



# **CHANGE, CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY**

**Annual Conference & Exhibition  
of the  
Amenity Forum**

**To be held on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**BURTON ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Pirelli Stadium, Burton on Trent**

## MORNING PROGRAMME

0845 Registration Opens

0900 EXHIBITIONS OPEN

Refreshments

0945 Welcome & Introduction

### Policy & its impact

0950 Responding to policy change

*Grant Stark, Chemicals Regulation Division, HSE*

1010 Responding to policy change

*Nick Cartwright, Environment Agency*

1030 Human Health Monitoring

*Professor Michael Eddleston, NPIS Edinburgh*

1050 Any questions to previous speakers & Introduction to our supporters

1100 REFRESHMENTS, VISIT TO EXHIBITIONS, NETWORKING

### Challenge & Opportunity

1130 A view from the track side

*Neil Strong, Network Rail*

1200 A view from home and garden

*Guy Barter, RHS*

**1220 *A view from the property sector***

*Steve Hodgson, PCA*

### Research & its application

1240 Biological Control

*Francesca Baylis, Royal Holloway, University of London*

### Pride in what we do

1300 Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards

1310 Lunch

Visit to Exhibitors and Networking Time

## **AFTERNOON PROGRAMME**

### **Weed, pest & disease control – looking at alternatives**

**1425** Weed, Pest & Disease Control – looking at alternatives – lessons from production horticulture

*Andy Richardson, Allium and Brassica Centre.*

### **Challenge & Opportunity**

**1455** A view from the contractor

*Duncan Jones, Commercial Director, Hortech Limited*

**1505** A view from golf

*Steve Isaac. Director – Sustainability, The R & A*

### **Pride in what we do**

**1530** The pressures of creating and maintaining a high quality environment

*Daniel Lewis & Dominic Knowler, Landscape Contracting Team, Manchester City FC*

**1550** Concluding remarks

How should the sector respond to the change and challenge ahead

*John Moverley, Independent Chairman of the Amenity Forum*

DEPART

## SPEAKERS



**GRANT STARK** has worked in HSE's Chemicals Regulation Division and predecessor organisations for over 20 years. He has worked in a number of policy roles, liaising with industry and other stakeholders and providing advice on a range of pesticide-related matters. His most recent work has focussed on the sustainable use of pesticides. He was part of the UK team that negotiated the EU directive on sustainable pesticide use and plays a key role overseeing its Implementation. He has worked closely with the Amenity Forum for a number of years



**NICK CARTWRIGHT** works for the Environment Agency as a E&B Manager, Water Quality (Chemicals) and has worked on the risks of chemicals in the environment for over 25 years. He is a past president of SETAC UK and has given expert evidence to the House of Commons and European Parliament on chemical risks. He worked in environmental consultancy for 10 years on aspects of chemical risks and joined the Environment Agency in 2000 to lead on chemicals policy. He now leads on developing and implementing a strategic approach to address chemical risks to water.



**PROFESSOR MICHAEL EDDLESTON** is a Professor of Clinical Toxicology in the Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics Unit of the University of Edinburgh, and Consultant Physician at the National Poisons Information Service, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He trained in medicine at Cambridge and Oxford, with an intercalated PhD at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla.

His primary research aim is to reduce deaths from pesticide and plant self-poisoning in rural Asia, a cause of as many as 200,000 premature deaths each year and the number two global means of suicide. To do this, he performs clinical trials in South Asian district hospitals to better understand the pharmacology & effectiveness of antidotes and community-based controlled trials to identify effective public health interventions. This work is complemented by translational studies of antidotes in porcine models of poisoning in the Wellcome Critical Care Laboratory for Large Animals in Edinburgh. He recently established the Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention at the University of Edinburgh to drive research into and implementation of pesticide regulation ([www.centrespp.org](http://www.centrespp.org)).



