

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

Run rabbit run – control techniques reviewed

Issue 5 - September & October 2009

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news or bad?



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How others see us

Few would argue against the need for our industry to be professional, technically competent and efficient in everything it does. There are plenty of reasons too why customers, potential customers and, indeed, the public at large need to see us as being all of these things. In fact the list probably also needs to include, 'humane' and, even, 'environmentally aware'. The heated debate (see pages 8-11) generated by Ricky and Jimmy Clark, otherwise known as BBC TV's *Rat Pack*, shows how concerned many in the industry are about public image. But is this anxiety misplaced?

There seems to have been a knee-jerk reaction that these sorts of programmes perpetuate an outdated view of pest controllers as 'dog and stick' ratcatchers. But, do we really know what the public thinks? Have we ever asked them? Surely before we all sound-off about the damage, or otherwise, television coverage does we ought to find out how the public sees us.

Market research would no doubt be expensive but it would provide factual information on the industry's standing. Even if the news was bad, at least we would know the extent of the problem. And, as every professional pest controller knows, without understanding the problem what chance is there of solving it? Surely it would be money well spent. Who is willing to rise to the challenge?

Frances McKim

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Giant mosquito let loose in London

A giant mosquito was let loose in London by UK charity Malaria No More to raise awareness about malaria. Sarah Kline, executive director of Malaria No More explains: "Malaria is preventable and treatable. One of the most effective means of stopping suffering and death from malaria is to invest in preventative measures now. Blanketing Africa with mosquito nets is one of the most simple and effective ways to help prevent the spread of this disease." [www](http://www.malaria.no-more.org)



Changes to wildlife licences announced

On 30 September, Natural England announced the outcome of the public consultation which had been running during the earlier part of this year on 'General Licences' for wildlife.

Among the changes announced, Natural England confirmed that:

- Several non-native bird species that breed in the wild – including monk parakeets, ring-necked parakeets, Canada geese and Egyptian geese – will be added to licences so their numbers can be controlled;
- Two native gull species – the herring gull and the greater black-backed gull – will be removed from some licences due to conservation concerns about their population numbers.

It was amusing to note, that in our 'politically correct' society the change in status of these parakeets was blown-out of all proportion by the national press. One university professor was quoted as saying: "There is a danger that labelling parakeets as a 'nasty alien' just because they are from abroad could be seen as a form of 'racism' towards a foreign species."

Red squirrels gain a helping hand

A full-time red squirrel ranger has been appointed by UPM Tilhill, the UK's leading forestry and environmental works company.

Holly Rogerson will take on this role helping to protect the rare red squirrel population in Greenfield Forest near Hawes, in the Yorkshire Dales. She will be using humane live traps to create a buffer zone and so keep the grey squirrels at bay.

ISS pest control sold

In an announcement made on 1 October 2009, ISS Pest Control has been acquired by Ecolab. The deal which is operative from 13 October, sees Ecolab becoming ISS UK's pest services provider of choice. Dave Adams, Ecolab Pest Elimination general manager in the UK said: "This addition increases our staff to nearly 650 nationwide and further strengthens our ability to deliver, innovative and proactive pest services with locally managed teams." [www](http://www.isspestcontrol.co.uk)

Benelux pest event launched

On 24 September the first pest control exhibition with seminars was held in the Benelux. Held in the Netherlands at Zoetermeer, BeneluxPest was hosted by Pest Control News and attracted nearly 300 visitors, much to the organisers delight. In addition to visiting the 26 exhibitors, delegates could attend a highly topical bedbug seminar. Leading bedbug specialist, Professor Dr Annelies van Bronswijk, gave an informative presentation which was followed by an animated question and answer session.



The day of firsts continued, as the event was followed by the first Pest Control News dinner. Attended by 100 guests, visitors and exhibitors who celebrated the day's success and even had time to start planning the next one!

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NBC flies high in Scotland

NBC Bird & Pest Control has recently been awarded two big contracts in Scotland. The first is to provide falconry services to deter and disperse pigeons from nesting or roosting on Scottish Parliament buildings and grounds, pictured below. Since the opening of the building in 2004 there has been a constant battle against winged menaces which has run-up a clean-up bill approaching £35,000.



This autumn, NBC was also appointed to design and install one of the UK's largest single bird proofing schemes at Aberdeen's prestigious Union Square development project which opens in October. Over 1,000 metres of bird spikes will be used to deter gulls from landing on the retail units leading edges and fouling the front of buildings and walkways below, along with 7,000 sq m of netting.

Aiming to gain the advantage

Gaining an advantage over your competitor is the desire of all profitable businesses. Pest control is no exception. Delegates assembled at the second Pest Controllers Academy sponsored by Killgerm and BASF Pest Control Solutions and held at the Hilton hotel, East Midlands on 28-29 September to find out more.

Chief lecturer, Ross Smith from Mindshelf summarised the event and said: "Those pest controllers who take the time at the Academy to polish their skills and learn new management and marketing techniques are the ones who will lead the way for the pest control industry out of recessionary times."

[www](http://www.pestmagazine.co.uk)



Delegates listen intently how they can gain a competitive advantage

Exchange that dodgy ladder

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is running a Ladder Exchange Initiative until 31 December 2009 in an attempt to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from falls from height.

The initiative provides the opportunity to get rid of old, damaged and broken ladders in part exchange for a new one, getting a discount of up to 50%. Details on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/falls/get-involved.htm

Eradibait manufacturer goes into administration

Natrocell Technologies, the company behind Eradibait (for the professional market) and the Growing Success products (for the domestic market) recently went into administration.

However, it was announced that on 3 September the registrations and assets of Natrocell Technologies Ltd (and its parent company Natrocell Shareholders Ltd) were purchased by a group of existing shareholders, forming a new venture called Zea Holdings Ltd.

These products are based on powdered corn cob (*Zea mays*) and claim to be the world's first and only, all-natural rat and mouse killer. Their mode of action is unlike anything else on the market (so providing an alternative to rodent resistant chemicals) and their 'green' credentials fit well with the current market swing. [www](http://www.pestmagazine.co.uk)



Death of Charles Keeble

We are sad to report that Charles Keeble, the former director of BPCA and director general of CEPA, died on 7 October 2009.

