

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

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ISSUE 112

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Adding more bacteria to an environment to make it clean just doesn't sound right, or does it?



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Parakeets: Bird species to watch.

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Pest Control News Limited,
PO Box 2, Ossett,
West Yorkshire WF5 9NA.

tel: 01924 268400

e-mail:

editor@pestcontrolnews.com
technical@pestcontrolnews.com

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WITH A NEW VENUE ON THEIR HANDS THE NATIONAL PEST TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION (NPTA) SAW THE START OF SOMETHING NEW FOR THE PESTTECH EXHIBITION.

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2016 sees no increase in barn owl rodenticide residues

No significant changes have been detected in barn owl liver residues of rodenticide between 2016 and a seven-year baseline. This comes from independent analysis by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) of barn owl livers supplied from the Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme, a citizen science project.

As a widespread predator of small mammals in rural areas, the barn owl is the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime's sentinel species for rodenticide residues in non-target species. Overall, 78% of owls last year had detectable residues of one or more second generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR).

In both 2016 and the 2006-2012 baseline period, rodenticides detected most frequently were bromadiolone, difenacoum and brodifacoum. Except for a decline in low level residues of difenacoum, there was no significant change in almost all indicators used to assess exposure of barn owls to SGARs.

This CEH analysis is a core element of rodenticide stewardship monitoring procedures, according to Dr Alan Buckle, chairman of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use. CRRU is responsible to HSE for the stewardship regime's implementation.

"Bearing in mind that the regime only became effective mid-2016, it is early days yet," says Dr Buckle. "But clearly, it is also welcome that no surprise changes have been found by CEH, using exactly the same analytical methods in both periods." The full report is available to download at: www.pestcontrolnews.com.



Stewardship success depends on self-policing and consequences

A critical element of UK rodenticide stewardship is that it depends heavily on self-policing. Clearly, this places a responsibility on all rodenticide users in all sectors, without exception.

At PestTech, conversations with delegates all provided a clear picture of professional pest controllers taking their responsibilities universally seriously. In gamekeeping, more than 1,200 keepers have undertaken the *Rat Control for Gamekeepers* training course, created by CRRU and several of that sector's stakeholder bodies, and certified independently by BASIS.

And in farming, a number of assurance schemes have aligned their audit standards with stewardship conditions and the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice, and had this verified by CRRU. Right now, loose ends are being tied up with a couple more and a definitive list effective 1 January will be announced by imminently.

However, self-policing cannot rely alone on a responsible majority. It also requires consequences for non-compliance, and methods to identify them. As reported in a previous issue of PCN, suspected breaches of stewardship point-of-sale checks can be reported at bit.ly/2x27FCF (CRRU website). Pest controllers certainly have a part to play here.

At PestTech again, more than one technician was willing to share with me an anecdote about shameful rodent control practice. Separately from point-of-sale, suspected incidents of bad rodent control practice or rodenticide poisoning of non-target species should be reported directly to the HSE via bit.ly/2ycuVCP or the Wildlife Incident Investigation Service on 0800 321600.

Both these routes have consequences for proven cases. For point-of-sale breaches, rodenticide authorisation holders can require sellers to undertake re-training on all aspects of the rodenticide regime. Serious or repeated instances must be reported to Trading Standards and CRD Compliance, and withdrawal of supply from non-compliant outlets is also available.

For misuse or non-target poisoning, of course, PCN readers need no reminder that prosecution is a very real risk.





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Parakeets - Bird species to watch

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With many enquiries flying in regarding parakeet control it's clear that there is a new bird pest in town and we should consider them more closely.





Monk parakeet
Myiopsitta monachus

In 2010 Natural England made changes to English general licences for bird control that allowed authorised persons to control Ring-necked and Monk parakeets in England. At the time, this would have been a surprise to many including the public, most of us in the pest control industry would've never heard of or seen these new pest species. For most pest control companies, parakeets as new pests were simply not on the radar. However, for some the enquiries started flying in and the question of how exactly parakeets should be controlled soon followed.

Looking back, the amendment to the general licences was perfect timing.

Introduction of parakeets to England

The story starts back in 1855 where a colony was first documented in Norfolk, although it would appear the population did not survive. Move forward to 1951, when word was that during the filming of *'The African Queen'* (starring Dirk Bogart) at the Shepperton Studios in Middlesex, a number of parakeets were accidentally released. Or perhaps Jimi Hendrix was the man responsible by releasing a pair during his concerts in Carnaby Street London? Another theory is that the great storm of 1967 resulted in the release of parakeets. David Bowie released parakeets at his wedding in 1977 which may have contributed to boosting the population of these birds. Whatever the reason, in the 1970's they quickly became established, they are here and we must find a suitable way of dealing with them.

Known areas of parakeet activity

Parakeets are to be found mainly in the south-west suburbs of London and Surrey, as well as parts of the Medway towns in Kent. In addition, colonies have recently been recorded in Studland in Dorset, Birmingham, Stockport, Manchester, on the Scottish borders and Edinburgh. The parakeet population in London alone is estimated at around 50,000. It is anticipated that they will soon be found throughout the mainland.

Biology and identification

Originally native to India and Nepal, North Eastern & Central Africa, two parakeet species are now predominant in England. The Ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (also known as the Rose-ringed parakeet) and the Monk parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (also known as the Quaker parrot). The Ring-necked is more common than the Monk parakeet. Two further species, the Alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) and the Blue-crowned parakeet (*Aratinga acuticaudata*) have also established themselves in smaller pockets across England. This may be due to escapees from pet shops legally importing these birds.

The Ring-necked parakeet originates from the parrot family and is 38-42cm in length. They weigh around 120-160g with a distinctive green plumage and a long tail of about 25cm. The tail has blue streaked feathers on the top that run down the center and yellow feathers beneath. Their beaks are red and strong enough to peck through mesh and other building fabrics. They have a loud repetitive *Kee-ep* call which is best described as 'distinctive'. Recently, London's Hyde Park was labeled as, 'dawn in Delhi' due to the call of parakeets.

Ring-necked parakeet
Psittacula krameri



It is said that this bird can be compared to Marmite; 'You either love them or hate them!' It should be noted that only the males bear the red ring around their neck. Their persistent and disturbing calls are a reason for waking people morning or night!

Ring-necked parakeets, capable of building their own nests, will also choose the nesting sites of other bird species such as woodpeckers, starlings, stock dove and nuthatch. They are also happy to use the large nest boxes of the little and tawny owls, as well as using natural openings, including cavities found in private properties. Their described nesting behavior means they are competing with native birds for breeding sites.

They will occupy a nest site as early as January with breeding taking place up until June. The female will occupy the nest over this period producing between three - six eggs on average. They are capable of producing up to 12 eggs with six clutches per annum. Incubated by the female alone for up to 28 days the young are fed by both parents until they have fledged at around 8 weeks. The birds have an expected lifespan of up to 30 years.

Parakeets survive on fruit, nuts, grapes and flower buds as well as household scraps. A common visitor to bird tables in gardens, they also have the ability to decimate crops of grapevines, severely reducing the crop revenue in its process. Equally important for fruit growers is the fact that parakeets eat only part of the fruit which then renders the affected crop unsaleable. Their damage of crops is a reason why the birds are a problem. As a visitor to bird tables they can disturb and push out songbirds via competition.

The Monk parakeet originated from South America. It's slightly smaller and less common than the Ring-necked Parakeet. Monk parakeets were originally spotted in Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire in 1993 where they were likely escapees from a private collection. They are mainly seen in this area in Hertfordshire, but there have also been recent reports of nest activity in Southall, Middlesex and the Isle of Dogs in the east end of London.

Approximately 29cm in length, Monk parakeets weigh between 90-120g, they exhibit bright green plumage to the back and tail with flight feathers of blue to black. The face, chest and legs are grey. Similarly they have strong beaks of a yellow to brown colour.

Nesting sites are usually communal and contain multiple pairs. The nests are usually built high up, on telephone and electrical pylons, utilising thick twigs and sticks in their construction. Food preferences are similar as the Ring-necked parakeet and also include grass seed.

Impact of parakeets

Surrey-based company Cleankill are receiving regular enquiries for parakeets. They are primarily called out to investigate instances of the birds entering blocks of flats through flimsy plastic air-vent covers. Once inside, the damage the birds cause to plasterboard needs to be seen to be believed. Cleankill commented that they were called to a house in Broadstairs, Kent where Parakeets had found their way behind the soffit board and into the roof. They had nested and even started to chew the wiring, almost causing a major fire.

Yorkshire-based Clearwell Pest Control have removed a Monk parakeet nesting site from a telephone pylon. UK Bird Operations at Clearwell remarked that they planned to carry this out before the birds had started nesting to avoid a negative response from the public.

At one school in Hertfordshire the parakeet damage to one block was unrelenting. No matter how quickly the school blocked up the damaged holes, more appeared, becoming a game between man and bird! Similarly, the impact on the soft fruit industry is significant with damage occurring in the vineyards and orchards on the Surrey, Sussex & Kent borders.

Where once 5,000 bottles of fine English wine were produced, production dropped to only 500 thanks to the impact of parakeets. The arable farmer does not escape the impacts of parakeets either, with reports of damaged maize and other cereals, some crops being reduced by up to 80% and left unusable.

