



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Tip Top Courses for Teeing off!**

As we celebrate the beginning of summer, the four million golfers in the UK will be looking forward to The Open Championship teeing off this week at Royal Troon; whether they are lucky enough to be visiting Troon or making sure that they are near a TV so they don't miss a shot! However, the Amenity Forum will be giving a thought to the greenkeepers who are currently preparing golf courses to ensure that they are to the highest standards of playability, even though the UK weather is keeping us all on our toes.

Golf courses are an important part of the UK's natural environment, and home to a wide range of wildlife, therefore, the approach taken to maintain the courses has to be sustainable. Greenkeepers use various horticultural techniques to ensure that the most appropriate solution is applied to keep the greens to the standards required whilst safeguarding the environment.

The Amenity Forum has put together various information sheets to help the public understand why management of amenity areas is important and how it impacts on their everyday life, as well as why it is both important and essential to control weeds, pests and diseases.

John Moverley, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, said "As a country, we are involved with so many sporting events this summer, from The European Championship, through to Royal Ascot and The Open Championship. Without proper weed, pest and disease control, these events wouldn't be able to take place to the standards that the public or the competitors are used to, and it's important that we raise the awareness of the important and essential job that greenkeepers and groundstaff are doing in the background.

We would also emphasise the wider picture; how everyone in the UK comes into contact with amenity areas as soon as they step out of their front door. From driving down the road, playing or walking in the park, or taking the train, appropriate and sustainable control of weeds, pests and diseases ensures our safety, protects our environment and contributes to our health and well-being". John continued, "imagine leaving your house to go out for the day, and you get to the train station and they tell you there are no trains because the weeds have grown over the tracks and the trains can't get through? This is what properly trained operatives do for us. Therefore, it's important that we support the amazing job the many UK amenity organisations do to ensure that the control of weeds, pests and diseases is carried out across all aspects of amenity areas to create a safe and sustainable environment".

Jim Croxton; the Chief Executive of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and a member of the Amenity Forum explains the impact that Amenity plays with regards to our key sporting professionals "Danny Willett's thrilling win in the US Masters at Augusta in April gave UK sport a boost. Danny along with Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose and many others are major players on the international sporting stage having developed their skills on UK golf courses. Proper weed, pest and

disease control is an important element of golf course management. It helps create quality playing surfaces and combats turf disease and insect infestations. These conditions provide the training ground for our sporting stars and enables them to go on and represent the UK worldwide.”

The Amenity Forum is taking a lead in communicating the important and essential task of weed, pest and disease control to the public and, as part of that, has produced some one page information leaflets. The first two can be found on their website: [“Producing quality golf courses”](#) and [“Keeping the trains running”](#)

### **Notes to Editors**

*The Amenity Forum is non-profit making and the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a very diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.*

*The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:*

- *To promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides and integrated methods for the control of weeds, pests and disease*
- *To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of "Best Practice" objectives in amenity pesticide use*
- *To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the amenity sector*
- *To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way*

*The Amenity Forum conference and exhibition has become a must attend for all with an interest or engagement in weed, pest and disease control. This year’s event will be held at the Pirelli Stadium, Burton on Trent. Well known and authoritative speakers will address topical issues and stimulate discussions on the wide range of issues facing the sector. As the Forum is non-profit making, and with help from supporters, delegate rates have been kept as low as possible at £65, with a £15 discount for bookings before September. Why not book your place now and add your voice and support. The conference programme is available on line at [www.amenityforum.co.uk](http://www.amenityforum.co.uk) and bookings can be made at [conference@amenityforum.net](mailto:conference@amenityforum.net)*

***For further information on this press release please contact Laura Varey at Jigsaw Media & Communications or the work of the Forum, please contact the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.***

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