

UK plant health authorities identified sweet chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria fraxinea*) at orchard sites in Warwickshire and East Sussex in late autumn 2011. They waited five months to inform the industry then said virtually nothing until May 2013.

The flashpoint is in Sussex and neighbouring Kent where the vast majority of Britain's sweet chestnut coppice grows. *C. parasitica*, like *Chalara fraxinea*, is a fast moving, spore-spreading fungal pathogen. A lot of golf courses have some sweet chestnut trees but those around the Sussex and Kent Weald often have large tracts of sweet chestnut coppice woods as important integral components of the course landscape. There is nothing 'sweet' about chestnut blight. It is a killer disease just like *Chalara ash dieback*.

No news could be good news but tucked away in a recent Forestry Commission (FC) statement is: "a trace-forward exercise has identified a small number of infected trees delivered to a further seven locations in England." Never mind the 'small' numbers - one infected tree will produce thousands of spores!

Other utterings suggest FC could be about to confirm the disease is already in the wider environment. Given the ease and speed of blight spread in North America and Europe this is the mostly likely scenario.

FC say are following their



disease outbreak contingency plan and developing a strategy for a longer-term response.

Infected material planted in Warwickshire and East Sussex was sourced from the same nursery in France but FC continues to prevaricate.

Sweet chestnut imports from EU countries are subject to plant passporting and since January 2013 are scrutinised by plant health inspectors.

However, FC admits a latent infection phase can still allow diseased plant stock to slip through.

If so, why have EU imports not been subject to a sufficiently long period of plant quarantine (observed isolation) before planting in UK soil, or better still banned just like all *Castanea* imports from non-EU countries? Even risking the importation of sweet chestnut infected with such a fast spreading and aggressive disease is mind boggling.

DEFRA has finally called for a ban on sweet chestnut imports from infected countries.

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson announced the

intention at the government supported "Stop the Spread" garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. A six-week consultation is underway with expectation of a ban before the autumn planting season, although EU regulations could still thwart these plans.

On past performance I can't help thinking this sudden flurry of interest and activity in sweet chestnut blight is a softening up exercise and a prelude to the government announcing blight is here to stay.

Dr Terry Mabbett

BIGGA SCOTLAND TRIUMPH (BUT ONLY JUST!)

It didn't look promising for golf to be played as the weather was quite nasty in the morning but thankfully the annual match against the Scottish Section of the GCMA went ahead at Douglas Park Golf Club on Wednesday 8 May.

Although a strong team from the region was assembled, the GCMA managed to win 5 points to our 4 following the completion of the day's play. However, the region managed to retain the trophy thanks to a walkover result for the final game. The board would like to thank all members of the team for taking part.

On accepting the trophy, chairman Andy O'Hara (shown left with Derek Scott) praised the course manager Drew McKechnie for the excellent presentation of the course on the day particularly considering the weather.





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.

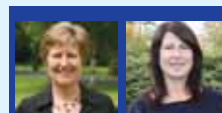
As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

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!



The Support Team celebrate with Matteo Manassero



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John Young Sandra Raper



Clive Osgood

BIGGA Support at the BMW PGA Championship

This month we focus on the superb work of the BIGGA Support Team who assisted Kenny Mackay and his team during the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

Due to print deadlines we were unable to fully cover their efforts last month so here are details from a testing week which featured a row between two of the sport's leading lights, erratic weather and a young Italian winner celebrating with our team.

Clive Osgood, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator, worked tirelessly to assemble the team and was in attendance for the whole week. He said:

"Once again a team of volunteer Greenkeepers travelling from all

parts of the country were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the European Tour's flagship event.

"This year in addition to the usual requirement a small team of volunteers were available for six days of the tournament including the official Practice Day and the Pro-Am. Volunteers were also on stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather.

"Fortunately apart from the very cool conditions and a short burst of heavy rain on the Friday things improved for the weekend with relatively mild conditions and even some sunshine on occasions.

"A full contingent of forty volunteers were on hand for

bunker raking duties covering all the pairings on the last two days.

All agreed that Kenny and his team had produced an immaculately prepared course with absolutely no help at all from the appalling weather experienced by all greenkeepers over a long wet winter and cold spring."

Joe Dormer, Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, supported the team at Wentworth for the entire week – the first time he had attended such a prestigious event.

He said: "It was the best week of my career. I'd worked on smaller tournaments before but this was something else.

"On the final day James Briggs from East Sussex National Golf Club and myself ended up raking a

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst



Joe Dormer



Kenny (in grey jumper) and team at Wentworth

bunker on the 18th for the play-off, right in front of the grandstand. That was just amazing.

“It was great to meet the other BIGGA guys who were all really like-minded, we all had the same levels of excitement and the same focus to do a professional job and get the most from the week.