Parakeet control

It is advised that any control work on these species should be done with care and diplomacy, as like all bird species, they are loved by many. Their attractive appearance and novelty will invoke obstruction and comment which should be handled sensitively.

General licences

The current position regarding control is that it is only allowed in England where one should follow the rules laid down in the latest General Licences. One option is under WML - GL04, to kill or take certain species of wild birds to prevent serious damage or disease, applicable for both the Ring-necked and Monk parakeet. In the case of WML – GL05, to kill or take certain species of wild birds to preserve public health or public safety, only the Monk parakeet is listed.

Control options

Shooting these species would be difficult given the location they prefer to roost. However, there may be some merit, if it is safe to do so, in controlling the occasional bird that is damaging flora. The principle is that this sends a message through to the localized flock indicating the area is hostile to them. Trapping may prove difficult in regards to the safe siting of a trap. To date, using a corvid type trap has not proved to be effective.

More recently scaring systems such as the Agrilaser® Autonomic have been set up in vineyards to deal with parakeet activity. Setting the Agrilaser® at the highest point of the vines, at a downward angle along the rows, not only deters the activity but also does not affect aircraft nearby. The bird controllers particularly at both Heathrow and Gatwick airports will be kept busy by parakeets in efforts to prevent air strikes.

Proofing systems using netting to cover both fruits and crops have been used by farmers.

Other practical methods that have been employed include the cutting off the tops of a row of trees surrounding a school playing field. This had the effect of opening the canopy above to discourage roosting. Replacing plastic vents for metal ones has also deterred parakeet activity.

The future for parakeets

We have seen both the damage and food spoilage in the property and agricultural markets respectively that has already been inflicted by parakeet activity. If breeding continues at the current rate, some experts believe that in 20 years from now, we will be talking particularly about Ring-necked parakeets in the same breath as the feral pigeon and urban gull populations.

It may be useful to document any future activity throughout the country, to enable us to learn more about this new species. Pest Control News would welcome any comments on this emerging bird pest.



Examples of damage to buildings caused by parakeets



Ring-necked parakeet on a building



Parakeet damage to roof timbers



Royal Society for Public Health Level 3 Award in Pest Management

PCN spoke to Mark Butler of Killgerm Chemicals Ltd. to ask him about the Royal Society for Public Health Level 3 Award in Pest Management.

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What is it?

Quite simply, the RSPH level 3 is the 'gold standard' qualification for the professional pest controller. RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management is an externally accredited qualification from The Royal Society for Public Health

Who is it aimed at?

Level 3 is aimed at experienced pest control operators for whom Level 2 is now regarded only as a base qualification.

Why should I enrol?

Achieving this higher-level qualification will enable the forward-thinking pest controller to progress through the industry's qualification pathway, ensuring they can distinguish themselves from their less qualified competitors.

What are the benefits?

The wealth of working knowledge carried by a Level 3 qualified person will not only enable business

opportunities to be identified and capitalised upon but will also ensure work is completed safely, effectively and in a cost-effective manner.

Are there any hidden benefits?

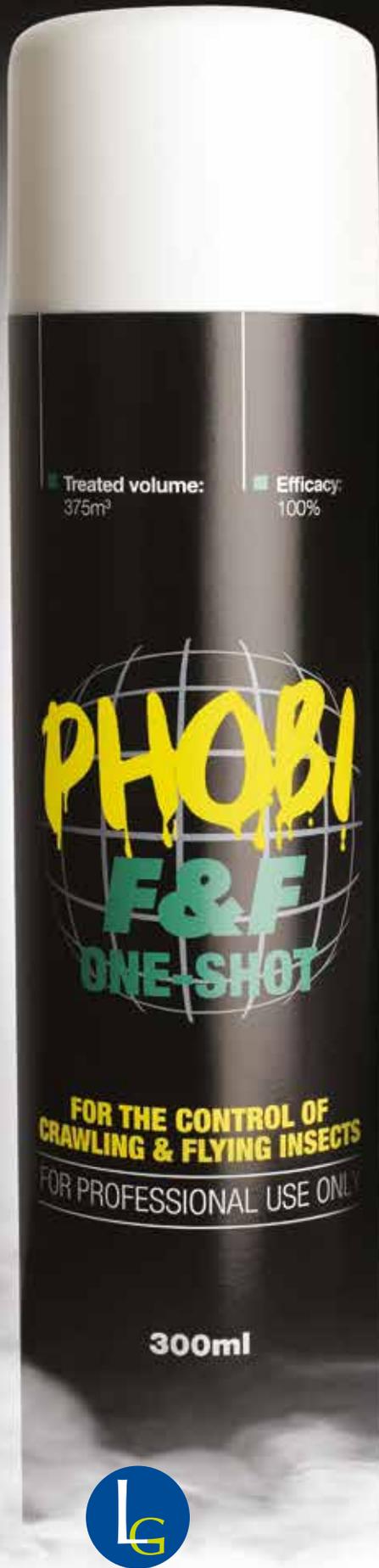
We think so. Candidates we have mentored through the previous incarnation of RSPH Level 3 all commented that not only had their knowledge been bolstered but that it enthused them along the way. All our previous candidates enjoyed the process.

What is the process?

Level 3 consists of a combination of a core mandatory exam along with the completion of 4 assignments. As a prerequisite, RSPH Level 2 or equivalent is required.

How long does it take?

We estimate that it will take between 3 – 6 months to complete although we think it could be completed significantly quicker in the right circumstances.



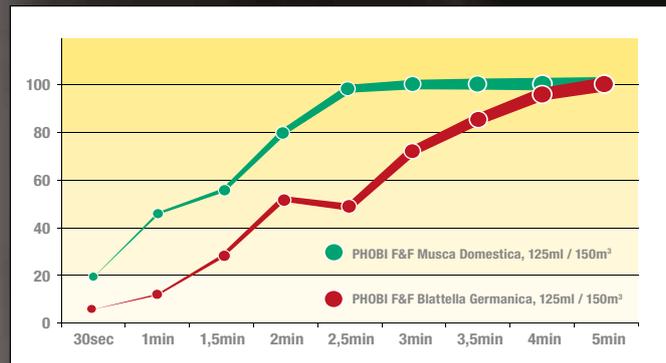
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2,5 min	98.3%	47.8%
3min	100%	71.1%
3,5min	100%	84.5%
4min	100%	95.6%
5min	100%	100%



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What is the Goodnature Trap?

The Goodnature Trap is a CO₂ powered, automatic, self-setting trap. The trap targets rats and stoats and is a pioneering automatic trap. It is small, easy to install and delivers a powerful impact that dispatches pests humanely and efficiently every time. The Goodnature A24 trap was founded on conservation, to protect native ground nesting birds in New Zealand.

When did you introduce the Goodnature Trap in to the UK?

We first introduced the Goodnature A24 rat trap in England in May 2016 for use against Rats and stoats.

What has its reception been like so far?

As with any new product, there has been a period of experimentation. The A24 is unlike any other trap available on the market; this has bought innovation as well as challenges. During this period, much of my time was spent on the road visiting customers, it became apparent that trap location was crucial to the success of the A24. 18 months in and we are receiving more and more positive feedback.

What kind of impact do you feel the Goodnature Trap will have on the UK pest control industry?

The A24 can be incorporated in to a wealth of pest management scenarios. The trap will afford pest controllers and operatives the ability to become more efficient on site. The real benefit of the Goodnature Trap is that it reduces the need for daily checks. A conventional break back trap when triggered becomes redundant after its first capture, the A24 has the ability to reset itself and continue to operate up to 24 times. With this in mind, I feel the pest technician can become more efficient through reduced daily checks, a decrease in fuel and travel time and the potential to serve a greater client base. With increased regulation of rodenticides proving a steep learning curve for some, many technicians and clients are turning to non-toxic alternatives. The A24 has proved very popular amongst individuals looking to control rodent infestations without the use of poisons.

Have you faced any obstacles so far entering the UK market?

The main issue we have had is through devolved governments. We are currently awaiting approval in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Our current information suggests this may be resolved in Spring/Summer.

Have you had to make any adaptation to the product for use in the UK?

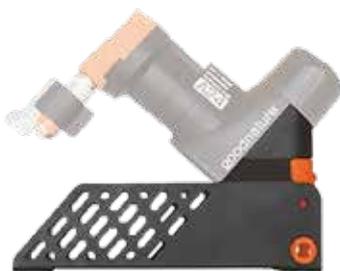
The A24 is constantly evolving with regards to operation, efficiency and safety. One of the key points raised suggested potential interaction from people and non-target species. As a result, a colleague from Killgerm Chemicals has helped us overcome this with the design and implementation of an extended tunnel. When placed correctly the A24 trap is safe around all wildlife and will benefit avian and ground predators that scavenge on the dispatched pests.

Have you had any success stories so far in the UK?

The most enjoyable part of my job is the increasing amount of positive feedback from Goodnature users. The traps are currently in use in various environments ranging from rural estates, commercial warehouses and residential properties. The most recent victory for the A24 came from an industrial, wholefood warehouse that had an established rodent infestation. I visited the site and installed an A24 Trap network that has resulted in a huge reduction in rats, damage and sightings.