Over the last few years Charles had become increasingly frail, with his health progressively failing for the last few months. After spells in hospital, Charles died peacefully in a nursing home near to his home in Tadworth, Surrey.

Charles Keeble was director of the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) for 20 years – retiring at the age of 65 in 1988 – the time when BPCA moved offices from London to Derby. However, Charles was also instrumental in the launch of the Confederation of European Pest Control Associations (CEPA) in London in 1974, consisting at the time of a mere five national associations. His linguistic abilities assisted greatly in this task – Charles was fluent in German and French. He became this association's director general – a post he was persuaded to continue with until the age of 70 in 1993.

On 27 March 2001 Charles was extremely proud to go to Buckingham Palace to be appointed an MBE by the Queen for services to the pest control industry.

For very many years Charles had a very close involvement with training – in 1980 he was instrumental in the introduction of the highly successful BPCA Training & Certification Scheme for pest control and fumigation operators – the forerunner of the current BPCA training operations. To this day, BPCA presents an award in honour of Charles – the Charles Keeble award – to the candidate who obtains the best result in the RSPH/BPCA (Level 2) Certificate in Pest Control examination

On a personal level Charles was a true English gentleman.


Our sympathies go to his wife, Diana, and all family and friends. [www](http://www.pestmagazine.co.uk)




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First 'super' ant found in the UK

The first colonies of *Lasius neglectus*, the so-called Asian super ant, have been found in the National Trust gardens at Hidcote Manor, near Chipping Campden, in Gloucestershire.



The ants showed a 'kamikaze attraction' to electricity, so posing a fire risk – 35,000 ant carcasses were found in one electrical junction box. It is thought the ants were transported from Europe in pot plants.

The species, first identified in Budapest 20 years ago, had been spotted in mainland Europe but never before in the UK. They look just like common black garden ants, forming 'super colonies' with a system of interconnected nests with many queens, with estimates of over 4,000 - 35,000 in some colonies.

Bee decline under investigation



On 1 October, the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC) in partnership with Syngenta announced an award of £1m to study the decline of the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). Scientists

at Rothamsted Research and Warwick University are to explore the reasons for this insects decline.

The British Beekeepers' Association estimates a decline of nearly 30% in bee numbers during 2008 by a mysterious ailment dubbed Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Causes cited include the blood-sucking varroa mite, pesticides, climate change, viruses and industrialised farming, or a complex mix of them all.

Further cause of rise in clothes moth numbers

In the last edition of **Pest** (issue 4) David Pinniger



examined the possible reasons for the increase in clothes moth numbers. Dr Ian Burgess from the Medical Entomology Centre, Cambridge puts forward the following as a major culprit in this resurgence.

"I am pretty sure that the changes in Building Regulations have minimised the number of air changes in most houses. This causes the ambient internal humidity in many to rise close to some of those found in Victorian times. Even if the general room humidity is a tolerable 50-65% RH, the humidity in the microclimate of the carpet under the sofa is almost certainly around 90-95% RH – just a custom-made environment for clothes moths."

Plenty of advice on offer at the Barrettine Pest seminar

Around 80 delegates made their way to the Stanley Matthews suite at the Britannia football stadium in Stoke-on-Trent on 30 September for a one-day seminar organised by Barrettine Environmental Health in association with **Pest** publications.

Chairing the day was Barrettine's Iain Turner. In his own presentation Iain made the case for reconsidering some of the older products which he claimed were: "Products whose time had come." The three examples he quoted were diatomaceous earth (sold as Oa2ki), Resist repellent (ideal for repelling moles, foxes, rabbits and geese) and the rodenticide based on coumatetralyl and marketed by Barrettine as Romax Rat CP.

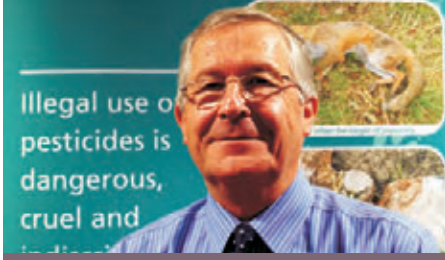
Good news and bad news was a running theme. Paul Butt from Natural England gave one of his usual entertaining but very apposite talks concerning wildlife management. He said how his heart always sank when the media rang up wanting a comment – especially if it involved a mammal incident – to pest controllers foxes, badgers and squirrels are pests, but to the general public they are cute, cuddly and furry friends until they cause them a problem.

The theme of – Is the media your friend? – was continued by Frances McKim and Helen Riby, joint publishers and editors of **Pest** publications. Frances outlined some golden rules when dealing with the press in crisis situations – when they are certainly not your friend. The



motto here is – Be prepared – you certainly don't want to score an own goal! Helen explained how the press can be your friend when used to your advantage to profitably promote your business. There are no big upfront costs to pay. All it takes is a bit of your time and effort.

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Paul Butt from Natural England



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The Rat Pack

BBC's take on pest control divides the industry

Even if you did not watch the series of six programmes called *The Rat Pack* on BBC 1 this summer, you may well have been drawn into debate about the content by family, friends, customers or colleagues in the industry.

The series followed brothers Ricky (above right) and Jimmy Clark of Environ Pest Control in Fulham, West London as they went about their daily pest control work. On occasions, they were accompanied by Jimmy's ratting Jack Russell terrier, Charlie, who, predictably, became the star of the show.

Response to the programmes was mixed so in a news story on the **Pest** website we asked you for your views. A selection of the many responses received are shown over the page. The majority who replied wished to remain anonymous – so, regrettably, none of the quotes have been attributed.

In the spirit of impartiality and independence we also sought views from Ricky Clark himself, and from the executive producer of the series. Hopefully in this way everyone has had a chance to put their feelings forward.

The executive producer's view

Pest control may be our bread and butter but you can't help wondering how and why it made its way to prime-time viewing on BBC1? **Pest** contacted the programme's executive producer, David Mortimer, from independent TV production company, Fever Media to find out more.

Having worked for the BBC on programmes such as *Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends* and, more recently, as Fever Media on *Honey We're Killing The Kids*, David was, "looking for a subject with mass appeal – a topic that everyone watching has to face one day, or if not, knows a friend who has. A domestic situation with in-built taboos – pest control fitted the bill."