“The home greenkeeping team at Wentworth were incredibly welcoming and happy to go into great depth as they told us what they were doing and why they were doing it.

“I learnt so much, about bunker presentation in particular and the use of different rakes. The bunkers were so consistent with one inch of sand on the face and three inches

on the bottom. Each one must have played exactly the same.

“I’m soon going to be presenting a debrief to our committee on what I learnt, what I can bring back to my own course and it’s all going to help my career enormously. I have to thank my Head Greenkeeper Ian Streeter for allowing me the time to go to Wentworth. I’d encourage every BIGGA member to try and get involved in opportunities like this.”

Other members of the team echoed Joe’s thoughts. James Briggs, Greenkeeper at East Sussex National Golf Club, said: “I had an amazing time and also gained so much from this experience.

“I met some amazing guys from other golf clubs and have kept in contact with, along with the Wentworth team who made us feel so welcome.”

Phil Worth, Greenkeeper at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, said: “Thank you for a brilliant four days at Wentworth. It was a fantastic experience and a real eye opener for me.”

Kevin Armstrong, Head Greenkeeper at John O’Gaunt Golf Club, added:

“I had a fantastic time meeting some new faces and got to see some brilliant golf and a wonderful course.

“I will definitely apply again next year.”

Assistant Profile



Name: Michael Llong
Age: 25
Club: Littlestone Golf Club
Position: Greenkeeper
Nickname: Bruce

How long have you been greenkeeping?
 8 years

What was it about the career that attracted you?

My dad is a groundsman and I used to go to work with him in the summer holidays

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what would you be?

A farmer or a job involving animals

Which task do you most enjoy doing?

Hand cutting. The aesthetics of a hand cut green, approach or tee can’t be beaten

Which task do you least enjoy doing?

I don’t think there is one.

What one thing would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?

To be recognised for the hard work that goes into maintaining a golf course and not just be seen as a grass cutter.

Hobbies?

Karate

Which team do you support?

England cricket team

What is your claim to fame?

With any luck being on the Assistant Profile

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

This month we're delighted to point you in the direction of David Bancroft-Turner's article on *Managing Politics in the Golf Club* on page 32.

David has worked with huge global corporations and was a big hit at the last Turf Manager's Conference, and here gives his honest view on how to

control politics which you may encounter in your club.

The Back Nine this month (page 66) also features the second part of Justin Ruiz's social media advice as he looks at the benefits and potential pitfalls of Twitter and Facebook.

Also – remember the new BIGGA CPD scheme officially

launched on 1 July. There's a reminder of this below – for much more refer to Stuart Green's articles in the previous two magazines.

We're also very pleased to announce the speakers for the BIGGA seminars at SALTEX 2013 – CPD credits are available for attending (page 65).



A NEW DAWN FOR BIGGA CPD

As of 1 July 2013, the BIGGA CPD Programme is changing. Using feedback from members, the programme has been revamped to allow greater flexibility, more ways to get credits and enhanced recognition.

The new structure will be a three-year rolling programme rather than an annual programme, allowing members the flexibility to fit their professional development into their lives.

The value of a credit has risen to one per hour of education plus the type of activity that can be claimed for has been expanded.

CPD is a fantastic way to help

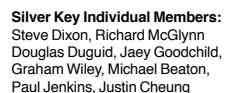
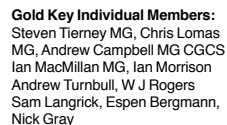
keep yourself motivated towards your career goals and ensures that you are a valuable asset to your current and any future employer.

Sami Strutt, BIGGA's Learning and Development Manager commented:

"We're excited about the new developments to the CPD programme. Member feedback has been important in helping us to shape the new programme and we feel that the enhancements that have been made will make CPD more attractive and attainable for our members. We're now concentrating on making the process of registering CPD credits


less cumbersome – watch this space!"

For more details on the new programme and how you may be affected by the changes we have created a Frequently Asked Questions section on the website that can be found at <http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development/cpd-frequently-asked-questions/>. We will be informing everybody how they will be transferred onto the new programme once the 2012/13 CPD scheme has been closed down. However, if you have any questions that are not on the website please call HQ.



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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TAKING STOCK

Hadlow College have appointed Anthony Stockwell as a full-time Greenkeeping Assessor to work alongside their team, which include some of the most experienced individuals within the industry.

Anthony gained his BSc (Hons) in Greenkeeping and worked for both The New Zealand and London Golf Clubs. He's currently working with a Premier League football club and studying with Penn State University towards his Masters in Turfgrass Management.

Hadlow can offer Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeship as well as stand-alone Diplomas at Levels 2 & 3, all are delivered as much as possible in the workplace. Level 4 is being set up, which they will be able to offer in the not too distant future.

Experienced assessors from Hadlow visit learners in the work place every five weeks.