“Counter Kit” with counter



Stand



Standard “Control Kit” without counter



Where in the world do you have a presence?

The Goodnature brand is sweeping the globe. Countries are using it not only for the control of pests, but the conservation of endangered species. There are current projects ongoing in Denmark, the Caribbean, Hawaii and New Zealand.

Is the trap used differently and for different reasons in the countries?

The success of Goodnature has come from the unique and reliable CO₂ driven design. Using this as a building block, there are several variations that are in use. These traps are being used for the control of rats and mice to mongoose and American mink to possums. Goodnature has conservation at its core and the traps are being used to drive this.

What's in store for the future of Goodnature UK?

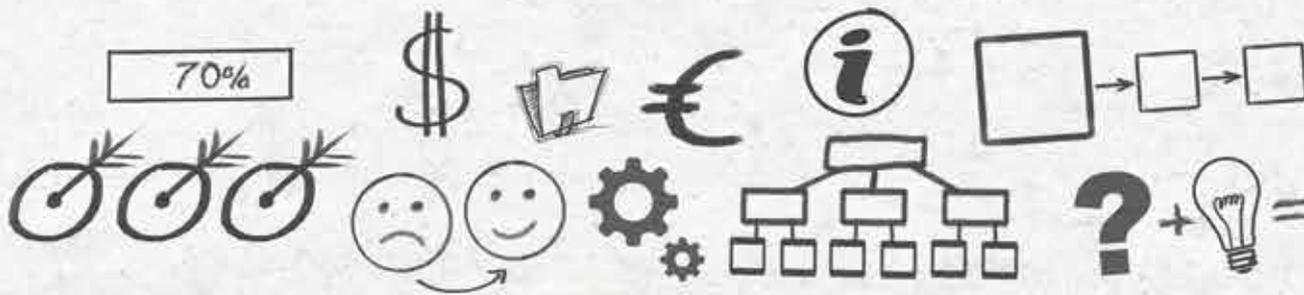
We are excited to confirm the release of the A18 Trap in June 2018. This will be an invaluable tool for the control of grey squirrels and the first line of defence for broad leaf woodland, songbirds and our native reds. We are also working on bringing the American mink trap to the UK market soon.

Next year we intend to establish more of a presence in the commercial/industrial market. With new products in the pipeline, watch this space!



Thank you to Vance Paines, General Manager of Goodnature Trap UK, for taking the time to talk to us.

Building a consistent brand for a professional pest control company



WHAT'S YOUR BRAND?



Brand consistency is an integral part of building any successful business. From global brands such as Apple, BMW and Sony to SMEs and sole traders' brand consistency is essential to driving recognition and awareness.

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Your brand is more than just your logo, it's your identity, unique selling point, values and so much more.

A consistent brand allows you to promote professionalism, establish your authenticity, provides a clear vehicle to deliver your message, builds trust and provides simplicity. But what are the key elements of ensuring consistency?

Define your guidelines

Brand guidelines for global companies can be chapter and verse of do's and don'ts. As tiresome as guidelines can be they are there for a reason, which is to maintain consistency.

The brand guidelines for any business is the gospel for the way that they want to present themselves to their publics. It establishes so many elements such as:

- **Brand mission:** values, vision, and purpose to define company strategy.
- **Value propositions and differentiators:** define your unique selling points and your service levels.
- **Voice and tone:** establish how you want your copy to be written.
- **Logo usage:** here you can communicate where on you want your logo positioned on literature, website and graphics.
- **Iconography:** The visuals and simples used to communicate.
- **Brand colours:** approving your colours ensures that all your branding collateral are alike.
- **Fonts and typography:** establishing approved fonts, sizes and colours will allow your publics to be able to instantly recognise you.
- **Print specifications and stock preferences:** this ensures that all printed document bearing your logo are all look and feel the same.
- **Photography and graphic styles:** a picture can paint 1,000 words. Make it clear in what images reflect your brand correctly.

For some companies, this can be a 100-page document, but for any SME this can be a simple document which establishes correct logo positioning, colour codes, fonts and typography.

Even though creating brand guidelines may seem like a tedious task. The long-term benefits are guaranteeing consistency in everything that carries your company logo and will be represented correctly.

Become the brand ambassador and protector

Once you've established your guidelines, yourself or an appointed person in your business needs to become the brand ambassador and protector. It's important for any business owner or marketer to be involved in every aspect of where the brand is presented to the customer to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to. Conducting annual audits of existing branded material is a positive step to ensure consistency across everything.

Promote professionalism

Over the past couple of years, the pest control industry has begun to be recognised for its levels of professionalism and competency. But as a business owner how can you ride on the back of this?

Well one effortless way to establish your brand is in your literature and paperwork. Love it or loathe it, we work in an industry which relies on paperwork. So why not take advantage of this and make sure that your logo, brand colours and message is clearly and correctly integrated into all of your paper work design.

Another way to establish professionalism is aligning yourself with other reputable brands of the industry. For example, CRRU, PMA, NPTA, Basis Prompt or BPCA. Many PCO's already display these logos on their vans and livery but another way would be to utilise these logos on your website, share posts on social media and promote them whenever you can.

Your brand is also the people who work for you

Your brand is more than just your paperwork, logo or website, it even boils down to your frontline and administration staff. From the first point of contact with your customer to the very last one, by creating an elevated level of customer service which reflects the values of your brand, increases the likelihood that they will reuse your services in the future, or even recommend you to their family and friends.

Putting in the ground work now by building and managing guidelines for your brands will pay dividends in the future, but the key takeaway is to remember that this is a constant task that needs to be managed.

Build it and your company will stand out from competitors, build trust and present a memorable experience for everyone who comes in to contact with your business.



Indian House Crow

Corvus splendens

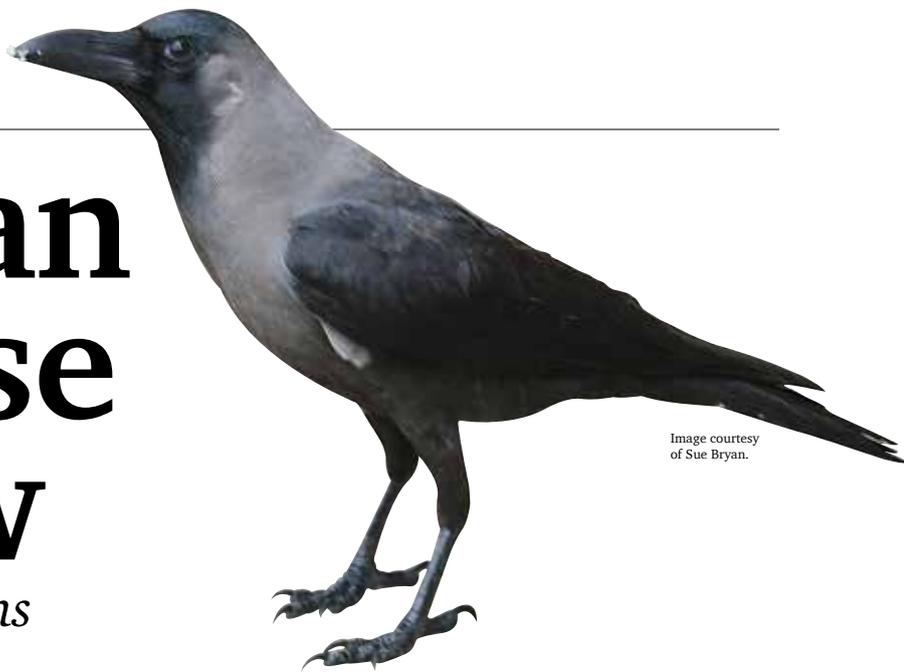


Image courtesy of Sue Bryan.

Species Description

Scientific name: *Corvus splendens*

AKA: Indian House Crow, Brân-y-tai Indiaidd (Welsh)

Native to: Indian subcontinent

Habitat: Generally confined to man-made habitats and conurbations

Appearance:

Tall and slim appearance.

A medium-sized, slender crow, with long legs, large bill and grey neck and breast. Males and females have the same plumage.

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To date, the species is unrecorded in the UK, though there is one record from Ireland. However, a self-sustaining population exists around the docks in Hoek van Holland, the Netherlands. The spread of the house crow is ship-assisted (hitches a ride on passing ships) world-wide and most new sightings are from ports or coastal regions. A port is the most likely place for the species to arrive in the UK.

The house crow is considered a pest species in its naturalised range. As a versatile species, it feeds on discarded food, crops, small native birds and their chicks and invertebrates. In its native range, it has been noted as an agricultural pest, destroying fruit, wheat, grapes and maize crops. It also aggressively competes with native birds.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

Field Signs

The following field signs are shared by many species of the crow family and cannot be used for the purpose of specific identification as house crow.

- Call - Similar to carrion crow: 'kwar kwar'.
- Nest - Untidy mess of both natural and man-made items, positioned in either trees or man-made structures. Always close to human habitations.
- Eggs - 3-5 in clutch, very variable in shape and colour with egg laying generally from mid-April to late-May, with the breeding season extending to July in its native range.

Distribution

The House crow is not yet found in the UK.