Having hit on the topic, researchers set about finding the subjects to film. David describes Ricky as very genuine with brother Jimmy and, star of the show, Charlie, clinching their selection. Two weeks of self-funded filming followed to make a 'taster' to sell-in the idea to a broadcaster. After a few abortive attempts, this was seen by BBC1 controller Jay Hunt, who said yes on the spot. David describes the series as: "A light hearted entertainment documentary series, or docusoap. We did not set out to create a programme which was the gold standard of pest control – had this been a factual documentary it would have been very different. However, we were keen to make sure the company was not seen to be operating inappropriately."

The BBC scheduled the series at prime-time against *Coronation Street* on ITV, so achieving viewing figures of over three million was very pleasing to David. Children, in particular, love the show, especially Charlie. Without wishing to be drawn, David admitted that "discussions were on-going" as to whether there would be another series.



Star of the show, Jimmy's Jack Russell terrier, Charlie

A view from the industry

Having been involved with pest control and the making of TV programmes over many years, Richard Strand of Pest Information Consultancy, records his personal views of the programme. In doing so he summarises the positive and negative issues raised by many readers.

Another summer, another media 'silly season' and another 'fly on the wall' series about pest control. After several previous series where TV took a 'light hearted' view of the pest control industry, *The Rat Pack* bore all the hallmarks of another patronising effort, trivialising us all as nothing but 'rat catchers'. The other channels on a Thursday night all of a sudden seemed much more appealing!

I didn't watch the first two or three episodes, and most of the feedback that I heard tended towards the negative. It was with some trepidation therefore that I peeped out from behind the sofa to watch the latter part of the series.

Passionate about pest control

What a surprise it was! I saw two young men (and Charlie) who were passionate about what they were doing and who wanted (and I mean **WANTED**) to solve their customers' problems. Ricky, the elder of the two, was articulate, likeable and knowledgeable about his work. He had many a view and anecdote for the camera, usually well put and worth listening to.

Light hearted entertainment it may have been, but we saw Ricky spot the primary school next to the garden shed with the wasps' nest and delay the treatment until after school hours. We saw him stand his ground, where others would have crumbled, in the face of the wrath of one of his clients and work out how a moth treatment should be undertaken without risking damage to that client's many paintings.

"Ricky was articulate, likeable and knowledgeable. He had many a view and anecdote for the camera, usually well put and worth listening to," says Richard Strand.

How many of us smiled knowingly, during Ricky's romantic candle lit dinner with his girlfriend, his mind clearly elsewhere thinking about rats behind bath panels? I could almost see his eyes wandering in search of a mouse bait box discretely hidden in a corner of the restaurant!

Not perfect but...

Things weren't perfect – I understand that there was an issue with a glueboard earlier in the series and that there was a hint that a brodifacoum bait had been laid outdoors – or was that bait laid for the benefit of the TV camera rather than being a part of the treatment?

Pest controllers would like to have seen Jimmy going back and sealing off access to the honeybee nest at the rear of the pharmacy, to stop marauding bees from other colonies taking insecticide back to their hives. Jimmy or Ricky may well have followed up with the proofing but this is 'television' and putting cement into a hole in a brick wall where nothing is happening is not nearly so interesting as pumping insecticide into one that's buzzing.

Herein lies the problem with a series such as *The Rat Pack*. We know this is not how a pest control business works. Where were the commercial clients? Where were the more mundane 'eight routine inspections a year' jobs? Seeing how others may see us is a cathartic experience for pest controllers but this is entertainment, not a pest control training film.

For those of us still with doubts about the series step back and think about it objectively.

What would typical casual viewers have made of it? They won't have spotted the rodenticide label or worried about the territorial difficulties to be encountered by the young fox let loose in the park. There would, however, have been an outcry if Ricky had destroyed such a handsome young creature in tip-top condition!

On balance I think that the viewing public will have taken Ricky, Jimmy and Charlie to their hearts and for all the right reasons. For once pest control will have won out, despite the blemishes.



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What does Ricky think?



When you speak to Ricky Clark you can't help but like him – his enthusiasm for pest control radiates down the phone – a trait which obviously stands him in good stead with his customers.

You also quickly pick-up that Ricky is a realist. He admits that if he hadn't been something of a 'hunk' as well as able and willing to express his opinions, it is unlikely he would have been in the series. And then the final trump-card was his younger brother, Jimmy, and his dog, Charlie. Pest control may be the subject of the show, but at the end of the day, this is entertainment.

Before agreeing to take part Ricky thought long and hard about it. His main concern was – how would his regular customers react? He sounded some out and their response was favourable. What is interesting is, Ricky has a range of contracts with commercial customers, restaurants and the like, but not one was willing to be filmed or included in the show – hence only domestic situations were featured.

The series was not all plain sailing. Every day for six months there was a film crew waiting outside his house to accompany him at work – in total over 500 hours of film was shot. At first the cameras were a complete culture shock, but now they have gone Ricky admits to being a bit lonely, especially as there is no-one around to go and get him a coffee!

So did Ricky feel the series correctly portrayed his activities? Overall, – yes but, he says, some of the voice-over commentary made his toes curl. For example, the use of the rodent sticky boards. The voice-over said he would be back in a couple of days to check them – in reality he was back the very same evening.

Summing up the experience Ricky said: "The series has certainly been good for business. Customers say they know they can trust us. I feel this is very important for the public when dealing with trades people. Our philosophy is one of honesty and transparency – what you see is what you get. We try hard to do everything correctly and if I don't know the answer to something, I'll go and find out – and not try to flannel my way out of the situation. Since the programme the phone has certainly been ringing, but the requests we are getting are realistic – people know there are just the two of us, so we don't get asked to quote for jobs out of our league."

As a spin-off Ricky is most amused to report that he and Jimmy (and Charlie of course) have become minor celebrities. They have featured in a recent edition of *Heat* magazine and Jimmy has developed a cult following on some gay community internet sites! Charlie has his own fan club, being especially popular with children, and he is now the face on a brand of dog shampoo with free shampoo promised for life. "It's really amusing," says Ricky. "I get asked for my autograph and if we walk down the road with Charlie, traffic almost comes to a complete halt! Charlie only comes out with us when we think his skills will be needed – but everyone now asks for Charlie and are disappointed if he's not there."