**NEIL STRONG** is Head of Lineside at Network Rail. He studied forestry and ecology as an undergraduate (Edinburgh) and a post-graduate (Portsmouth). He is Head of Lineside at Network Rail managing a team that provides expertise and support on aspects of the lineside asset including the management of vegetation and boundary measures. His current focus is the development of company standards on vegetation and fencing along with supporting documentation and associated briefing to the business. This asset management has to balance legal, environmental and social obligations whilst also recognising the impact it can have on the 7 million railway neighbours – all whilst trains pass at up to 200kph.



**GUY BARTER** is Chief Horticulturist at the Royal Horticultural Society. He provides horticultural expertise to the Society and elsewhere to anyone who will listen. In particular he works closely with the RHS press and PR team managing a number of projects related to the 'Greening Grey Britain' initiative and Chelsea Flower Show. Another responsibility is in crop protection both at RHS gardens, to the public and in the wider amenity world. Before his current role he ran the RHS gardening advice service for 18 years, which answers about 90,000 enquiries from the gardening public on every conceivable topic.



**STEVE HODGSON** joined the Property Care Association as a technical specialist in 2000. He has been Chief Executive Officer of the Property Care Association since October 2012. Stephen is passionate about the industry in which he is proud to serve and is committed to delivering the highest possible standards of service and workmanship to consumers as well as first rate representation and value for money to members of the Property Care Association.



**FRANCESCA BAYLIS** having graduated with a degree in biochemistry, is now working towards a PhD under the supervision of professor Alan Gange at Royal Holloway University of London, Dr. Ruth Mann at STRI and Louisa Robinson from Boyer. Her research focuses on microbial ecology and how this can be used to produce better turf in golf putting greens.



**ANDY RICHARDSON** For 25 of the past 30 years Andy has worked at the Allium & Brassica Centre (ABC) based near Boston, advising growers (both UK and worldwide) on all aspects of vegetable production and storage. He has investigated many methods for weed control, both chemical and non chemical and is ideally placed to present his experience in vegetable for delegates to consider in an amenity context. production. In his spare time Andy cycles and runs and has been fortunate enough to be part of the GB Age Group Duathlon team at several World and European Championships.



**DUNCAN JONES** started his working life as a Horticultural Apprentice with Shrewsbury Parks Department. On completion of his apprentice Duncan went on to study full time firstly Amenity Horticultural at Pershore and then going on to specialise in Sports Agronomy at Myerscough. He gained further practical experience working on Golf Courses in the UK and US. Before joining Cliff Evans (Knockin) Ltd as an airfield agronomist working on the MOD estate. In turn this lead to roles in grounds maintenance contract and project management. Duncan joined Hortech in 2000 to help with the company transition from weed control specialist to a multi-disciplinary landscape management company, becoming a board director in 2014.



**STEVE ISAAC** is Director – Sustainability at the R&A. With an Honours Degree in Applied Biology, Steve joined STRI (Europe’s leading turfgrass research and agronomic consultancy) in 1985, before moving to The R&A in 2003. The R&A is the organiser of The Open, golf’s oldest and most international major championship. Steve is responsible for The R&A’s advocacy of sustainability and for the operation of GreenLinks, The Open’s sustainability programme. The R&A works on sustainability in golf in collaboration with many organisations, including national governing bodies, club manager and greenkeeper associations, GEO Foundation and STRI. Steve’s work has taken him to most European countries and to Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South America and the USA.



**DANIEL LEWIS** studied at Myerscough College from 2004 before having spells at Wimbledon Tennis and Blackburn Rovers. He then diversified within sporturf and worked in Civil Engineering getting a taste for both hard and soft landscaping. In 2010 Manchester City presented the opportunity for a groundsman focused on landscapes on the new training ground to be completed in 2014. Since then the role has developed and opportunities grown into contract management and beyond. In my spare time he enjoys playing all forms of sports. Hiking in the Lake District is a particular favourite past time.



