



AMENITY MANAGEMENT **FACING THE FUTURE**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE &
EXHIBITION OF THE AMENITY FORUM

TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 21ST 2021

BURTON ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB

Pirelli Stadium, Burton on Trent



Welcome to our annual conference brochure 2021

We believe that we have once again assembled an excellent range of speakers to interest everyone with an involvement in the amenity sector.

What a difference a year makes! 2021 will certainly be remembered by everyone and what has happened has impacted upon all our lives. There has been personal tragedy and great restrictions and the impact of the pandemic will be felt for many years ahead,

2021 is also a year when the UK and national governments are consulting on the review of the National Action Plan. This was first constructed some years ago as a requirement on EU nations to implement the Sustainable Use Directive. Whilst the UK is now to leave the EU, the government feel it important to still have such a plan to cover all aspects of weed, pest and disease management in agriculture and amenity. Our conference comes at a very important time in the consultations, an opportunity to hear what is being discussed.

What is clear is that the happenings of recent times and the direction of policy will require the amenity sector to continue to innovate and consider new ways going forward as well as adapt to changing requirements. We have brought together some outstanding speakers who will address current issues, challenges and opportunities. The sector has led the way in adopting integrated approaches and the essential nature of work in amenity management has really been highlighted in recent times.

It is important that the sector shows it can rise to the challenge and get fully behind best practice and driving up standards. It is important that the

sector does this itself and it is not imposed by others and it is important that we stand together in our endeavours. The Amenity Standard introduced this year is set to be a game changer for our sector and we all must support.

The Amenity Forum conference and exhibition has become very much the must attend event for all with an interest in this area. This brochure provides information on the conference programme, our speakers and importantly our conference supporters who help make this event possible.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN

John Moverley

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SECRETARY

Kate Hopkins

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FORUM WEBSITE

For information about the Forum and its activities, visit our website at www.amenityforum.co.uk. This contains guidance materials and, following today's event, copies of the speakers' presentations.

4 BASIS CPD points available for attending this event online.



Morning Programme

08:45	Exhibition Opens
09:00	Registration
09:45	Exhibition Opens / Refreshments
09:45	Welcome and Introduction

POLICY & ITS IMPACT

09:50	Policy Update <i>Anna Morgan, DEFRA Future Strategy and Sustainable Use of Pesticides</i>
10:10	Meeting the standard in water quality <i>Jonathan Newman, Environment Agency</i>
10:30	New regulations on the approval and review of plant protection products <i>Adrian Dixon, CRD</i>
10:50	Any questions to previous speakers & Introduction to our supporters
11:00	Refreshments, visit to exhibitors and Networking

INTEGRATED, INTEGRATED, INTEGRATED

11:30	Introduction <i>John Moverley, Amenity Forum</i>
11:35	Sports Surfaces <i>Hui Chen, STRI</i>
11:50	A Contractor View <i>Richard Stow, Weedfree</i>
12:05	A Distributor View <i>Henry Belchet, ICL</i>
12:20	Panel Discussion
12:40	Looking Back, Looking Forward <i>John Moverley</i>

PRIDE IN WHAT WE DO

13:05	Presentation of Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards
13:10	Lunch, visit to exhibitors and Networking



Afternoon Programme

EDUCATION & TRAINING

14:10

CPD – An essential requirement

David Fisher Lantra & Christopher Jones City & Guilds

14:30

Using new technology to deliver training & CPD

Greg Hopkinson, Head of Business Development, BASIS

AMENITY MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE

14:55

Current approaches to the management of London Parks

Tony Leach, Parks for London

15:15

Amenity management techniques and their environmental impact

Peter Corbett

CREATING SUPERIOR PLAYING SURFACES

15:40

Presentation from a major sporting venue - Lords Cricket Ground

Karl McDermott, Head Groundsman

16:00

Brief concluding remarks Conference close



PROFESSOR JOHN MOVERLEY, OBE

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, as a chairman. Aside from the important role as Chairman of the Amenity Forum, he is an independent member of the Severn & Wye Flood and Coastal Committee, chairs the Advocacy group for Winterbourne House and Gardens and sits on the the board of the Moreton Morrell Campus of the Warwickshire College. Until recently he was Chairman of the West Midlands Forestry & Woodlands Advisory Committee. He is also a regular contributor to the Property Chronicle and other publications.



ANNA MORGAN

ANNA MORGAN works within the Pesticides Hub, in the Environmental Quality Directorate at Defra. She leads the team which is currently focused on the development of the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. Her previous role in Defra was within the Future Farming Programme, working on the Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot. She has more than twelve years' experience of working in a variety of policy and delivery roles across three different government departments. Anna has a degree in Biology and specialised in environmental science modules. She has also had a number of volunteering roles over the years including at the Natural History Museum in London, at Citizens Advice and with her local Wildlife Trust.



JONATHAN NEWMAN

JONATHAN NEWMAN is the senior policy advisor for the Environment Agency chemicals strategic planning team, and has responsibility for pesticides, biocides and veterinary medicines environmental management strategy. Before joining the EA in 2018 Jonathan worked at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology on aquatic weed control, innovative weed management techniques, invasive weed biology and systematic evidence reviews on natural capital interventions.