Ask Ricky if they would do it all again and the answer is definite – Yes. "We are who we are – not everyone will like us, but we are here and we can take it on the chin."

Some of your views

If this is the level of operation that is perceived to be acceptable, then I am sorry, it is not one that I recognise.

The Rat Pack follows the television programme maker's mantra of making sure that the programme is 'good television' even if it means that a few inaccuracies creep in. To most viewers, the programme is both watchable and entertaining. So the question that we need to ask ourselves, is – whether it really matters?

I have watched the last two episodes and I would question whether we want our industry portrayed, by the media, in such a pantomime fashion? It may make good television, but is it a true reflection of the importance of public health pest control. And is it a true reflection of the standard of pest control in the UK?

It was a light hearted look at two amiable pest controllers, going about their work. The television producers took advantage of their personalities and methods to provide entertainment.

In general I think the programme has benefited the industry and its public image.

Who did the BBC consult to ensure that the actions portrayed in the programme were legal, appropriate and in line with industry good practice? Do they care?

There appears to have been a number of cases where the law or good industry practice has been ignored. While, understandably, this will upset other professional pest controllers, it will not make much difference to the majority of viewers – they will now know that if they have a pest problem there are people out there who can get rid of the problem for them.

Young Jimmy is, well, untrained and not up to the same standard, so perhaps shouldn't have been left unsupervised for as long as he has been.

I've seen every episode so far and whilst I cannot claim to have followed every detail – I did not see anything that caused me to froth at the mouth. Ricky comes across as a very enthusiastic guy, who clearly enjoys his work and seems to know pretty well what he's doing. His manner with customers is pretty good, though he has sometimes exaggerated things a little.

A programme featuring a perfect pest

controller dutifully filling out his risk and COSHH assessment forms before inspecting hundreds of untouched rodent boxes and insect detectors simply would not be shown.

Ricky, Jimmy and Charlie may not be perfect and may not accurately represent every aspect of pest control, but I've found the programmes to be reasonably interesting and not too bad. I suspect that I will be in a minority with these views.

In my opinion the programme was a nauseating embarrassment.

I have been in pest control for over 18 years and I have to say what a load of bloody amateurs. Those two are making it look as though pest control is a really, really, really funny job to be in and not at all professional in any way.

From a tele-visual entertainment perspective it was no doubt of value. However, there were many moments that made me cringe and at a time when we all need to raise our game. I think the net effect will be zero, but it was also an opportunity to show just how professional the industry can be and in turn justify appropriate rates for professionalism.

So how did Ricky Clark get into pest control?

Like many in the industry, Ricky came to pest control through a childhood interest in natural history, hunting and shooting.

In fact he spent three years travelling the world – watching lions in Africa, tigers in India and the like. He was even in Indonesia at the time of the tsunami. On his return, Ricky and his elder brother – Terry (yes – there are three of them!) signed-up and attended the BPCA eight-day modular pest control course in Widnes, which included taking and passing the RSPH/BPCA (Level 2) Certificate in Pest Control.

Terry started his own pest control company – Express Exterminations in London W3 – whilst Ricky launched Environ Pest Control. Their father, a London black taxi cabby, also shares their interest in hunting and shooting and is regularly on stand-by to assist either brother with rabbit, pigeon or deer work.

Being London based, it wasn't long before Ricky found himself on the radio answering pest control questions sent it by the listeners'. This escalated after he was called-in to treat a rat infestation at the house of what turned out to be LBC's James O'Brien. Appearances on GMTV followed as well as the Vanessa Feltz show. So, Ricky had had some previous experience of the demands of the media.



The return of the cluster flies

© DBP Entomology

Flies are a nuisance – we all know that! But not all flies are the same and they may cause very different problems. Insect expert David Pinniger offers some timely advice on cluster flies.

There are tens of thousands of different fly species including mosquitoes, hoverflies, horseflies and flesh flies. Some of them bite and spread diseases and some, like the ubiquitous housefly, just spread diseases.

The most common species of cluster fly *Pollenia rudis* is often mistaken for a housefly as it is similar in size and has a habit of flying into windows. However, the cluster fly does not bite, spread disease or live in animal dung or carcasses. Its pest status is due to its habit of hibernating in buildings over the winter.

Indeed, in the autumn, some houses can be invaded by thousands of flies seeking a refuge in a warm dry place for the winter months. In the normal course of events, come spring they would come out of hibernation and leave the building to lay eggs.

However, because we heat our houses in winter, the cluster flies can be fooled into thinking that spring has come early at which point they typically fly around in a dozy manner seeking to escape through windows.

Where do cluster flies come from?

People often think that large numbers of flies must be a sign of poor hygiene, rotting vegetation or dead bodies, but this is not the case with cluster flies.

The life cycle is very unusual in that the adults lay eggs in grass in the spring. The tiny hatching larvae then parasitise earthworms and develop in their bodies through the summer. In the early autumn the adult flies emerge and then need to overwinter indoors. They are attracted to warm sunny south facing walls where they will rest before climbing up to enter through gaps around windows or eaves.

This means they are frequently found in large numbers in upstairs and attic rooms on windows and windowsills.

What problems do they cause?

They will cause some spotting and staining with fly vomit and excreta, but the main problem is annoyance as they slowly buzz around. The bodies of the flies will also provide an ideal food supply for pests such as carpet beetles and spider beetles.

Cluster flies can be a problem in small domestic dwellings and may appear year after year, inexplicably in only one house in a row of cottages. Is that house more attractive because the adult flies leave a pheromone behind each year to attract the next generation? Nobody really knows, but if we knew and could make the pheromone, it could be a very useful tool.

The major sufferers are big historic properties such as those owned by the National Trust or English Heritage.

Why do they get more cluster flies? The answer is to look at the surroundings – a stately home is usually surrounded by hundreds of acres of grassy parkland. There will be millions of earthworms per acre and even if only a small percentage is infected with cluster fly larvae, they will produce very large numbers of flies.

It is interesting to speculate that cluster flies must be far more numerous now than in Neolithic times. In the past they had to make do with hollow trees and caves to get through the winter, now they have thousands of stately homes and houses to pick from!