The assessors guide the learners through their qualifications, delivering underpinning knowledge and assessing practical skills. Apprentices do need to attend college, although this is kept to a minimum, and there are qualification requirements that have to be adhered to.

The Government have identified how important Apprenticeships are and as such are offering employers grants of £1500 per new Apprentice employed, if you have not employed an apprentice in the last 12 months (other criteria may apply). Anthony can be contacted on anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk or 07791087069



JACOBSEN CONFIRM FURTHER SUPPORT FOR FTMI IN 2014

Following the fantastic success of this year's Future Turf Managers Initiative, Jacobsen will be running this worthwhile programme again in 2014.

With topics ranging from

budgeting and finance to CV writing and interview techniques over the three days, this is a wonderful opportunity that any aspiring turf manager should consider applying for.

The quality of the training and feedback from the delegates proved just how valuable they felt the programme was.

Keep an eye on L&D News for further details.



ANDY'S REASON TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations to Andy Reason, Deputy Course Manager at North Hants Golf Club, who has achieved his Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management from Elmwood.

Andy will officially graduate following a ceremony later this year.



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George O'Grady (left) with Jonathan Smith

NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

The European Tour has taken a further significant step forward in the promotion of sustainability in golf, sport and events through European Tour Green Drive.

This is a new initiative to support and showcase environmental and community action across the organisation's operations, venues and tournaments.

With a reach across over 45 countries, the Green Drive initiative has the potential to make a real impact both on the ground around the world, and as an example and inspiration.

Speaking at Wentworth during the BMW PGA Championship, European Tour Chief Executive George O'Grady expressed his commitment to the initiative. He said:

"The European Tour has long recognised the importance of environmental stewardship, resource

efficiency and positive community engagement for golf.

"We're very proud of the staging of The Ryder Cup and our significant investment in GEO (Golf Environment Organization) since 2006. Developing Green Drive across The European Tour is an important step further.

"We look forward to working with our many venue, staging, media, government and commercial partners to make a genuine contribution, and adopt a leadership position in sustainable sport".

The first Partners to come forward as leaders in their support of Green Drive are Rolex and Lioness, with Toro as a Sponsor.

European Tour Group Marketing Director Scott Kelly added: "We're very grateful for this early support – which matches the ET's own continuing investment in sustainability, and which

enables us and GEO to ensure the quality and credibility of the initiative. The European Tour provides a platform for governments and companies to showcase their own policies, corporate responsibility and technologies in the unique arena of professional golf."

The European Tour Green Drive has a strong long-term ambition based on continual improvement and is built on a credible foundation of policy, guidelines, programming and industry ecolabel from initiative partner GEO.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of GEO, added: "This exciting initiative will help a diverse range of people and companies linked to The European Tour to get even more involved in credible sustainability action. There is an opportunity for every venue and tournament, and we're ready to support as they get involved and help the initiative grow".



RT MAKE DOUBLE APPOINTMENT

Rigby Taylor have announced two appointments to their sales team. Mark Whiting (above) has been appointed to the position of Sales Director, and will assume responsibility for the implementation, direction and coordination of the company's sales strategy across the whole spectrum of the sports, amenity and landscape industries.

Working closely with his team of regional sales directors, Mark brings a wealth of sales experience to this role.

Tito Arana (below) has been appointed to the new role of Business Development Manager. Tito will assume responsibility for identifying and developing new market and business sector opportunities with the objective of achieving new revenue streams for the company. Tito is Basis qualified and has a wide range of experience within the amenity industry.



DEEP AERATION FOR FREE DRAINING GREENS

Opened for play in 1896, Maidenhead Golf Club has obviously evolved over the intervening years, but it is still based around its original construction.

This means the greens have not been constructed to modern standards but are essentially constructed on natural clay over gravel base. Over the years, the clay has formed a moisture-retaining bowl that needs careful management to prevent greens becoming waterlogged.

A loan of a Redexim Verti-Drain, from Charterhouse Turf Machinery, that worked down to a greater depth than



nine inches, has had a marked impact upon improving the speed at which water drained from the greens.

Course Manager, Barry Gardner, above, said: "We have already seen an improvement in how the greens drain since using the new Verti-Drain, but we can only use the machine at its full depth when our members allow. We are an

extremely busy course, so will need to time deep aeration accordingly."

"It's not that the Verti-Drain causes a difficult to remedy heave after an aeration pass at maximum depth," Barry is keen to point out, "it's just that more aggressive aeration will cause some disruption to the surface and the green will take time to settle."



ONE SPRAY, COMPLETE CONTROL

Cold and wet weather during the early spring slowed the growth of grass and without the competition weeds have become established. However, with moisture in the soil and warmer temperatures, excellent control can now be achieved with the use of Greenor.