ADRIAN DIXON

ADRIAN DIXON works in the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Division, and currently leads one of the pesticides operational policy teams. He has worked on pesticides since 2005 and before this had a variety of roles including agricultural commodity policy and CAP scheme management. He was involved in the EU discussions which developed the EU Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides and the subsequent development of the first UK National Action Plan. More recently he has worked with Defra and administrations on delivering EU exit requirements for pesticides. His team covers a wide range of activities related to implementation of the retained EU pesticides legislation (particularly on marketing and use, sustainable use, and residues). A key part of activities in the team is working with stakeholder groups such as the Amenity Forum on the sustainable use of pesticides.



HUI CHEN

HUI CHEN (AKA Eric) is a Research Scientist at STRI Group. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA. His research was aiming at increasing the use of low-maintenance grass species to reduce inputs of water, fertiliser, mowing, and pesticides. He has been in his current role at STRI Group for over a year. STRI Group completes over 150 trials annually at STRI's extensive trials grounds in the UK, Australia, China and Qatar. This research includes management of pests, weeds, diseases and associated disorders, including integrated management programmes (IPM); product testing, such as plant protection products, fertilisers and wetting agents; turf maintenance machinery and application technology; surface performance and playability of all sports surfaces.



RICHARD STOW

RICHARD STOW is the Managing Director of Weedfree Limited. From an agricultural background Richard gained his pesticide application certification back in 1990 to qualify for a middle year work placement while studying at Sparsholt Agricultural College, Winchester. A few years later, answering an advert for spray operators in Farmers Weekly, Richard started his career at Weedfree Limited as an operator spraying streets and pavements. In 2008 Richard became a member of the BASIS Professional Register after passing the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity). Streets and pavements soon turned into trees and railways as the business diversified and grew. Over the 25 years working at Weedfree Limited Richard has turned his hand to each and every aspect of this successful business. Nowadays, when not working, Richard enjoys his family and the outdoors from his West Yorkshire home.



HENRY BECHELET

HENRY BECHELET has been in the Turfgrass industry for over 30 years now. He originally trained to become an agricultural agronomist but quickly switched to turfgrass agronomy when he joined the STRI as a trainee turfgrass agronomist in 1991. Since then Henry has remained a turfgrass specialist and spent roughly half his career on the commercial side of the industry and half as an independent agronomist. Henry has been in his current role as Technical Manager for ICL Turf and Landscape for 8 years and he continues to promote best practice and developing effective Integrated turf Management strategies.



DAVID FISHER

DAVID FISHER is Lantra's Head of Industry Partnerships overseeing the development and implementation of training and qualifications in Landscaping and Agriculture. Having worked at Lantra for 7 years, David's role has included achieving CRD recognition of Lantra's Pesticides qualification suite and working closely with large companies and trade associations to ensure suitable operator training and CPD exists. As an active member of the Amenity Forum and industry steering groups, David continues to liaise with HSE departments on important issues including minimising chemical usage, IPM and reducing work-based injuries through recognised operator training.



CHRIS JONES

CHRIS JONES After completing school and several years at college, university and traveling around the world I settled into a career as a Lecturer of Agriculture teaching to further and higher educational students. I spent 26 years working at 3 colleges/universities gradually working my way up the structural ladder becoming a senior member of management with responsibilities of 3 campuses and head of Land-based and Engineering faculties. Bringing the teaching experience alive through vocational and applied learning methodologies was my ambition and legacy to front line education. I have now brought my knowledge and experience to industry engagement and qualification development by working for City and Guilds as their Industry Manager for Land-based Services.



GREG HOPKINSON

GREG HOPKINSON is Head of Business Development at BASIS, an independent organisation committed to raising professional standards across all areas of land management by supporting people and businesses through industry leading qualifications, professional registers and auditing schemes. Greg's role at BASIS is focussed on the development and implementation of new projects and services which aim to continue to raise professional standards for anyone working within the amenity sector. BASIS currently supports the amenity sector through accredited qualifications such as the Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity Horticulture), a Professional Register for amenity operators and advisers, and finally independent auditing schemes such as Amenity Assured and Lawn Assured. Before taking on his role at BASIS in 2020 Greg spent 5 years working as an arable agronomist based in Derbyshire.



TONY LEACH

TONY LEACH has worked as a horticulturist and landscape architect in four London Boroughs and as a freelance business development consultant in the environmental charity sector. He is currently CE of the charity Parks for London, working with owners, designers, managers and users of London's publicly accessible green space. He has overseen a range of projects including Good Parks for London annual report, and the Health Parks Toolkit to raise the profile of parks and the good practices that takes place in them. The charity has collaborated with the Amenity Forum to develop guidance for integrated weed management.