David Pinniger

Control options

What can we do to prevent problems and control the flies?

Clearly we cannot concrete over all the grassland so the best thing to do is to try and keep them out. This is easier said than done, particularly with sash windows, but bristle strips and seals will keep a lot of flies out.

Stopping them getting under eaves is more difficult as it is important not to block off air-flow for ventilation in attics. Spraying or painting window frames with contact insecticide can be effective in killing or repelling flies.



Traditional fly papers do not work well for cluster flies

One really effective repellent which has been used successfully by English Heritage is lavender. Many houses have flower beds full of the lavender which can then be harvested in late summer and hung in bunches in windows. It smells nice to us but the flies don't seem to like it.

Once they are in, you can kill a lot of adults with knockdown sprays, fogs and mists. However, if you do this it is essential to clear up the dead bodies or you may then provide a feast for woolly bears and have a serious carpet beetle infestation.

A nozzle vacuum can be used simply to suck up the live flies but it may be

How can you identify the cluster fly *Pollenia*?

Identification is mainly by its behaviour and habits. It is about the same size as a housefly but the thorax is covered with metallic gold and silver hairs instead of grey patches.

Two other much less common species of cluster flies are: *Thaumatomya*, which is a small yellowish fly, and *Dasyphora cyanella*, which is a small metallic green fly. If you have problems with these then you need to get specialist advice.



Pollenia rudis has metallic gold and silver hairs



Sticky belts often get overwhelmed with cluster flies

advisable to put a bit of insecticide dust in the bag and dispose of the bag as soon as possible.

Some people have had success with UV fly killers as the adults are attracted to UV light. The catch trays may need emptying daily.

The most practical type in historic houses seem to be uplighters with a sticky board. However, you may need a very large supply of boards as they may quickly become clogged.

The one thing you can be sure of is that if you had cluster fly problems last year, they will be back again this year.



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Rodent baiting is an essential activity

In the last issue of **Pest** we explored the role of Lieutenant Colonel Ken Roberts and his team at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre based at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot.

For two and a half years, their trainee Environmental Health Technicians (EH Techs) undergo thorough training in military environmental health. This covers those aspects of human health and disease that are determined by physical, chemical and biological factors in the military environment. Clean water, food safety and sanitation are all included, as is pest control. Learning about it in the classroom is one thing – but, putting those skills into practice when the enemy is trying to kill you, is quite another.

Operational training

Fortunately, as to be expected with anything military, extensive training in a practical operational setting is completed long before the EH Techs are faced with the Taliban. It should also be remembered that the British Army is based and trains in several other overseas territories, including Belize,

Front-line pest control

For British troops on active service in Afghanistan, or as the Army calls it – 'in theatre' – the risks from the Taliban's bombs and bullets are serious enough. Falling prey to a disease caused by an insect may be the last thing a soldier is worrying about, but not so the staff from the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Their role is to ensure all military personnel remain fit and healthy.

Gibraltar, Kenya and Cyprus. In fact, Cyprus is used for a good deal of the practical training. The base at Akrotiri is surrounded by salt marsh which provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Trainee EH Techs learn, first-hand, in the field, how to identify the problem vector species, create vector maps and how to plan and implement vector and rodent control procedures. At the same time they get to see practical aspects of domestic pest control around the base and in the kitchens. There is no opportunity for this in the UK, as all pest control activity on MOD premises is contracted out to commercial companies.

The training in Cyprus is conducted by Cambridge-based Insect R&D Limited as part of its MOD contract which has been in place for the past 14 years.

Asked what his biggest challenge has been, course director Dr Ian Burgess says: "Environmental health is fundamental for the protection of the troops – losing men from active service with malaria, or some other vector-borne disease, is just not acceptable. Unfortunately, pest control is often not



The sandfly is the number one pest

regarded as a core activity on the ground so our aim is to raise its status. For example, we want to make sure pest breeding sites are automatically considered as part and parcel of an environmental health survey. With all this training, the profile of pest control is improving," he adds.

Dr Ian Burgess and his team also provide the deployed EH Techs with an invaluable specimen identification service, with a rapid turn-round time, to enable focussed control interventions to be planned.

So, having completed the training, how is pest control practised 'in theatre'? The main

base for British troops in Afghanistan is Camp Bastion in Helmand Province – five square miles in size and home for up to 3,000 troops. From here responsibility for pest control matters radiates outwards towards the front-line. From Camp Bastion troops move out to a series of Forward Operating Bases (FOB) and from there to much smaller Patrol Bases. Once out of Camp Bastion, living conditions become pretty rudimentary.

EH Techs are based at Camp Bastion. They have an overall remit to ensure the well-being of the forward troops but rely on Unit Environmental Health Duty (UEHD) personnel. These are non-medical soldiers who have either volunteered (or 'been volunteered') to take on the role of front-line environmental health defence. Two weeks training is provided – the first covering pest control matters and the second sanitation issues. UEHD activities include pesticide spraying, but all equipment is monitored and supplied by the EH Techs who routinely visit the FOBs to check everything is in hand.

Which pest problems?

So what types of pest problems are encountered?

Without doubt the number one pest in Afghanistan is the sandfly – the vector of what is often called 'the forgotten disease' – leishmaniasis. In Afghanistan, the female sandfly lays its eggs in gerbil or desert rat burrows. The female transmits the protozoa, infecting itself with the leishmania parasites contained in the blood it sucks from either its human or gerbil host. When the now infected female feeds on a fresh source of blood, its often painless bite inoculates its new victim with the parasite, and the transmission cycle is completed.



The sandfly is the vector for the flesh-eating leishmania parasite

Once bitten, flesh-eating skin ulcers emerge. This disease has recently risen to prominence after BBC presenter Ben Fogle became a sufferer when filming his *Extreme Dreams* programmes in the jungles of Peru.

As to be expected with open sewage systems and such hot conditions, mosquitoes are also problem. Vast numbers of *Culex quinquefasciatus* breed and whilst they are not a vector of malaria, their bites, which can often be in large numbers especially at ankle height, are extremely painful. Other pests encountered include fleas and ticks picked-up from the cats and goats which may have been living in shelters used by troops as Patrol Bases.

