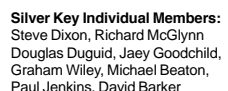
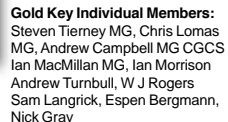


ASHLEY PRESSES ON WITH SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to Ashley Allpress who is the latest recipient of a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen, worth £1,000.

Ashley is Deputy Course Manager at West Surrey Golf Club, and will attend Merrist Wood College to study NVQ Level 4 in Sports Turf Management.



The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

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APPLY FOR FTMI 2014



The FTMI 2014 made possible by Jacobsen will take place between 25-27 March 2014, and you could be one of the 20 delegates selected for this fantastic opportunity with applications now open.

This event is aimed at up and coming greenkeepers who want to make the leap to Course Manager. Focusing on personal and professional development, the FTMI programme utilises the expertise of leading Course Managers, dynamic trainers and industry experts to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders.

Presenters include:

Frank Rossi Ph.D - Director of Turfgrass Agronomy at Cornell University

David Bancroft-Turner - Specialist in leadership development and organisational politics

Lorna Sheldon - Dynamic personal communication and presentation skills trainer

The ideal candidate will show initiative, dedication to greenkeeping, a genuine interest in the industry and be actively involved in education at both a regional and a national level. Representatives from BIGGA and Jacobsen will select the successful delegates.

Gina Putnam, International Marketing Manager for Ransomes Jacobsen, said: "The inaugural event last year was superb and surpassed our expectations. It provided an excellent learning experience for those greenkeepers fortunate enough to be selected. If you're thinking of applying and feel you are ready for an intense two and a half day learning spree, then don't hesitate to apply; you won't regret it!"

To apply fill in the application form online which you can find on the BIGGA website. The closing date is 13.1.2014.

As if that wasn't enough to convince you to join this initiative, take a look at this feedback from some of last year's delegates...

"What an awesome course, the mentors were excellent, understanding and extremely supportive. The hospitality laid on by Jacobsen was also superb." Leigh Powell, Deputy Course Manager, Hockley Golf Club.

"I wish this had been around when I was coming through the ranks. A real chance to gain the knowledge required to be a Course Manager." Matt Plested, Course Manager, Muswell Hill Golf Club.

"The FTMI was my first involvement in a BIGGA

event. I was unsure what to expect but as soon as I arrived everyone was welcoming. The presentations and the people who presented were amazing, I would recommend the FTMI to anyone." Wesley Lenihan, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, East Brighton Golf Club.

"It was a superb programme with excellent speakers, I learnt so much that will be relevant to my career. Jacobsen and BIGGA should be proud." Daniel Scott, Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club.





Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

Pre Register Now for BTME 2014

Register now

CLICK HERE FOR FREE ENTRY

Pre registering for BTME is essential - visit www.btme.org.uk and click REGISTER NOW.

This helps you avoid the queues and ensures you make the most out of your visit to BTME which this year features over a hundred major exhibitors, the hugely popular Turf Managers Conference on Monday 20 January, our unrivalled Continue to Learn education programme and our new Welcome Celebration on Tuesday 21 January featuring guest speaker Peter Alliss (below).

BTME 2014 is now just weeks away so now is the perfect time to plan your visit.



WE'RE PUTTING YOU IN THE PICTURE AT BTME!

New to BTME is our BIGGA Photo Booth! Located on the BIGGA Stand B23, we'll be looking to update member photos which in many cases have become outdated. An example of this is Rob Welford, Course Manager at Cleethorpes Golf Club. Here's Rob's current membership photograph (left) and here's what he actually looks like now (right).

Tracey Maddison and Elaine Jones from Membership will be poised with the camera for all three days of the exhibition, so now's your chance to say farewell to the 12-year-old picture or unwanted passport pic! We're hoping it will help increase footfall on the BIGGA Stand, create a real buzz and also give you the opportunity to smile and have some fun with the BIGGA House team. It will also ensure we have some professional head and shoulders shots of our members who have attended BTME and can be reused in Greenkeeper International, the BIGGA website and in any other publicity.

BIGGA AGM AT BTME

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held during the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) at Harrogate on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork, including the agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA website from Friday December 20.



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Clive Osgood

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(Full Members only)

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0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
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www.arlegal.co.uk/carefirst

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BTME

PREVIEW

Some of the products on show
at BTME 2014



ETESIA BACK AT BTME

Etesia returns to BTME in January to give greenkeepers and turf managers a chance to see an exciting range of new products.

The Etesia team will be out in force on stand A53, showcasing its range of environmentally friendly professional products including an electric ride-on mower, the ETMower robot mower and a range of Duocut pedestrian mowers along with Pellenc's lithium-ion battery powered chainsaws, polesaws, hedge trimmers, blowers, brushcutters and pruning shears.