<https://parksforlondon.org.uk/resource/integrated-weed-management-guidance/>



PETER CORBETT

PETER CORBETT is an Environmental Scientist by training and has spent many years in the crop protection sector, both with international companies and distributors. For the past 10 years Peter has specialised in the Amenity sector with Rigby Taylor as Business Development Manager putting together IPM programmes for a range of Amenity situations. He is passionate that end users require complete solutions to problems and that the days of "magic in a bottle" have long gone. Sustainability moving forward is critical for our sector. The trade needs to work together to use all tools available to help manage areas for the purpose intended. The Industry must support their claims with real science and also take time to train the end users and the general public on how to get the best from the solutions being provided.



KARL McDERMOTT

KARL McDERMOTT is currently Head Groundsman of the MCC at Lords. Karl hails from Dublin, Ireland where his career in groundsmanhip begun. He started working part time at Clontarf CC at 14 as a summer job. At the age of 20 he took on the role as head groundsman whilst also gaining experience working the winters overseas in South Africa and Australia. A career highlight at Clontarf was hosting the West Indies vs Bangladesh in the 1999 Cricket World Cup. Karl moved to the UK in 2008 joining Worcestershire CCC. In 2009 he became the deputy head groundsman at the Ageas Bowl where he took over from Nigel Gray as head groundsman in 2016. He succeeded Mick Hunt in late 2018 who retired after 49 years of work at the Home of Cricket.





BAYER is a global leader in providing innovative solutions to pest, weed and plant disease problems where we live, work and play. The turf and amenity team at Bayer offers a comprehensive and innovative range of products for greenkeepers, groundsman and other professionals in the turf and amenity industry. The company's product portfolio consists of turf fungicides and a range of important industry herbicides. Key brands include Valdor Flex®, Roundup®, Ecoplug Max®, Harmonix Tri-Nema® and Exteris Stressgard® "We create solutions to help foster healthy environments - Your success, our science"



COMPLETE WEED CONTROL 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. Greentech stocks over 16,000 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, Lawn care and Contractors, as well as many others.



HOZELOCK-EXEL for more than a century, Cooper Pegler and Berthoud professional knapsacks have proven the go-to sprayers in sport and amenity. Developed and supplied under the Hozelock-Exel umbrella, they are robust, reliable, and ergonomically engineered for optimum comfort. Featuring diaphragm technology to deliver heightened efficiency, with pH specific seals and nozzles suiting every application, the knapsacks offer matchless flexibility, extended still further with a variety of accessories such as telescopic lances. Hozelock-Exel is part of Exel Industries, a world leader in precision spraying for plant protection.



Harper Adams University

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY is proud to be the premier land-based education provider in the UK working with all sectors of agriculture, utilities, amenities & construction. As well as our Under-graduate, Post Graduate course, we also offer a wide range of both practical skills & classroom based short courses that run throughout the year at our fully equipped campus based in the beautiful Shropshire countryside or at your own premises nationwide. Harper Adams has the added benefit of being a University with a renowned national & international reputation, a assessment Centre for Lantra Awards, NPTC City & Guilds and BASIS and has a State of the art modern facilities & equipment.



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 form 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 40 years. Urban – Highways – Industrial – Sportsturf – Invasives – Trees. 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 and alternatives, Health & Safety, Mowers, Brushcutters, Trimmers and Hand Held landscaping tools.



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 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 is the market-leading manufacturer of high-quality, robust and easy-to-use weed control, turf care and winter maintenance equipment for professionals - as well as chemical and fuel storage cabinets. Brands include: RIVERLYNX (CDA lance weed control systems with Ecomark carrier); STARGREEN (specialist turf care equipment including amenity sprayers and top dressers); and the core VALE Engineering brand with weed spraying ATVs using Yamaha quad bikes as well as salt spreaders, liquid de-icers and snow ploughs for footpaths, cycleways, car parks and highways. All VALE Engineering designs are manufactured by the company in Yorkshire.



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.



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 now offers a wide range of examinations and recognised qualifications, including a number in the amenity sector covering pesticides, fertiliser and spray application. BASIS also operates annual audit schemes for professional pesticide stores and related stewardship schemes, manages professional registers for qualified amenity advisers, and operates the Amenity Assured and Lawn Assured standards." <https://www.basis-reg.co.uk/>



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.



HORTECH LIMITED is a leading Commercial Grounds and Environmental Services company that has been thriving for over 30 years successfully in the utility, industrial, amenity, and private sectors. We have national coverage operating through our regional offices and depots and employ a fully qualified workforce and in-house industry experts. We deliver cost effective contracts with our objective to exceed client expectation and deliver contracts safely with a full commitment to the safe and sustainable use of herbicides. Hortech are leading the direction for the future of commercial grounds and environmental services by safeguarding and enhancing our client's ecological environment by embracing new technologies, protecting chemical application, and employing our own innovated initiatives. @HortechLimited



The Amenity Forum is 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 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 to control pests, weeds and diseases
- 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

For further information about the Forum, contact
admin@amenityforum.net



AmenityForumUK



@AmenityForum



www.amenityforum.net



www.getbritainmoving.uk



www.theamenitystandard.co.uk