Key ID Features

Indian house crow (*Corvus splendens*):

- Not yet found in the UK
- Large bill
- Long legs
- Tall and slim appearance
- Black throat and head
- Grey neck and breast
- Black wings and back
- Body length 41 – 43cm

Similar species

House crow is likely to be confused with a number of native crow species.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*):

- Native resident in England, Wales and parts of Scotland
- Smaller bill
- Shorter legs
- Completely black plumage
- Body length 45 – 47cm



Carrion Crow by Steve Wilde

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

- Native resident in the UK
- Bare patch at base of bill
- Shorter legs and shaggy looking plumage
- Glossy iridescent plumage
- Stockier looking than house crow
- Body length 44 – 46cm

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

- Native resident in the UK
- Smaller bill
- Considerably smaller than other species
- Completely black plumage but with grey sheen to back of head and neck
- Body length 33 – 34cm

Hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*)

- Native resident in Scotland
- Smaller bill
- Shorter legs
- Pale grey neck, breast and belly. Clearly demarcated
- Body length 45 – 47cm

The Badger

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A As UK government websites have been re-organised, a number of useful Natural England advice leaflets have been withdrawn or archived, presumably with no plans to be updated any time soon.

Going by their formal title of 'Natural England Technical Information Notes', these advisory notes contain practical and sensible advice. In this edition of 'know your friend', Pest Control News consults their collection of these notes, to share information about the significance of badgers and how badger problems may be dealt with.

Great Britain supports some of the highest densities of badgers *Meles meles* in Europe. Badger numbers have increased, especially in urban areas, and they can sometimes cause problems. These can range from damage to gardens, property and amenity areas, to problems with serious implications for human safety such as the undermining of roads and railways. In urban situations, where a number of adjoining properties may be affected, solving a badger problem may require discussion and co-operation between neighbours.

Badgers and legislation

Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett. Interference with a sett includes blocking tunnels or damaging the sett in any way. There is, however, a provision within the legislation that allows action to be taken – under a licence from Natural England – to prevent serious damage to property. In some cases it may be possible for Natural England to suggest solutions that do not need licensed action.

Damage to lawns

Badgers are an adaptable species and are good at exploiting the range of foods available in urban areas – not least the food put out specifically for them by some householders. However, badgers also eat invertebrates and may dig shallow pits in lawns when foraging for them. This is often what brings badgers into conflict with householders. Earthworms are mostly taken from the surface of the ground but, during dry conditions when earthworms stay underground, damage to the turf can occur. The presence of turf-dwelling insect larvae such as those of cockchafer and crane-fly may also attract rooting badgers. This kind of damage is usually short-lived and likely to be most pronounced in late autumn and early spring. Additional problems can be experienced when badger latrines (dung pits), which are used to mark the boundaries of territories, are sited in gardens.

Raiding of dustbins

Badgers will often over-turn dustbins in their search for food, especially during hot, dry summers when other sources of food may be limited.

Damage to structures

Badger setts can be large, with extensive tunnel systems. When excavated beneath structures such as buildings, roads or fences, there may be a risk of subsidence. There is also potential for damage to electrical cabling and other services. Advice should be sought from Natural England at an early stage if badger activity appears to be causing damage to a structure. In cases where serious damage is being or is likely to be caused, actions that affect the sett may be allowed under a licence from Natural England. Interference with a sett without such a licence is illegal.

Prevention of damage

Some problems caused by badgers can be solved relatively easily. For instance, bins which are regularly overturned can be fitted with a clip-on lid or expanding 'bungie' straps which secure the lid. With regards to badger latrines, one solution is to dig up the pit then bury or place the dung somewhere it is less likely to cause problems. Reducing damage to lawns and crops can be very difficult. The costs of preventing the damage can sometimes outweigh the benefits; in fact, some gardeners tolerate it as it can be largely seasonal, occurring for limited periods of the year. There are steps which can be taken to alleviate the damage, including the installation of fencing.

Fencing

Either strong metal (chain link or welded mesh) or electric fencing can be used to prevent badgers gaining access to an area.

Permanent fencing Heavy duty chain-link fencing is used because of its strength; chicken wire is usually inadequate.

Electric fencing A simpler and cheaper alternative is electric fencing. Advice on the most appropriate type of fence can be obtained from agricultural suppliers.

Alternative remedies

As already mentioned, damage to lawns is sometimes caused by badgers attracted by the presence of invertebrate turf pests. Removal of these pests using a pesticide approved for the purpose may alleviate the problem; however, the effects on other invertebrates (and those species which feed on them) should be considered. An alternative solution may be to lay wire netting beneath the soil to prevent badgers digging for grubs or flower bulbs.

Badger damage to garden fences can be minimised by incorporating two-way gates into the fence.



Know your friend

Licensing

Where serious damage is, or is likely to be, caused by badgers or their setts, there is provision within the legislation for action to be taken under licence. It should be noted that garden damage due to foraging alone is not normally considered sufficiently serious to warrant the issue of a licence. Where a licence is issued to prevent serious damage to property, such as damage caused by sett building, the cost of carrying out any remedial action is borne by the licensee.

Further information

In England, further advice on dealing with badger problems and licensing can be obtained by contacting:

Wildlife Licensing

Natural England
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH

Email wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk
Telephone 020 802 61089



Urban eco-roofs / green roofs, the next challenge in pest management

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In a series of new 'science sense' articles PCN examines the latest research in the scientific literature and provides a common-sense summary to readers. The aim is for key scientific findings to be communicated exactly where it matters – to pest management professionals. Too often the bridge between researchers and practitioners isn't made, but not anymore...



W

What is an eco-roof / green roof?

In basic terms, a green roof is where vegetation is present on the roof of a building. There is of course more to it than

that! Green roofs are often comprised of *Sedum* matting as an example. The main purpose of a green roof is to offer wildlife a sanctuary in an otherwise industrialised urban area. Of course, unwanted pest species can inhabit the same areas.

The potential for using building roofs to create a green space is huge. For example, 'In London, for instance, 26,000 hectares of available roof space could be greened with little effort, and this would create 28 times the green space of Great Richmond Park (Grant, Engleback & Nicholson, 2003)' as described by Kadas in 2006.

For the more green-fingered readers, here is a more detailed definition of a green roof, taken from Kadas, 2006: *The term 'green roof' describes both intensive, ornamental roof gardens and extensive roofs with more naturalistic plantings or self-established vegetation. Intensive green roofs are like parks and gardens at roof level and require deep soil and regular maintenance. Extensive roofs have more naturalistic plantings and shallower natural substrates and are either sown with (local) wildflower mixes or Sedum matting or left to colonize naturally. Extensive green roofs require little or no maintenance and are relatively inexpensive to establish.*



What kind of insects are found on a green roof?

Well, there can be some differences between species found on a green roof and those at ground level but perhaps not as much as one would expect. One study (MacIvor & Lundholm, 2011) reported that of 361 insect species sampled from various sites, 189 were located at both green roof and ground level, with 90 exclusively at ground-level and 65 unique to green roofs. In terms of the numbers of species found on green roofs; wasps, ants and bees, flies and beetles dominated.

The same study found that the most notable difference was that almost twice as many leafhoppers (Heteroptera: Cicadellidae) were found on green roofs than at ground-level. OK, so leafhoppers are not exactly houseflies and cockroaches when it comes to threats to public health but they can cause nuisance and contaminate food. Furthermore, an unsuspecting pest controller may not expect the source to be the roof.

The MacIvor & Lundholm study in 2011 concluded that although there were some differences there was no *significant* difference in insect diversity and abundance at ground level vs roof-level green habitats.

A study on green roofs in France found that the second most abundant beetle was the now familiar invasive species *Harmonia axyridis* the Harlequin ladybird (Madre *et al.*, 2013). A familiar pest species, *Lasius niger* a.k.a. the black / common garden ant, was the most abundant species on green roofs, representing 27.49% of all insects sampled, being found on 32 out of 115 roofs.

A well-known technical advisory service and provider of insect ID services has reported springtail (Collembola), 'beetle mite' (Oribatidae) and snout-nosed mite (Bdellidae) activity associated with green roofs in the UK. Springtail activity is unsurprising as they are soil-dwelling and it is estimated that numbers can reach up to 2 million per cubic metre of soil. If you put soil on a roof it is therefore reasonable to expect springtails which could then invade the living space below via vents and other openings, resulting in irritation of inhabitants by these casual intruders.

Of course, there is a balance to strike here – green roofs provide a habitat for many beneficial invertebrates, adding to the biodiversity of the urban environment. However, pest management

professionals need to be aware of this up-and-coming area of development and potential source for pest insect activity that is the green roof environment. A further point to make is that pest management professionals should seek accurate insect identification as many insect species associated with green roofs will be beneficial.