Greenor achieves effective translocation into the roots ensuring a more thorough kill of the root occurs and a greater level of weed control. The product provides excellent results against a wide range of weeds, including daisies and both white and yellow suckling clovers but really comes into its own in swards containing tougher, more difficult to control species.

Following application, the active ingredients of Greenor rapidly penetrate the plant through the leaf surface and moves deep into the root system. Once absorbed, they cannot be washed off and are readily translocated around the whole of the weed, including the roots.

This unique formulation increases herbicide activity, resulting in a more thorough kill with lower amounts of active ingredient.

BTME TRIGGERS WIEDENMANN PURCHASE AT KEDLESTON



A new Wiedenmann Terra Spike GX8i HD was the stand-out choice when the team at Kedleston Park Golf Club, Derby needed a new aerator. After a visit to BTME in Harrogate and a very thorough on site demonstration, the deal was struck.

Head greenkeeper David Leatherland, who has held his post for over 35 years said: "For lots of reasons the GXi8 HD just suited us ... its size; our type of course – our greens are built on sand with everywhere else

clay-based; and the fit with our tractor. It was simply the right one."

"Since its arrival at the end of May, its main focus so far has been to pencil tine all greens which we plan to do on a monthly basis."

James Robson, Area Sales Manager at Wiedenmann dealer, Henton & Chattell, said: "Kedleston Park is both an exceptionally well-tended and busy course so the versatile GX8i HD at 1.8m wide combines high coverage with precision and really will do what they require."

Fril your boots!



The BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota is heading to Frilford Heath Golf Club. Steve Castle discovered why players can expect a treat in rural Oxfordshire





PROFILE

Name: Sidney Arrowsmith MG
Role: Course Manager
Born: Wigan, 22 October 1953
Handicap:9
Hobbies: Gardening, walking,
watching sport.....
Favourite sports team:
Manchester United



An increased prize fund...the chance to play on a course which hosts European Tour qualifying a week previously... picturesque heathland surrounded by rare flora, fauna and wildlife...what further incentives do you need to enter the 2013 BIGGA National Championship?

Most of the impressive 700-acre, 54-hole complex is a Site of Special Scientific Interest – so while you're hitting over the pond and dodging the greenside bunkers on the par three 9th, or attacking the long par five 10th, you may catch sight of a red kite, woodpecker or some of the rare orchids.

Frilford Heath was first awarded European Tour qualifying three years ago – a real feather in the club's cap. The qualifying – and the BIGGA National – take place on the Red Course with the Green and Blue courses remaining open throughout. Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith was quick to insist that nothing radically changes during that week although he acknowledged it is a big test for the team.

"Some may think it's daunting to host these events, but we run at a high standard all the time so for a European Tour event it's not as if we have to lift it up by, say, 25% - we're always at tournament

standard so it just requires a bit of fine tuning.

"This may mean double cutting on a morning with a double or single iron but nothing too major. The height of cut remains the same at around 2.5mm.

"October is a challenging time of year to host prestigious events, because of course the light is limited in the morning and in the evening.

"There are 240 players starting the qualifying at 7.45am, yet sunrise is at around 6.45am so we've only got an hour to work on the course, so we try and do as much work as possible the evening before.

"To help I direct most of our available resources to the Red Course.

"It's all about the team ethic. I've got some wonderful guys here who have never worked anywhere else and they deserve great credit. We have a Head Greenkeeper on each of the three courses, five assistant greenkeepers on each and two full-time mechanics."

So what else can BIGGA members bidding to win the first prize of £500 - and the BIGGA Challenge Trophy – expect?

"It is a very stern test of golf – a true heathland challenge. There are lots of obstacles such as gorse just off the fairways which can really hurt you. You've got to hit long and straight, it's a demanding 6,912



Rank	Marker's Name	White Tees	Yellow Tees	Par	Score	Strokes	Net	Strokes	Par	Strokes
1		384	369	4	9			357	4	7
2		534	510	5	3			462	5	5
3		416	373	4	13			330	4	9
4		197	189	3	15			131	3	17
5		425	414	4	3			359	4	3
6		500	480	5	11			421	5	15
7		119	106	3	7			365	4	1
8		469	448	4	1			427	5	11
9		186	173	3	17			163	3	13
OUT		3530	3476	3338	36			3015	37	
10		551	516	5	8			467	5	4
11		183	133	3	18			132	3	18
12		474	474	4	4			474	5	9
13		355	338	4	10			289	4	10
14		328	305	4	14			166	3	14
15		421	400	4	2			370	4	2
16		324	319	4	12			233	4	16
17		305	286	3	8			338	4	6
18		305	292	4	16			283	4	12
IN		3343	3229	3148	36			2742	36	
OUT		3530	3476	3338	36			3015	37	
IDEAL		6873	6486	72				5757	73	