

A TOP DRESSING DOWN FOR CHALARA

Urea is a component of turf top dressings but could also become part of the solution to chalara ash dieback.

Urea could hasten the decomposition of ash leaf litter along with ascospore-containing apothecia the overwintering sexual stage of *Chalara fraxinea* thus breaking its infection cycle.

Application of urea has proved highly successful in helping to manage apple scab, a widespread and damaging disease of apples caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*). Apple scab and chalara ash dieback have one salient feature in common. That is the ability to overwinter on fallen leaf debris which subsequently acts as a template for the production of sexual spores (ascospores) in tiny mushroom-like fruiting bodies called apothecia. Ascospores are liberated from apothecia early in the following season to infect the new flush of leaves (and young fruit in the case of apple scab).

North American apple growers spray urea on their trees just before autumn leaf-fall or to the orchard floor in the following spring. Treatment with urea accelerates leaf tissue breakdown by soil-borne microbes and hastens soil

incorporation of the leaf matter by earthworms, thus depriving the apple scab fungus of a template for spore production. Urea is applied to break the infection cycle.

Research at the University of New Hampshire showed a 97 per cent reduction in spring production of apple scab ascospores when trees are sprayed with 5 per cent urea just before leaf-fall in autumn; a 50 per cent reduction from urea applied to the leaf litter when approximately 95 per cent of the leaves have fallen in late autumn/early winter; and a 70 per cent reduction when urea is sprayed on to the leaf litter in spring. The same researchers claim shredding of leaf litter in late autumn (November) or early spring (April) will reduce the risk of apple scab by 80-90 per cent. Similar overall findings are reported in the Quebec province of Canada.

However, a word of caution is required. There are essential differences between these pathogens and diseases which mean the same level of success may not be achievable against chalara ash dieback.

After autumn leaf fall ash leaflets disintegrate quickly and by the following spring only the



leaf stalk remains substantially intact.

Fungal fruiting bodies (apothecia) are produced on these highly resilient ash leaf stalks (rachis and petiole) and it remains to be seen whether urea can speed up the decomposition of such hard foliar debris.

Apple scab is a superficially disfiguring infection of the leaves and fruit. Considerable economic damage is caused through a reduction in the photosynthetic capacity of leaves (and therefore stem

growth and fruit yield) and fruit quality and finish, but apple scab 'never' killed an apple tree.

Chalara ash dieback on the other hand is an internal vascular wilt disease, infecting via the foliage but subsequently spreading throughout the internal woody tissue of the tree.

Infections start on the leaflets and progress rapidly along the rachis and petiole (leaf stalk) before transferring into the woody stem at the point of leaf attachment.

Dr Terry Mabbett

TRIBUTE TO DOUGIE JOHNSTONE

Tributes are continuing to be paid to Dougie Johnstone, Course Manager at Hinckley Golf Club, who was tragically killed in an accident on his course just after Christmas.

It is believed he was working on his course alone on Friday 27 December clearing storm damage when he was hit by a falling branch.

Chris Kennedy, who retired as Director and Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth in 2012, hired Dougie in 2008 as assistant greenkeeper and was planning to meet up with him at BTME 2014 along with many other past and present Wentworth team members.

Chris said: "Dougie came to us because he wanted the whole package on his CV ahead of his first Course Manager role. He was looking for tournament and

construction experience and we were able to offer him both.

"He was heavily involved in the West Course redesign and in all manner of tournaments during his three-year tenure with us. He was a very hard working man, totally committed and keen to learn. He was enthusiastic, asked questions and was also very good with the members. If they stopped him while he was working to discuss the course he was only too happy to explain what was going on.

"He was also a very good golfer and practised regularly. He was a good people person, a great lad and important team member. We were sorry to lose his services in 2011 but very happy for him that his career was progressing and he had secured his first Course Manager position at Hinckley.

"On behalf of everyone who knew him at Wentworth, we'd like to say that it was an absolute pleasure working with him. He will be sadly missed and we were all thinking about him and his family a lot during our traditional meeting at BTME."

Chris added that Dougie's wife Sue was a key figure in the Variety Club's Golf Society, and Dougie had played in several tournaments with well-known celebrities.

An inquest has opened into Dougie's death. Initial investigations revealed he had suffered a large head wound, and was discovered early on the morning of Saturday 28 December close to where he had been working. A health and safety probe has been launched and a full inquest will be held at a later date.





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!



XTRA XTRA!

BIGGA launched a brand new member benefits package, BIGGA Xtra Benefits, featuring discounts on everything from hotels and supermarkets to health clubs and mortgage advice on the opening morning of BTME 2014.

The Association has been working to provide a raft of deals and discounts which can be accessed by all full members of the Association.

Some of the many highlights include significant discounts on roadside assistance, car and home insurance plus big savings on health clubs, restaurants, high street brands and package holidays.

BIGGA Xtra Benefits also includes the best rates on utility bills, cinemas and eye care plus many more savings which will help members save cash and access the best deals across five main categories – Lifestyle, Insurance, Advice, Travel and Work and Business.

The scheme sits alongside our other existing benefits such as Continuing Professional Development, Lending Library, Personal Accident Insurance, Legal Assistance and our Lifestyle Counselling Helpline.

It's available to all full and associate BIGGA members. For more information, and to take advantage of the dozens of offers and discounts, simply visit the Members Section of our website at www.bigga.org.uk.



SAM BETHELL WINS KINDLE FIRE HD

All members who entered the Photo Booth at BTME 2014 were entered into a draw to win a Kindle Fire HD. Tracey and Elaine conducted the draw...and the lucky winner was Sam Bethell, greenkeeper at The Richmond Golf Club.