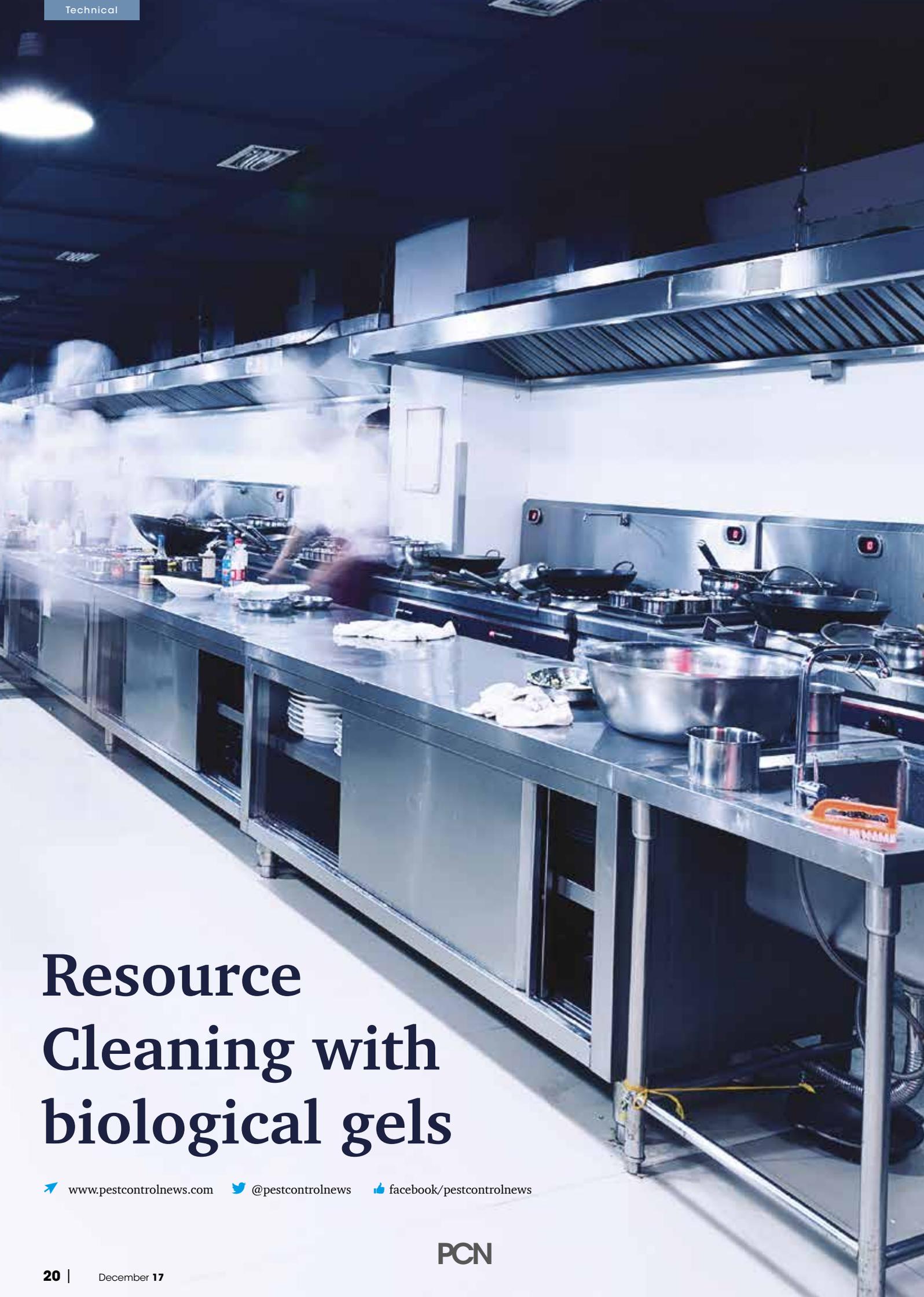
Experiences of green roof pests from the US

In 2014, academic and industry experts attending the National Conference on Urban Entomology in San Antonio, Texas were lucky enough to attend a session on pest management in the green roof environment. This session was moderated by Allison Taisey, board certified entomologist and program coordinator at the Northeastern IPM Center. The researchers expect crane flies, overwintering insects and vegetable garden pests to be associated with green roofs, as well as rats, mosquitoes, ants and pigeons. Another important point raised was to check the pesticide label when considering using products to control insects associated with a green roof. In the UK, non-agricultural pesticides / biocides are different to those approved / authorised for amenity / horticulture environments.

US pest control companies are reporting rodents on green roofs (damaging plantings), wasps and hornets (attracted by flowers and water features) and plenty of ant activity due to attraction of honeydew from plant-feeding aphids.

What does a pest controller need to bear in mind when controlling pests associated with green roofs?

Some simple recommendations are to make sure that gaps around doors, pipes, fixtures are sealed and that most importantly missing vent screens are replaced. It is also recommended that heavy mulch cover on planters and ivy overgrowth is reduced. Leaking taps, air conditioning and irrigation systems should be fixed to prevent unnecessary sources of moisture accumulating. Monitoring and inspecting for pest species is still as important as ever. Finally, accurate identification of arthropod samples should be undertaken by an entomologist so the pest management professional knows exactly what is being dealt with – it is just as important to control pests as it is to leave beneficial species alone.



Resource Cleaning with biological gels

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A Adding more bacteria to an environment to make it clean just doesn't sound right, or does it? Dr Stuart Mitchell explains that this is exactly what is needed and why such an innovative approach, using 'biological gels', is proving extremely effective in the US especially when used in drains.

Dr Mitchell likes to use the term 'resource cleaning' when describing the principles of an effective cleaning programme. Resource cleaning is to make a surface free of mess, marks, soil, or organic build-up by act of brushing, wiping, washing, or mopping with cleaners, sanitizers, or sterilants. Ongoing resource cleaning can be accomplished by application of biological gels in a microbiological cleaning programme.

What are biological gels?

The US arm of PestWest has co-developed a proprietary and beneficial bacteria-based formulation. This formulation consumes undesirable organic matter and is central to 'resource cleaning'.

As a result of fat, protein, and carbohydrate build-ups within drainage systems, unpleasant odours emanate and customer complaints emerge. As temperatures decline deep within the drain systems, deposits of organic matter accumulate. Biological gels function by removing the build-up of organic matter within drain systems as well as numerous other areas of accumulation.

How does the technology work?

Bacteria within biological gels secrete enzymes and organic breakdown begins. Selective cell membranes of the bacteria absorb organics into the cell where they are metabolised. Metabolic products that remain are simply carbon dioxide and water which are easily washed down the drainage system.

Through binary fission ("division in half"), the bacteria cells in the gel divide and double in number approximately every 20 minutes. These cells begin the process of consuming accumulations of organic materials.

Areas of use

Resource cleaning is quite effective versus stubborn environmental organics in almost every conceivable scenario. More still needs to be discovered regarding how microorganisms interact with various moist environments. As understanding increases, so does the applicability and efficiency of resource cleaning. For example, biological gels are an additional and helpful resource cleaning material for cruise ships that have their own on-board septic vaults. Starting within passenger cabins and common areas (bars, galleys, and toilets), Bacteria in biological gels colonise the entire system, aiding free flow of fluid and odour reduction. Further areas of use include restaurants, hospitals, cafes, bars, supermarkets, universities, schools, offices.

Biological gels inoculate challenging micro-spaces as a function of something called centipoise. In short, it really gets right into cracks and crevices, exactly where it should be.



'Sheer-cling'

Biological gels are a multi-purpose resource cleaner that provide a fresh scent. An interesting feature of biological gels is their superior 'sheer-cling enablers'. The 'sheer-cling' formulation enables some biological gels to stick to surfaces (especially porous surfaces). For example, drains, toilets, holding tanks, grease traps, and septic systems are more efficiently cleaned when the formulation sticks to surfaces. The formulation also binds to mops, broom-heads, and grout. Additionally, it keeps mop heads smelling fresh, flows to the drains and consumes greases, fats, and oils.

One pitfall when using biological gels could be the risk of them being rendered ineffective by the action of bleach and ammonia in drainage systems. However, the bacteria used are capable of withstanding such chemicals. Just to be clear, the bacteria used are non-pathogenic and present no infection risk. Furthermore, the formulation is non-caustic, non-corrosive and biodegradable.

The science bit!

Biological gels inoculate challenging micro-spaces as a function of something called centipoise. In short, it really gets right into cracks and crevices, exactly where it should be. Centipoise is the amount of force necessary to move a layer of liquid in relation to another liquid. Water at 21°C is about one centipoise. When determining centipoise, all other fluids are calibrated to the viscosity (thickness or internal friction) of water. Blood has a viscosity of 10 centipoise, honey a viscosity of 2000 centipoise, and lard 100,000. A quality biological gel should have a viscosity of 880 centipoise, which really allows it to get to the right places in moist environments of application.



Application techniques

In-line

Automatic In-line Injection systems dispense reliably for drains, grease traps, elevator pits, sumps, etc., being particularly ideal for restaurants, hospitals, cafes, bars, supermarkets, universities, schools, offices and more.