Not alone

British servicemen are not alone in Afghanistan. Troops from other NATO countries are also on the ground. Whilst pest management information is routinely exchanged via the US Armed Forces Pest Management Board and through NATO medical channels, the range of pesticides available to the British troops is, officially, regulated by the



Mosquito traps are used to monitor insect numbers around the bases

EU Biocidal Products Directive – as if they were operating within the UK. This can throw-up certain anomalies as products registered for use in the EU are hardly likely to cover treatment of tropical insects capable of transmitting leishmaniasis.

Also, British troops may be stationed literally next-door to troops from other countries whose regulatory systems approve the use of a much wider range of products. As for the future, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is seen very much as the way forward.



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Your insider's guide to PestTech 2009

The highlight of the autumn events calendar is PestTech. Organised by the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA), this one-day event is to be held on 4 November – once again at the National Motor Cycle Museum.

PestTech has a character all of its own. Yes – all the major manufacturers are, as you would expect, present but so are a real collection of more diverse organisations – diverse but still relevant to pest control. Where else can you come face-to-face with snakes, bats, spiders, giant cockroaches and birds of prey all on the same day?

The exhibition with over 50 exhibitors still remains the heart of PestTech. The *Pest Control News* workshops are also a regular event. The idea at these workshops is to take a topic currently under review and allow delegates to have their say – as there are few opportunities for this sort of consultation. Likely changes to the Certificate in Pest Control (Level 2) by the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) will be under scrutiny. Come and find out all about it and make your voice heard.

Since its launch in 1993, PestTech has expanded year-on-year, and this year is no exception. Last year the practical demonstrations held outside the Museum proved highly popular. Long netting, trapping and snaring are once again to be presented, and added this year is a session presented by Envirohawks covering hawks in pest control.

New this year are three technical workshops all covering tasks encountered by a pest controller in the course of their everyday work – equipment maintenance, waste management and risk assessments. Another new edition is a series of 15 minute product launch talks featuring new products just revealed to the market. This idea has been tried in the UK before (at various PestEx events) with varying degrees of success – but do come along. Also new is a networking session organised by the recently launched Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) group.

For those with strong constitutions, it doesn't all stop here! The exhibition closes at 16.00 – time enough to allow the exhibitors to pack-up and make their way to the Windmill Village hotel for the *Pest Control News* dinner.

All in all a very busy day. We are pleased to present a timetable of activities overleaf. Careful planning is needed if you are to get round everything within the day! See you there.

How to find the National Motorcycle Museum

Address: Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EJ
Tel: 0121 704 2784 Web: www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk

By road: The museum is located next to the M42 at junction 6 where it intersects the A45 running from Coventry to Birmingham. There is ample free-of-charge car parking space.

By rail: Birmingham International station is a five minute taxi ride

By air: Birmingham International airport is a five minute taxi ride.





Activities in the Bracebridge Suite

Night shooting course

09.30 - 12.30 worth 6 CPD points

Shooting at night is potentially a high-risk activity for participants and the general public. Come and find out how and what to do on this certified course presented by John Thornley and Charlie Parkes.

Delegates need to book in advance with NPTA. The cost is £45 + VAT for members, £60 + VAT for non-members.



Workshops – 11.00 - 12.00

There are too few opportunities for consultation in the industry so each year, this workshop highlights a subject of concern. This year, the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) must make major changes to the RSPH/BPCA Certificate in Pest Control (Level 2) if it is to remain a 'certificate' rather than be just an 'award'. They must increase the number of hours of learning involved and the amount of practical training received. The first idea was to make candidates keep a work book but that has been shelved, so where next? The RSPH wants your views.

The workshop will also include Dr Alan Buckle, chair of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), who will launch the new BASIS-accredited Wildlife Aware training course. The one-day course is designed for qualified pest control technicians working in rural situations for both the private and public sectors.



PWIPM event

14.00 - 15.30

**Sponsored by
Pest Control News**

Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) was launched

earlier this year, so come along to find out what has happened so far, plus plans for the future. This is an ideal opportunity to share achievements and challenges with colleagues. All women involved in the pest management industry are very welcome.

Plan your trip with our quick guide to PestTech

Please Note – All programme times reproduced here are as supplied by the organisers and are correct at the time of going to press. Readers are advised to check timings on arrival at PestTech in case timings or content have altered.



Product launches

Kirkmichael Suite

Come and hear what's new	Morning 4 November	Afternoon 4 November
Bayer Environmental Science	09.45 - 10.00	14.15 - 14.30
Killgerm Chemicals	10.00 - 10.15	14.30 - 14.45
Pelgar International	10.15 - 10.30	14.45 - 15.00
P & L Systems	10.30 - 10.45	15.00 - 15.15
BASF Pest Control Solutions	10.45 - 11.00	15.15 - 15.30

Technical workshops

Bracebridge Suite

Keep up with the technicalities	Morning 4 November	Afternoon 4 November
* One CPD point awarded		
Equipment maintenance* presented by Paul Hoyes, Killgerm	10.00 - 10.30	-
Waste management* presented by Lee Petts, Remsol	-	13.00 - 13.30
Risk assessments* presented by Graham Sharman, Rutland Pest Control	-	13.30 - 14.00

Practical demonstrations

Outside

See and learn from the experts	Morning 4 November	Afternoon 4 November
* One CPD point awarded		
Hawks in pest control presented by Tommy McNally, Envirohawks	09.30 - 09.50	14.30 - 14.50
Long netting* presented by Liam Brinded, Brinded Long Netting	09.50 - 10.10	14.50 - 15.10
Trapping* presented by Steve Caple, Countryman Pest Control	10.10 - 10.30	15.10 - 15.30
Snaring* presented by Glenn Waters	10.30 - 10.50	15.30 - 15.50