New for 2014 is the Pellenc Excelion 2000 cow-handle brushcutter. The Excelion 2000 prevents almost 98% of the direct emissions of a petrol engine. As with all other Pellenc products, the Excelion 2000 uses the ultra-high capacity technology of the Pellenc lithium battery and guarantees non-polluting, odourless operation with quick start-up and up to 4.5hrs of continuous operation.

Pellenc is the only professional tool manufacturer to offer a whole range of tools that operate with ultra-high capacity multipurpose batteries.

Also new for 2014 is a range of Duocut pedestrian mowers. The PKCTM 46cm and LKCGM 53cm models are available with mulching inserts ensuring that users can use one machine for a multitude of different tasks – cut and collect, cut and drop or mulch.

The PKCTM model is a single speed machine equipped with a 6HP Kawasaki KAI-FS181 engine and comes complete with a long range fuel tank making it ideal for mobile grass cutting teams who require a machine to last all day without re-fuelling, whilst the LKCGM model is equipped with a 6HP Kawasaki KAI-FS180 engine and has three speeds – 2.7, 3.5 and 4.5km/h.

Supplied with a 50 litre grass box, the PKCTM has seven cutting height settings, which are quickly adjustable from 28-85mm and Xenoy reinforced cutting deck. The LKCGM model has an 80 litre grass box with cutting height adjustment 25-85mm and an aluminium cutting deck.



JOHNSONS BRING BRAZIL TO HARROGATE

DLF Johnsons Sports Seed will bring a Brazilian feel to BTME 2014. Based on the successful playing surfaces of the last World Cup in South Africa 2010, seed from the DLF Group has again been chosen for all World Cup stadiums and training pitches for Brazil 2014. To celebrate, the company has instigated a Europe-wide competition to win tickets to see the tournament in action.

The new 4turf™ cultivar in the chosen mixture has been trialled in the UK at the STRI and the final seed mixture thoroughly tested in Brazil by both international advisors & local sports grass specialists. Football pitches in Brazil are generally Bermuda grass based, but due to the winter dormancy of Bermuda grass the pitches need to be reinforced with temperate sports turfgrass to provide the perfect playing surface. To meet this requirement, the pitches have been overseeded with DLF's top performing Perennial ryegrasses including 4turf™, a new and innovative turfgrass from the R&D stable of DLF-TRIFOLIUM.

4turf™ will be widely available in the spring of 2014. It will be included in several new mixtures for the professional market unveiled at the show by Johnsons Sports Seed. Details of the World Cup competition, linked to 4turf™, and how to enter will be colourfully available on stand A20.

4turf™ is a new turf type of tetraploid Perennial ryegrass that has a double set of chromosomes. 4turf™ cultivars have larger seeds and have been bred for improved stress tolerance.

Find out more at BTME 2014.



NEW CAMPEYS IMANTS AT BTME

Being small doesn't necessarily mean less effective. What the new Imants Mini Rotoknife from Campeys lacks in stature it makes up for in speed and performance.

What you get is a multi-purpose linear, disc-aerator that will relieve surface compaction, improve aeration, reduce thatch build-up and remove surface water, in a single pass.

This amazing little machine packs a real punch as it moves quickly across the surface.

Whether towed or mounted, it applies itself to combatting areas of general wear and tear, or areas that need help recovering from excessive use.

A disc rotor with three settings gives flexibility in working depth and linear spacing, allowing deep-slitting to a depth of 100mm, or shallow slitting at 50mm spacing. It is ideal on warm or cool season grasses.

The Imants Mini-Rotoknife is a versatile, effective aerating machine that may be small but can still 'cut it' with the big boys!

Come see for yourself on Stand B58.

Also, a presentation by David Harrison, Campeys' Export Sales Manager will be held on Tuesday 21 January at 1.45pm entitled 'A Revolution in Renovation'.

30 years ago, stadium and grounds managers largely followed the path set by golf greenkeepers in renovating their pitches, often copying their methods and buying up their old, used machinery!

With increased demand from a global TV audience to produce quality pitches at the top grounds and stadiums, often in a hostile environment for grass, today's groundsman are looking to innovative methods and machinery to carry out their maintenance and renovation.

This seminar will look at the renovation done on some of the world's best pitches and how some of these practices are now being adopted by golf greenkeepers.

Anyone with a professional interest in maintaining and renovating sports turf pitches will benefit from attending this event in the Queen's Suite.

RT
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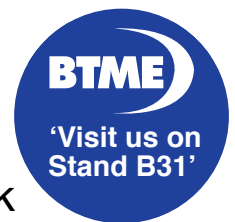
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