Spraying / pouring

Specifically, the formulation can be applied (spraying / pouring) as follows to:

- Floor tile surfaces (missing, broken and cracked grout and tiles)
- Skirting from floor to wall junction surfaces
- Beverage supply line housings through counter top and underneath floor
- Beer tap and soft drink tap drain trays, supply line tube exteriors, and drain line covers

Mopping

- Apply to floor surfaces via daily maintenance scheduled mopping
- Reduces oily deposits on floor surfaces to limit chance of slips and falls
- Pour used dilution down various drains to supplement drain cleaning
- Bins

Foaming

Can be foamed:

- Floor level surfaces under food service lines (equipment wheels, caution near electrics)
- Drain line drip pipes above floor drains
- Skirting along perimeter areas
- Wall surfaces behind food service lines
- Slop sinks surfaces and drains
- Floor drains (including covers, interior baskets, vaults and interior line circumference)

Tips for best use of biological gels

- Read product directions before use
- For best results, apply daily over 2 weeks, and then weekly maintenance
- Clean floor, sink, and beverage drains with colour-coded brushes before applications

Scan the QR code below for more content-rich information



Goliath® Gel

The fastest and most cost-effective cockroach treatment.



- Fast, reliable action for immediate results
- Cascade effect for complete control
- Low dose rates for value and safety
- Precision application for speed and accuracy

Enabling the most effective solutions to your pest problems.

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PX VIRIBUS™

- Biologically enhanced cleaning formula to naturally remove organic debris.
- Synergised bacterial blend to effectively remove organic build-ups, such as greases, fats, oils, carbohydrates and proteins.
- Thickened formulation specifically designed for optimum surface cling.
- Improves drain flow and safe for all drain lines.
- Reduces foul odours in drains.
- Areas of use: drains, toilets, holding tanks, grease traps, septic tanks, and many others.
- Fresh citrus scent.

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GOODNATURE STAND

New Goodnature A24 trap Stand gives you flexibility to target a greater range of areas and the ability to fine tune your network by being able to shift your trap easily.

Another benefit when using the Trap Stand is that you don't need to de-gas and de-pressurise your A24s when moving them.

It has two peg holes to keep it stable when set on sloping ground, and view holes to help see carcasses of humanely dispatched rodents.

www.goodnaturetraps.co.uk



AF® TROLLEY

- The AF Trolley is a convenient fold flat trolley with a load capacity of 25kg, telescopic handle and smooth rolling rubber tyres.
- Ideal for carrying equipment like sprayers, large quantities of bait boxes, bird proofing materials to and from your area of work.
- The AF Trolley can be unfolded in seconds, two plastic bars which are seated within the base of the cart for easy storage, simply clip on to the top of the sidebars to ensure that the structure remains sturdy and rigid when in use.
- When not in use it folds back down to a compact, easy to store size.
- Closed, the AF Trolley measures only 335mm x 385mm x 80mm. When open it measures 335mm x 385mm x 300mm.

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KC86 TRAP MOUNTING BRACKET

- The KC86 Squirrel Bracket is a great time saving device and a safer way to place squirrel traps out of reach.
- The bracket can be fixed to posts, trees and walls by using straps or screws. Allowing traps to be fitted and removed at heights of up to 3.5m from ground level. Removing the bracket and daily checking requires the use of ladders.
- Made from 1.5mm galvanised steel and stainless-steel springs the bracket will only need minimal yearly maintenance.
- The bracket has initially been designed for use with the Kania 2000 Trap.

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KC87 TRAP LOCATING PADDLE

- The KC87 Squirrel Trap Paddle is an extendable paddle used to place and retrieve traps onto the KC86 Squirrel Bracket.
- The Paddle extends from 1.5m to 2.1m. The offset paddle makes it easy to locate and fix the trap to the bracket.
- Made from lightweight aluminium with a non slip rubber handle the paddle is light and very easy to use.
- The paddle has initially been designed for use with the Kania 2000 Trap.

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PARAFFIN OIL

- Paraffin Oil is used for egg control of breeding pest bird species such as Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Greater Black-backed Gull and Canada Goose, dependent on the country you are operating in.
- You must check the conditions and species listed in the general licence for your country before considering this as a control method.
- Dipping each egg in a pot of the oil will block the pores on the egg, stopping oxygen from reaching the embryo and thus prevent hatching.

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New Products

Reminder to use-up rodenticides not labelled as 'toxic to reproduction'

Please note that anticoagulant rodenticides are being reclassified as 'toxic to reproduction' if the concentration of active substance is at or above 0.003%. Manufacturers must re-label such products in line with the reclassification by 1st March 2018. Regarding relevant rodenticides stored by users that haven't been re-labelled, a 180-day use-up period applies, there is a need for them to be used-up or disposed of by the end of August 2018.

Of course, some newly authorised rodenticides already feature the relevant hazard reclassification information and nothing further needs to be done. Please note that some professional-use anticoagulant rodenticide products are already below the 0.003% threshold, with a concentration of 0.0025%, so again nothing further needs to be done.

Card scheme helps pros stand out from the crowd

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Pest controllers are being urged to make the most of an initiative which helps them stand out from the crowd.

Members of the BASIS PROMPT register are provided with a special identity card which acts as proof of their professional credentials.

Chief executive Stephen Jacob believes it can help them stay one step ahead of a growing number of unqualified traders.

He said: "The pest control industry is awash with people who are not true specialists in the field.

"Many charge big prices for jobs that are often left half-finished and that can create problems for the industry as a whole.

"As members will be well aware, everyone linked to the BASIS PROMPT register must be fully qualified and must stay up to date with the latest products and techniques.

"So the identity card issued to those who join is effectively the mark of a true professional.

"It provides an assurance to customers that PROMPT pest controllers are exactly who they say they are and will do an expert job at a fair price."

Mr Jacob says the easily recognisable card should be carried at all times.

He added: "We are trying to educate the public to look out for the card by pushing the message that it can only be carried by a reputable tradesman.

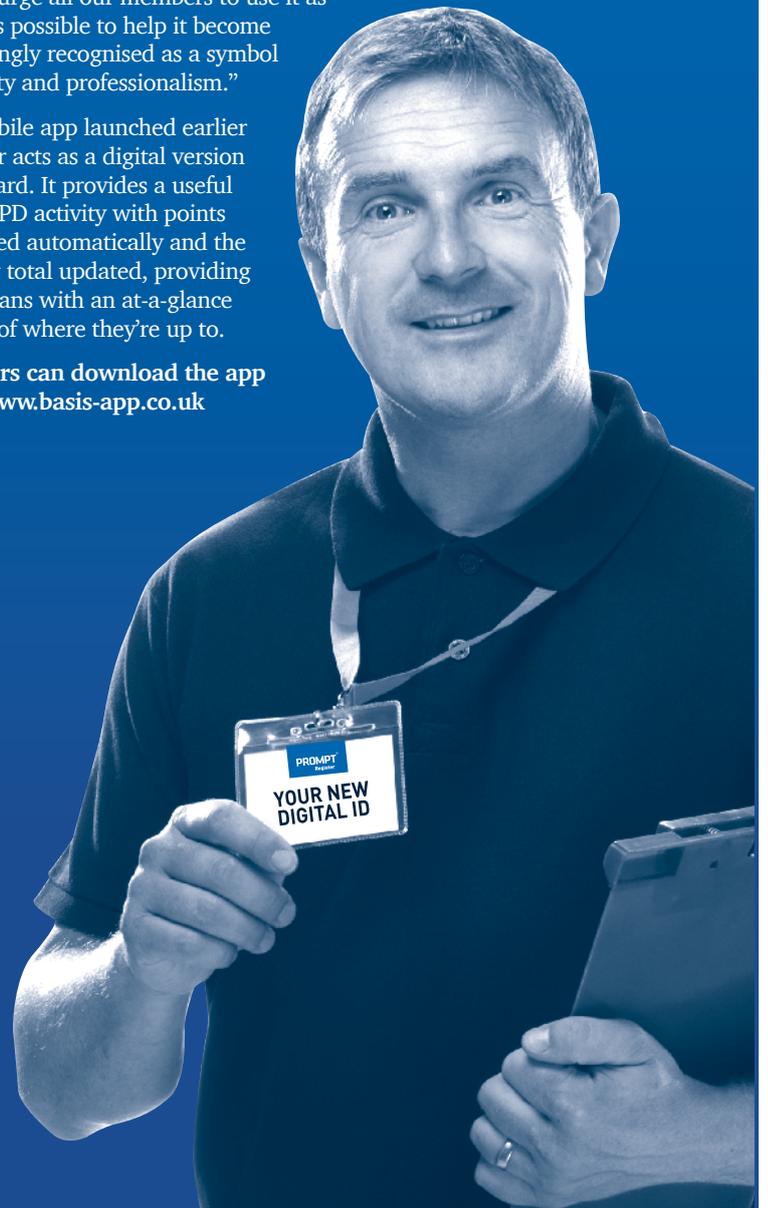
"So we urge all our members to use it as much as possible to help it become increasingly recognised as a symbol of quality and professionalism."

The mobile app launched earlier this year acts as a digital version of the card. It provides a useful log of CPD activity with points registered automatically and the running total updated, providing technicians with an at-a-glance picture of where they're up to.

Members can download the app from www.basis-app.co.uk

Visit our new website at
www.basis-prompt.co.uk
and join us today!

PROMPT[®]
Register



The essential first step in Integrated Pest Management

Night and day traceability



NEW



Harmonix[®] Rodent Monitoring Paste is particularly suitable for use in the food industry and in other sensitive areas like schools, hospitals, the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry, IT and biotech plants.