The Exhibition

Doors open at 09.00

Exhibition closes at 16.00

Three CPD points awarded for attendance

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ATEO | 27 Proctor Bros |
| 2 JRCS Falconry | 28 Vermend |
| 3 Bower Products | 29 County Workwear |
| 4 Industrial Pesticides | 30 Pest Magazine |
| 5 Huck Nets | 31 Bell International |
| 6 P & L Systems/
Insect-O-Cutor | 32 BASF |
| 7 Russell
Environmental
Products | 33 Bradshaw Bennett |
| 8 WaspBane | 34 Barretine
Environmental
Health |
| 9 Roythornes
Solicitors | 35 Spray Systems |
| 10 NPTA | 36 Pest Friend |
| 11 Will Fountain | 37 International Pest
Control |
| 12 Bat Conservation
Trust | 38 PestWest |
| 13 Certis | 39 Lamp Compactor |
| 14 Unichem | 40 Animal Artistry |
| 15 Remsol | 41 Brinded Long
Netting |
| 16 Scan Wise | 42 CCRU |
| 17 Scan Wise | 43 BASIS |
| 18 Lodi UK | 44 DuPont |
| 19 Rentokil | 45 RSPH |
| 20 GPS Sprayers | 46 Paragon |
| 21 SX Environmental
Supplies | 47 Blattodea Culture
Group |
| 22 Agrisense-BCS | 48 NWTF |
| 23 Pelgar | 49 BPCA |
| 24 Agropharm | 50 Brandenburg |
| 25 Allman Sprayers | 51 IHS |
| 26 Bayer Environmental
Science | 52 Killgerm |

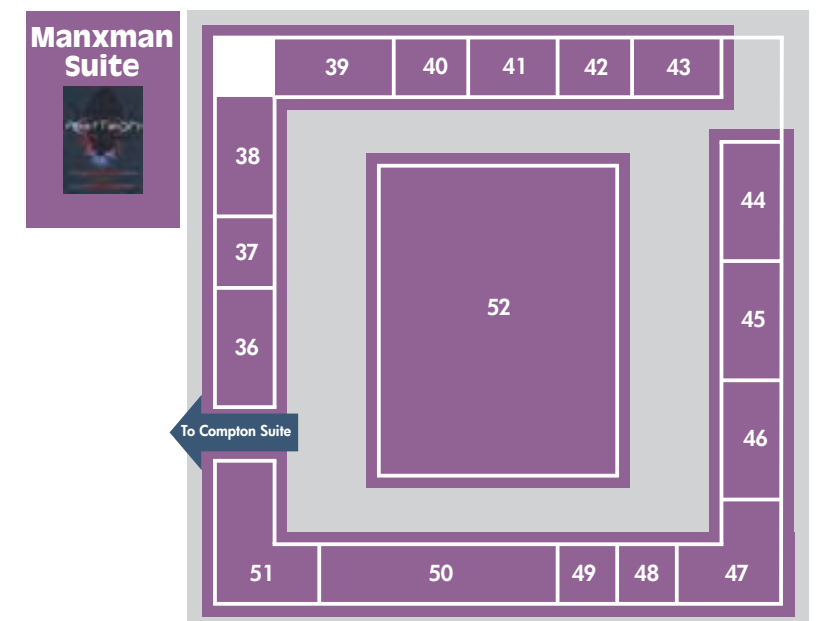
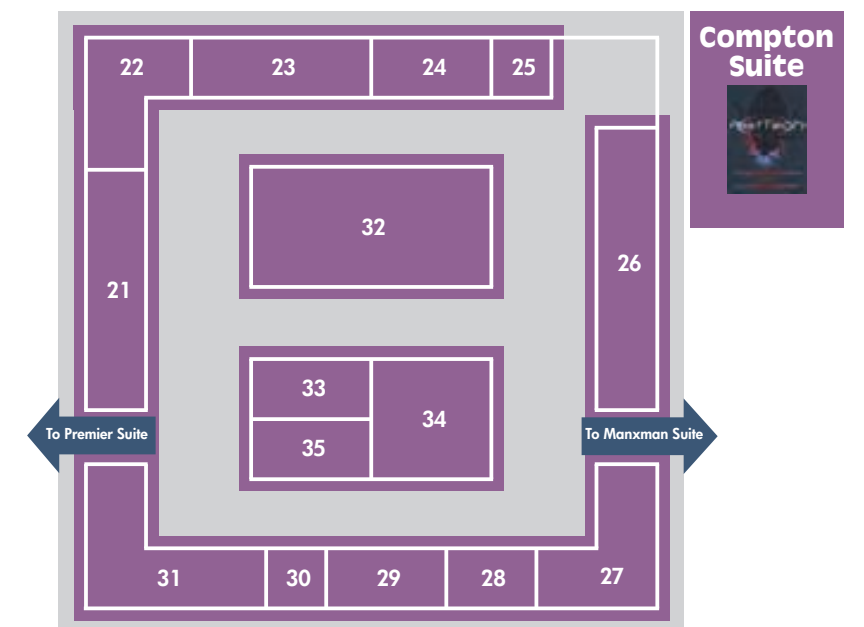
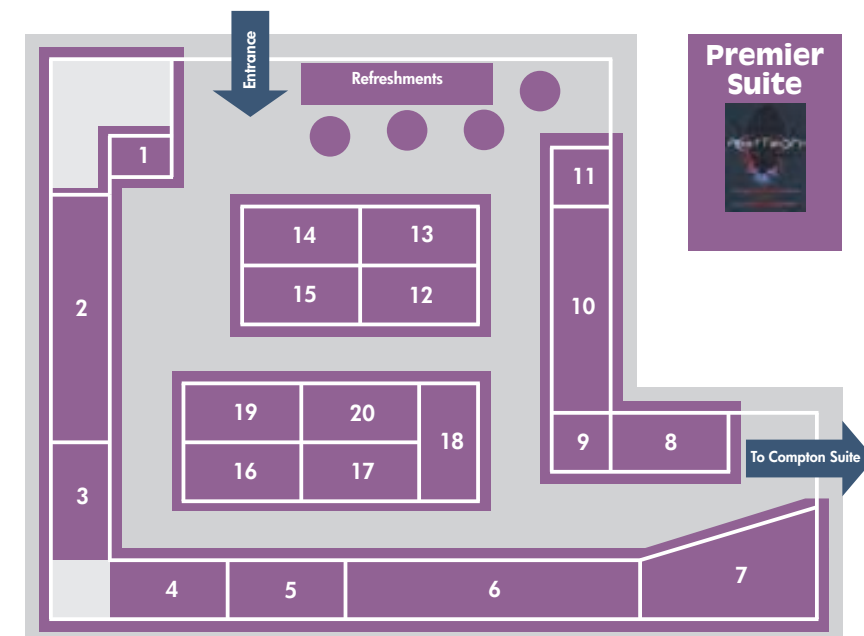
Refreshments

Light refreshments including tea and coffee, sandwiches and pastries are available from the catering stand in the Premier Suite.