**DOMINIC KNOWLER** is a graduate ecologist and business development trainee working for idverde, Europe’s leading provider of green services. He is passionate about all things relating to the environment, including horticulture and conservation. Figuring out how to make landscapes work for biodiversity, especially urban greenspace, is his forte. Dominic is a 2017 ProLandscaper 30under30 award winner and was a 2014 Gold Medallist at the Southport Flower Show.



**JOHN MOVERLEY** has worked in the private, public and charitable sectors including some 20 years at CEO level. He has substantial experience of serving in board roles and as a chairman. Aside from the important role as Chairman of the Amenity Forum, he is Chairman of the West Midlands Forestry & Woodlands Advisory Committee, a member of the Severn & Wye Flood and Coastal Committee, chairman of the Advisory Group for Mercia Community Forest and is on the board of the Community Forest Trust. He is also a regular contributor to the Property Chronicle.

## SPONSORS



*BASIS is an independent organisation set up at the suggestion of the UK Government in 1978 to establish and assess standards in the pesticide industry relating to storage, transport and competence of staff. It offers a wide range of examinations and recognised qualifications for all working in the pesticides, fertiliser and related sectors. It operates an annual inspection scheme for pesticide stores, manages the professional registers for qualified pesticide and fertiliser advisers, and operates BACCS and the Amenity Assured standard.*



*Bayer is a global leader in providing innovative solutions to pest, weed and plant disease problems in the professional non-crop markets. The turf and amenity team at Bayer offers a comprehensive and innovative range of products for greenkeepers, groundsmen and other professionals in the turf and amenity industry. The company's product portfolio consists of turf fungicides and a range of herbicides. Key brands include Pistol®, Longbow®, Dedicate® and Exteris Stressgard® the first new fungicide AI for ten years in the turf sector.*



*City & Guilds, as the leading awarding organisation and provider of pesticide application membership services, are delighted to continue their support of the Amenity Forum Conference. We will be pleased to answer any questions and discuss our apprenticeship end-point assessment service, as well as our extensive range of centre-based, work-based and certificate of competence qualifications for the land-based sector.*



*In order to meet the public's high level of expectation for open space maintenance, a timely programme of carefully considered herbicide application needs to be planned and executed. Complete Weed Control has the experience and local teams to assist you in this process. With qualified staff and access to the Weed-IT spot spraying technology, weed control can be achieved legally and economically. Our comprehensive health & safety package, coupled with our commitment to responsible herbicide application, will assist in you in achieving your environmental targets and responsibilities.*



*Green-tech is the UK's largest landscaping supplier providing quality landscaping materials and wholesale garden supplies for landscape contractors, architects, designers and landowners. Green-tech stocks over 6,500 tried and tested landscape essentials and whether your projects include maintenance of public open space, tree planting in a woodland, creating an urban landscape or planting a bio diverse wildflower meadow we have a range of products to suit.*



*Headland's product portfolio includes over 40 fertiliser formulations, encompassing conventional, slow and controlled release technology in both solid and liquid forms, as well as a growing range of pesticides and growth management products. Customers include the largest and smallest of Golf Clubs, Cricket and Bowling Clubs, Racecourses, Landscapers, Local Authorities, Lawncare and Contractors, as well as many others.*



*Hozelock-Exel is part of Exel Industries, a group of companies which have become the world leader in precision spraying techniques for Plant Protection and is now ranked third worldwide for Materials Protection. Hozelock Exel produces the Cooper Pegler and Berthoud brands, which have been the sprayer of choice for the professional operator for over 100 years. Robust and reliable, the spraying equipment is distinguished by diaphragm technology and offers supreme levels of comfort & efficiency.*



*ICL provide speciality fertilizers and nutrition programmes, grass seed, plant protection products and growing media to help meet the demands of modern-day turf and landscape management. We take great pride in the integrity and value of our dynamic world-class product portfolios and in the provision of dedicated technical support.*