- Full traceability, **night and day**
- Free from the big 8 food allergens including wheat
- Certified by the HACCP International company for its suitability for the food industry



Harmonix[®]
MONITORING PASTE



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Cambridge
CB4 0WB
Tel: 00800 1214 9451
Fax: 01223 226635
Email: pestsolutions@bayer.com
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Pest
Solutions

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Kit Maintenance

DR5 DUSTER

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As the insect season slows down, it pays to give your DR5 Duster some tender loving care to keep it in the best possible shape for when insect activity picks up in the new year. PCN has compiled some handy hints and tips to help you keep this kit in tip top condition. It is worth remembering that you cannot treat effectively with a poorly maintained duster.

The manufacturers instructions for the DR5 instruct you to empty the duster after use and never store powder in the appliance. The reason for this is to prevent any clumping of powder and therefore blockages occurring, due to moisture accumulation in the DR5. Any busy pest controller will know that emptying the DR5 isn't always possible. So, what else can be done to prevent clumping of powder and subsequent blockages?

Prevent clumping of powder

- Put a golf ball in the tank of the DR5, to stimulate movement of dust.
- Do not store your DR5 in your van overnight, as condensation is problematic, especially at this time of year. Store in a heated pesticide storeroom.

Dealing with brass injector issues

- Use a DR5 with the latest hose assembly modification, with connecting tube and O-ring. With the new two piece hose assembly, the hose can be removed easily without needing to reassemble the inside brass injector (aka 'dip tube').
- If you have a DR5 without the latest hose assembly modification, the brass injector may become dislodged. Use a DR5 tool to re-attach it.
- If the brass injector becomes blocked with powder, remove it and tap it firmly on a hard surface to dislodge dust.

Loss of pressure

- A common complaint is a loss of pressure. Try removing the valve gasket and clean it with a stiff dry toothbrush to remove any dust. Or, just replace the valve gasket.

General maintenance

- If any part shows wear and tear, replace it immediately.
- Pay particular attention to gaskets, which are prone to wear and tear and can be replaced easily. Keep a seal kit handy!
- Use only original Birchmeier replacement parts!
- Store the DR5 away from the effects of frost.
- Screw the pump in loosely when the appliance is not in use.
- Use a foot pump (dry air) attached to the schrader valve to pressurise the DR5 and save on 'elbow grease' required for manual pumping.
- Never use damp air (e.g. air compressors at a garage) to pressurise the DR5.
- Remember the hose assembly has a deeper plastic nut that connects to the body of the duster, compared to the shallower nut which connects to the control valve. Basically, connect the hose the right way round! If connected the wrong way round, the shallower nut doesn't hold the hose tightly enough, allowing air and powder to escape where it is connected to the body of the duster.

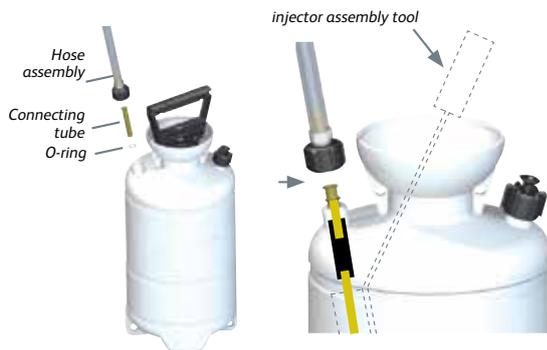
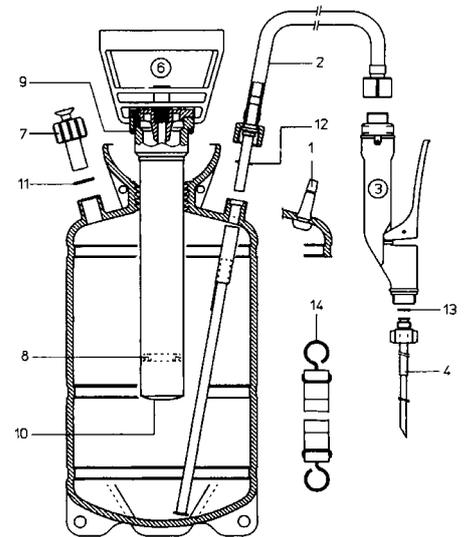


FIG. NO.	DESCRIPTION	PART NO.
1	Valve	501 375 31
2	Hose complete	114 782 02
3	Control valve complete	104 950 07A
4	Brass wand	114 221 01
5	Wand connector	113 418 01
6	Pump complete	116 255 01
7	Pressure relief valve 3 bar	116 179 01
*	Gasket set	116 298 01
Parts marked with an asterisk only included in this set.		

8*	Sleeve (Pack of 6)	116 427 01
9*	O-ring 50.16 x 5.34	
10*	Valve gasket	
11*	Gasket 21/15.4 x 2	
12*	Gasket 15/5.5 x 2	
13*	Gasket 11.9/7 x 1	
14	Shoulder-strap	104 536 01
15	Crack & crevice tip	114 350 01
	DR5 Maintenance Tool	DR5TOOL



The BIGGEST PestWorld on record

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E Extensive Educational Opportunities, New Product Introductions and Cutting Edge Technology Mark Successful PestWorld 2017

The numbers are in! The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) reports that 3,700 pest management professionals navigated over 125,000 square feet of exhibit space showcasing the products and services of over 200 companies during PestWorld 2017, held October 24-27 in Baltimore, Md. – making it the largest PestWorld in NPMA's history!

Proving itself once again as the premier platform to conduct domestic and international business in the pest management industry, exhibitors and attendees alike reported PestWorld 2017 to be “the most cost-effective and efficient way to do business, shop for new products and services, and stay on the cutting edge of industry technology.”

With expert-led educational sessions, attendees discovered the latest business trends and earned valuable recertification credits. Highlights this year included Technicians' Day the NPMA Thought Leader Program; and educational tracks on online marketing, integrated pest management, public health, food safety and wildlife control.

Additionally, PestWorld featured General Session speakers Doc Hendley and Commander Kirk Lippold. During the Opening General Session, Hendley delivered his message that everyone – including a bartender with an idea – can make a difference. On Thursday, Lippold provided recounted the terrorist attack on the USS Cole.

“The packed educational sessions and keynote addresses and the well-attended special events demonstrate the industry's desire for an event with an emphasis on learning and networking,” said NPMA CEO Dominique Stumpf. “This year's event provided sales leads and nurtured existing client relationships for companies operating within the pest management industry.

Exhibitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

“PestWorld offers an unmatched opportunity to meet in person with thousands of prospective qualified buyers,” said Stumpf, “and this year, that's exactly what our exhibitors did.”

Make plans now to be in Orlando, Florida, October 23-26 for next year's PestWorld. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact npma@pestworld.org.



PEST TECH

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With a new venue on their hands the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) saw the start of something new for the PestTech exhibition. The Ricoh Arena Coventry was spacious and bright giving the exhibition a whole new lease of life.

Just under 1,000 people attended the exhibition, not including the exhibitors or their guests.

Each year the technical presentations are well attended and this year was no different. The presentations spanned a wide variety of topics and from the first presentation to the last they were very well attended.

The Pest Control News Workshops consisted of presentations given by Chris Swindells from Acheta Consulting on Controlling House Mice in the Food Industry and David Cross from Rentokil on Changes Surrounding Aluminum Phosphide.

“The move to the Ricoh Arena was a bold but exciting move for the NPTA and it wasn’t without some bumps along the way, but all the hard work really did come to fruition on November 15th and we couldn’t have hoped for a more successful, vibrant and well-received event.

When you entered the hall it was literally buzzing, people talking, demonstrations and competitions, it was such a brilliant day and the feedback has been absolutely amazing. Both exhibitors and delegates alike have been ringing up and emailing to congratulate the NPTA on an all-round, very good exhibition.

Next year’s event is already being planned and it is looking like there’s even more change going on. Keep an eye on the NPTA & PestTech websites for updates.” - **Julie Gillies, Administration Manager NPTA**



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PCN DINNER 2017

After a hard-working day at the exhibition what better than to let your hair down at the PCN dinner that took place in the evening. Year-on-year the dinner has grown and eventually a new venue had to be found and what a fabulous venue it was.

The dinner took place in the Premier lounge at the Ricoh Arena. The evening started with reception drinks, sponsored by BASF, in the west wing of the room. The arena grounds were lit up with flood lights and from a Forerro Rocher tower to champagne the Great Gatsby theme was in full swing.

The main room was stunning with a light up dance floor and back drop along with large feather centrepieces. Bayer sponsored the drinks at the main bar before a 3-course evening meal was served.

Following the meal, the traditional charity raffle sparked excitement in the room. With a chance to win the iPhone X, guests began purchasing the gold tickets in handfuls. Pest Control News doubled the amount of money raised with a total of £4,100 going to Water for Kids.

Bell Laboratories sponsored the live entertainment for the evening, which was Grouper the four-piece band that performed classic tracks that kept the dance floor rammed all night.

As the night drew to a close, guests made their way down to the casino also inside the Ricoh Arena to continue the evening – well in to the early hours.





Developments in Pest Control

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I expect that a lot of pest controllers and pest control companies are watching the developments in the Republic of Ireland regarding the licensing of pest control operators with interest.