The daily winners were Robert Bemment from Immingham Golf Club, Stefan Carter from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club and Andrew Linley from Hallamshire Golf Club. They are now the proud owners of brand new BIGGA jumpers!

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all members who not only entered into the spirit of the Photo Booth, but also everyone who came to see us on the BIGGA Stand, you helped to ensure BTME 2014 was a truly memorable show.

BIGGA GREENKEEPERS BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks to everyone who bought a green wristband to support the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund at BTME 2014. Your donations, along with Jacobsen's £2,500 cheque at the Welcome Celebration, have got the Fund off to a good start with the current total at around £3,500.

However, we are keen for more donations to this vital cause to

help current or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

The green wristbands cost £2 (minimum contribution) and we will be fundraising on a permanent basis at all events we organise, so keep an eye out for them this year and please give generously!



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Clive Osgood Tracey Harvey

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

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L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

CPD – How to claim credits

Fresh from a busy BTME, Stuart Green returns with a reminder on how you can add credits to your CPD account

With the launch of the CPD Online recording system we have made it easier for members to claim credits and keep a record of their professional development. In this article I will talk you through the three ways you can do this.

All members now have a CPD account which can be accessed by logging into the website, then clicking on Continuing Professional Development. Once you arrive at this page click on the button that says Visit CPD Website and you will be taken to your account page.

Claiming credits is really simple. Click on the Claim Credits button and you will see the page in fig.1. The first option is manually - for example, if you complete a first aid course.

1. Click on the date and choose the date you did the course.

2. Then choose the credit category, you have a choice of four. For a first aid course pick Education. This action will fill in the next box with options for you to choose from.

3. Search in the list for the type of first aid course and click. This will then automatically enter the number of credits for this event.

4. The next step is to enter a description of the event. It's important to remember that this information will appear on your list of CPD activities or Lifetime Transcript. So keep it brief and relevant.

5. Finally, click Submit Claim.

This has now been sent to BIGGA for validation. To help us complete validation you will need to send us a copy of the certificate. This can be a scanned copy, a photograph or a copy in the post.

The second option is a CPD code.

Many of you have attended events or BTME recently and were

Fig 1

Fig 2

issued with a code. This can be issued to event organisers, companies or regions and sections before an event.

This means the event is pre-validated and once the code is entered there will be no need to send a certificate or sign a register when you have a code.

1. To claim your credit, enter the code into the box, in fig.2. Then click Use Code.

2. This will populate the boxes with the details of the event.

3. All you need to do now is click Submit Claim and that is the CPD event added to your account.

To give you a go at seeing how

easy it is to use the CPD code you will be able to gain 1 Education CPD credit for reading this article by entering this code:

125BCB43

The final option means you won't have to do anything. This will be for those of you who complete online CPD quizzes or BIGGA questionnaires. The team at BIGGA download your data and upload it for you.

If you want to find out more about the system there is a CPD 'How to' Guide and Handbook that can be downloaded from the CPD section of the website.

Alternatively, contact us and we can guide you through it.



Gold Key Individual Members:
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison, Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray

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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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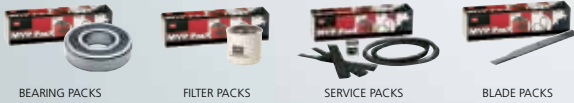
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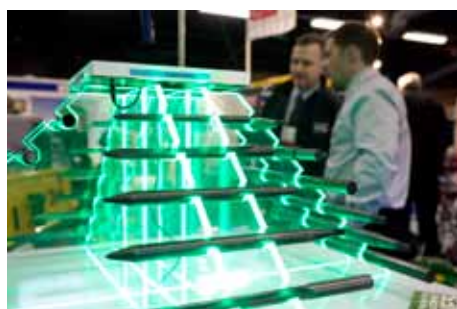


BTME

BTME 2014 THE REVIEW

**BIGGA
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RECORD BREAKERS!



A record-breaking BTME 2014 saw over eight and a half thousand visitors from across the globe packing into the Harrogate International Centre.

Over the next 20 or so pages, we'll attempt to capture a frenetic, enjoyable, buoyant and successful week for the Association as the turf management industry converged on Harrogate. We've got reviews of the Continue to Learn programme, The Turf Managers' Conference, the new Welcome Celebration and feedback from some of the 123 exhibitors, as well as showcasing as many of the new products launched as we could fit in one issue!

Feedback from delegates, presenters and exhibitors has been hugely positive with many describing it as the best show for years with "a real buzz" being one of the key phrases during the week.

There was plenty of news at BTME 2014, none more important than the confirmation of BIGGA's new Chairman and Vice Chairman at the Association's AGM. Past Chairman Tony Smith, who has served the Association with distinction during his 18 months in the post, was nominated for Life Membership of the Association, a nomination that was passed unanimously.

Speaking at the AGM, Tony said: "There's been some very good moments during my time as chairman. I've met some great people and travelled to some fantastic places I would probably never have visited.

"I've enjoyed visiting all the Regions attending their AGMs, Conferences and the roadshows.

He went on to thank companies who have supported the Association during his chairmanship, the

National Board of Management and the team at BIGGA House.

He concluded: "Last but not least is a big thank you to all the membership for having the confidence in me and giving me the wonderful opportunity to serve you as your chairman over the last 18 months.

"When I started greenkeeping all those years ago I would never have thought that I would serve the membership as chairman, so there must be a message to you all out there. If you feel you'd like to serve on the board of directors or even chair it, get involved in your sections and regional committees and help to promote the Association.

"Now I wish my successor Chris Sealey all the very best for his term of office. I know he is very passionate about the Association and will take this great Association forward."

Chris and Tony then completed the ceremonial badge swap before