*JSD Rail work hard to keep Britain's railways clear of weeds and safe to use. We recognise that an integrated approach to management of vegetation is key to sustainability. We believe that an overall management package that includes ballast renewal, ballast cleaning and cutting & clearing of lineside vegetation to prevent the deposit of leaves on the track with subsequent build-up of detritus rotting down to from a seed bed is vital. We are conscious however that herbicide plays an essential part in maintaining clean clear track. So with careful forward planning, regular calibration of equipment, good quality training for staff we can ensure that the public, the environment and co-workers are not put at risk or effected by our activities.*



*Languard VM have delivered cost effective, safety conscious and environmentally responsible vegetation management solutions to the Industrial & Amenity sectors for over 30 years. We are the largest provider of urban weed control services in the UK, a leading specialist vegetation management business servicing the UK Highways Network and also have substantial business in invasive weed control, industrial sector vegetation management and sports turf management. We are focused on meeting the needs of our customers, offering nationwide coverage from our regional offices and depots.*





*Lantra Awards is a nationally recognised Awarding Organisation specialising in the Landbased and Environmental sectors. We offer a wide range of recognised training and qualification products through a network of approved training providers. Lantra has products for the Amenity sector including Safe Use of Pesticides, Health & Safety, Mowers, Brushcutters, Trimmers and Hand Held landscaping tools.*



*The National Sprayer Testing Scheme is the delegated body in the UK to provide the testing of pesticide application equipment (PAE) in the UK. As part of the Sustainable Use Directive it is a requirement that all PAE is tested to regular timescales and machine owners have a responsibility to ensure their machines are tested by the relevant dates. Qualified examiners, covering the whole of the UK, work with an extensive checklist to ensure your machine is capable of applying pesticides safely and accurately. The scheme has been part of UK agriculture since 2003 and is a main pillar of the Voluntary Initiative.*



*Nomix Enviro is a leading supplier of safe, effective and innovative herbicides and technical support services for amenity, rail, and industrial weed control. Nomix Total Droplet Control (TDC) combines easy to use, targeted application technology, with ready to use, low volume herbicides. TDC minimises the risk of run-off and spray drift and there is no mixing, which virtually eliminates the risk of spillage. We are also national distributors for the major amenity herbicide manufacturers. This allows us the unique position of offering a sustainable solution for every situation. Visit [www.nomixenviro.co.uk](http://www.nomixenviro.co.uk) for more information or call 0800 0324352.*



*Progreen supply & advise on fertilisers, amenity/horticultural herbicides (professional & non-professional), moss control solutions, grass seed & application equipment, nationwide. These products are all supported by BASIS and FACTS qualified staff offering free technical advice; as well as having PA1, PA2, PA4 and PA6 qualified staff with landscaping experience. Training courses such as NPTC (e.g. PA1, PA6) & BASIS certification are run by Progreen in purpose-built training facilities at their head office and throughout the country and are available either for individuals or tailored to specific company requirements.*



*Rigby Taylor is the UK's leading supplier of products for the improvement, maintenance and construction of sports, amenity and landscape areas, including Grass Seed, Fertilizers, Herbicides, Fungicides, Top Dressings, Soil and Turf Improvers. Product development is at the forefront of the Company's philosophy. Working with a number of key research based specialist suppliers, and dedicated to a policy of Continuous Improvement in all its activities.*



*Vale Engineering manufacture winter maintenance equipment and weed control spraying equipment including chemical storage solutions for the municipal and amenity sectors. The PKL Spraying System is the premier system used by Local Authorities for weed control. The salt spreading range includes trailed and mounted models for use behind tractors and 4x4 vehicles. Vale Engineering also owns Riverlynx, the specialist CDA Controlled Droplet Application Sprayer producer. Its range of lances can be used in conjunction with its own Ecomark carrier.*



*Weedfree has been a market leader for industrial and amenity weed control for over 50 years, consistently delivering high quality vegetation management and environmental support services to the amenity and railway sectors. In addition to the provision of conventional weed control and vegetation management our specialist services now include non-chemical alternatives including hot water. For further information call 0800 2949333 and ask to speak to a member of our Sales Team.*