These developments are as a result of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and will recognise three tiers of users of pesticides: amateur, professional and trained professional, with registration and mandatory CPD for trained professionals.

In this system the professional person could be someone such as a gamekeeper or farmer who needs to use pesticides occasionally as part of their job. It is not yet clear what training, if any, will be required in the Republic of Ireland for professional users. This will probably be revealed at a symposium in Co. Kildare on 7th December. But there will obviously have to be some way to differentiate between a professional user and a trained professional user.

As you will recall, a stewardship scheme was introduced in the UK for the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides. This was seen as the most effective approach, one consideration being the reluctance of successive governments to 'burden' industry with regulation. During the development of the stewardship scheme the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management was promoted as the industry standard which covered the requirements of the scheme, and a number of shorter qualifications were developed specifically for the scheme and approved by the CRRU Training and Certification Work Group. These shorter qualifications, such as the RSPH Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Rodenticides and the BASIS accredited Rat Control for Gamekeepers, are taken both by pest controllers who need to be qualified quickly so that they can use rodenticides, and other user groups such as farmers and gamekeepers.

So with reference to the Republic of Ireland's three tiers, the UK already has much of this in place:

Amateurs	No qualifications required.
Professionals	Short qualifications targeted for the use of specific pesticides
Trained professionals	RSPH Level 2 Award or equivalent industry standard qualifications

In addition to the above, we have a recognised CPD scheme in PROMPT and other company-specific schemes and an apprenticeship in pest control on the horizon.

In his recent column in Today's Technician (issue 91, October 2017) NPTA Chairman Adam Hawley wrote that the professional sector needs to raise the bar. Perhaps what is needed first is to recognise that the pest control industry already has all the elements in place for such a bar in the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management or equivalent qualifications and CPD schemes, and the first requirement is to ensure that all professional pest controllers take advantage of what is available.

Whether or not the UK follows the Republic of Ireland and licenses professional pest controllers, the basic requirements are already in place.

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PPC live seminar schedule and outdoor demonstrations released



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BPCA have released their full PPC Live seminar and outdoor demonstration programmes. PPC Live is a one-day exhibition and conference designed for UK pest control technicians, managers and company owners.

It will be in the South West of England at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern, Worcestershire on Wednesday 14 March 2018.

Killgerm's own Dr Matthew Davies will be delivering a seminar about mosquito management that will specifically focus on practical guidance for UK pest technicians.

The much awaited general pest control technician apprenticeship will also be formally unveiled. This will be an opportunity for business owners and people new to the industry to ask questions about what the standard means for them and the industry as a whole.

CPD points available

1 CPD point per seminar
2 points for attending PPC Live
Max 4 point seminars
6 points in total

Seminar Schedule

9.30 - 10.15 No in-house marketing guru? No problem! Marketing for smaller companies.

Ben Massey

Marketing and Communications Manager
British Pest Control Association

10.30 - 11.15 Actions vs impacts – a pest controller's quandary.

Gary Williams

Operations Director
Urban Wildlife

11.30 - 12.15 Options for mosquito management in the UK

Dr Matthew Davies
Head of Technical Department
Killgerm

13.00 - 13.45 Technology vs Technicians – how everybody wins (except the rats)

Savvas Othon

Group Science and Innovation Director
Rentokil Initial

14.00 - 14.30 The General Pest Control Technician Apprenticeship – what it means for you.

Martin Rose-King

Head of Apprentice Employer Development Group
Karen Dawes

Training Development Manager
British Pest Control Association

14.45 - 15.45 Resistance – back to basics

Clive Boase. Principal Consultant
The Pest Management Consultancy

Outdoor Schedule

10.30 - 11.00 The end of my Tether – birds of prey and pest control.

John Dowling

John Dowling Falconry

11.30 - 12.00 Air Rifles – safe cleaning and transportation.

Sam Walker Regional Officer
(South West England)

British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

12.30 - 13.15 What if pest controllers could fly?

Bryan J Stanislas

Membership Director
The Association of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems UK

13.30 - 14.00 Much ado about moleing.

Dave Archer

Owner
DKA Pest Control

What's happening at PPC Live 2018?

Indoor seminars and outdoor demonstrations delivered by real experts

A hall packed with over 50 exhibitors showcasing their latest products and services

A lot of chances to network: the exhibition hall, the coffee area, BPCA's stand, the CSN Lounge!

BASIS Prompt will be giving you 2 CPD points just for attending

A free bacon roll and hot drink before 10.30am for everyone who registers in advance.

See all the latest information and register for PPC Live at bpca.org.uk/ppclive

Do you have the best pest management van in the business?

If so, would you like your work van crowned as Van of the Year 2018?

If you think your van is the best of the best, BPCA is looking to hear from you.

They'll be crowning one van owner PPC Live Van of the Year 2018 at PPC Live on 14 March 2018.

Contact BPCA to take part hello@bpca.org.uk

BPCA shortlisted for four awards at Association Awards

The winners will be announced at the UK Association Awards Ceremony, taking place in Manchester, UK, on 14 December.

The awards we've been shortlisted for are: Effective Voice of the Year

For our EN 16636 auditing and "Be protected. Professionally." campaign.

Best Website and Integration

For the new bpca.org.uk website and Member Area.

Best Conference Development

For PestEx 2017.

Young Association Executive of the Year

For Ben Massey, BPCA Marketing and Communications Manager.

The Association Awards are organised by The Association of Associations Executives is the largest community of Associations in the UK and in Europe.

They also organise the Associations Congress Series that the awards are colocated with.



M
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Corporate Manslaughter - What is your corporate responsibility?

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When dealing with the criminal offence of corporate manslaughter, one thing is for sure, the offence has resulted in one or more deaths and the offence is treated with the utmost seriousness by the courts. The sentencing guidelines are reflective of the severity of the offence and numerous factors will be taken into account when the offence is being considered and sentencing passed.

Not only does this offence involve death, but it also involves corporate fault at the highest level. The sentencing applied by the judge will be affected by numerous factors; how foreseeable was serious injury? How far short of the appropriate standard did the offender fall? How common is this breach within this organisation? Was there more than one death or a high risk of further deaths, or serious personal injury in addition to death? The answer to these questions will dictate which category (either A or B) the offence falls into. You then have your starting point.

Let's not forget that the company in question has been propelled into this situation, will likely feel helpless, almost as though the offence is and has been completely outside their control. In fact, in this modern day and age where our

technology is the best and most advanced it has ever been, more companies need to be aware of the measures that can be taken to help prevent accidents resulting in corporate manslaughter charges from occurring.

Although the offence of corporate manslaughter is rare in comparison to other driving offences such as speeding or driving whilst using your mobile phone, it is very easy for one offence to snowball into another. Say for instance your employee is a prolific speeder; you have received at least two Notices of Intended Prosecution in recent months as your employee has been running late on numerous occasions, your employee is speeding in the lead up to an accident that results in the death of another driver and unbeknown to you, he has worked 76 hours in the last 4 days. The onus will not always lay with the driver, the court is also going to be asking questions of the employer such as, why hadn't the employee's working schedule been monitored correctly? Who authorised him to be on the road for such a long period of time? Who arranged for site visits so far apart in such a short space of time?

We are only human and human error happens regularly. The consequences of human error vary dramatically and sentencing will be applied accordingly. So what's the solution?

Could a 360 degree view of your entire fleet's activities, statistics on vehicle speed and whereabouts have assisted? If you had more information about your fleet and your employee's whereabouts prior to the offence occurring, could you have demonstrated your scrupulous awareness and be able to demonstrate your proactive approach to preventing accidents such as this from occurring?

Could this assist when the court is assessing how much of your annual turnover to fine you? The answer is yes and as such one needs very much to have a detailed knowledge of your fleet of drivers, their whereabouts, mileage and time spent at the wheel - be it for sales, distribution or other business resulted usage.

So to avoid being in the dark, consider your vehicle tracking and of course your legal obligations. On the latter if you have any queries on this or other legal issue please feel free to call Milners solicitors Giles Ward on 07789 401 411 or e mail him on giles.ward@milnerslaw.com.



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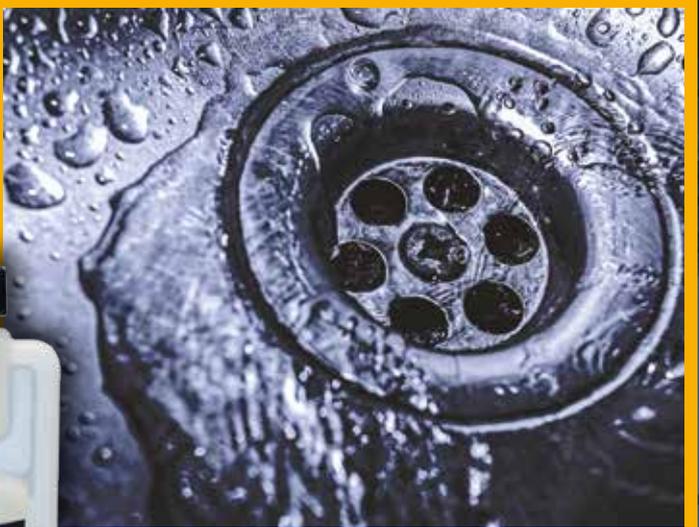


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