For those wanting something more substantial the Museum restaurant on the first floor provides sitdown meals at reasonable prices.

PestTech website

Check-out the most up-to-date details at the dedicated PestTech website at www.pesttech.org.uk



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Getting the upper hand on rabbits

Rabbits remain a serious pest problem in rural areas and, increasingly, also in urban situations. A wide variety of control options are available to professional pest controllers but which should you choose?

The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) causes an estimated economic loss (primarily in agriculture) in excess of £100 million a year. Although hard to quantify, the total population is thought to be around 40 million. The population is currently increasing by about 2% annually due to the recent mild winters, fewer outbreaks of myxomatosis and less effective use of control measures. In addition, there are fewer pest control techniques available, notably, following the withdrawal of Cymag in 2004.

Rabbit populations can withstand high mortality from natural causes so, coupled with their inherent capacity for population increase, complete eradication is impractical. Instead, the aim should be to reduce numbers to economically or practically acceptable levels.



Run rabbit run, here's the pest controller with his gun!

Management techniques

Rabbits do not respect boundaries

The most effective time to mount a control programme is between November and March because:

- Mortality from natural causes will have reduced rabbit numbers to their lowest levels by the winter. Up to 90% of young rabbits born in the summer will have died by now without human intervention;

- Action will cut the adult breeding population before the next breeding season;
- Vegetation is dying back, making access to burrows easier.

The best results are achieved if infested adjoining land is treated at the same time in a co-operative exercise. Rabbits do not respect boundaries! The quality and amount of harbourages are major factors determining rabbit numbers within an area. Habitat management should therefore play an integral part of a successful control programme. Scrub and ground cover may need to be thinned to allow access to the burrows – and is essential if gassing is to be undertaken. Where practical, burrow systems could be destroyed following control operations, for example by use of one of the burrow blasting machines now available.



Gassing – a very effective option

Gassing

Gassing is regarded as the most effective method of control when burrows are accessible and can offer up to 80% control. However, effectiveness is reduced in porous soils, when soil moisture is low or when soil temperatures fall below 5°C. For best results,

rabbits must be driven to ground before gassing and every entrance to the warren system found and treated. Particular care should be paid to the possible presence of badger setts or fox earths, as it is illegal to gas either mammal.

Phostoxin and Talunex are the only two gassing products available. Both produce phosphine gas which is extremely toxic to rabbits (and humans).

Fencing and wire-netting

Fencing is particularly useful when other techniques are impractical, or when complete exclusion is the aim. However, fencing erection usually falls within the remit of fencing contractors, rather than pest controllers.

Shooting

Shooting is a popular (even recreational) method of rabbit control and is most effective when conducted at night using a spotlight. Single shooting operations are not particularly effective and reduce rabbit numbers by only about 30%. It is recommended that this method should only be used as an adjunct to more effective methods, or to remove problem individuals that cannot be disposed of by other means. Make sure that you comply with all the relevant legislation.

Baited cage trapping

Here galvanised wire-mesh cages are baited with carrot, set in open vegetation and checked twice a day – morning and late afternoon. Captured rabbits must be dispatched humanely. Cage trapping can reduce numbers by up to 65% and is most appropriate when protecting specific areas and where manpower is easily available for trap checking. It offers the advantage that access to burrows is not required and that non-target species can be released unharmed.

Spring trapping

Only approved spring traps, designed to catch and kill rabbits humanely can be used. To minimise the risk to non-target species, stock and pets should be excluded from the trapping area. Legally, all spring traps must be inspected at least once a day.

Snaring

Snares are intended for use to tether animals for subsequent humane dispatch. They are made from stranded brass wire that runs freely through a small eye made on one end of the wire. It is a legal requirement that they are

inspected daily. Snares should be set on well-used rabbit runs, in short vegetation close to the rabbit harbourages.

Long netting

This normally involves installing after dark, a vertical length of netting between rabbit harbourage and their feeding areas whilst the rabbits are out of the burrows. They are then driven back towards the cover and caught in the net. Practical skill is required to operate this technique effectively but in the right conditions good results can be achieved.

Ferretting

Ferrets are placed in the burrows and used to drive rabbits into nets which are placed over the burrow entrance or to waiting guns that shoot them as they bolt from tunnel entrances. Ferretting is time consuming and, when used in isolation, is unlikely to produce effective rabbit control. However, like shooting, it is often regarded as a country sport enjoyed by true 'country people' and, when used along with other measures, can contribute to an effective control programme. Both are means of capturing rabbits for the cooking pot.

The role of tunnel busting machines



Once the rabbits have been removed from the burrows or have been killed by the use of gassing, one of the new tunnel busting machines can be used to collapse the tunnel system. Imported from the USA, the Rodenator was developed to collapse the burrows of a variety of US pests. The other well-publicised model is the Warrenator, developed specifically, claim the manufacturers, for damper UK conditions. Both models inject an explosive mixture of propane gas and oxygen into a tunnel system which is then electronically ignited. The resultant shock wave collapses the burrows.

There has been considerable disquiet within the industry over the apparent illegal use of these machines to control pest species such as rabbits. Natural England is keen to point out that to use such devices in any burrow or tunnel system occupied by any animal is likely to be an offence and the maximum penalty for using an explosive, other than ammunition for a firearm, to kill wild animals is £5,000 and six months in prison.

Legal constraints

Rabbit control is regulated by many pieces of wildlife legislation.

The **Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981** prohibits any explosive other than ammunition for a firearm, self-locking snares and bows or crossbows as methods of killing or taking rabbits. The Act also requires the daily inspection of legal snares and amends the legislation permitting the shooting of rabbits at night.

Under the **Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996** it is an offence to intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering on any wild animal – a fact which needs to be considered where the destruction of occupied warrens and burrow systems is being contemplated.

The **Animal Welfare Act 2006** provides protection against causing unnecessary suffering to animals that are 'under the control of man'. This could affect the use of live capture traps in respect of the setting (reducing the effects of adverse weather conditions etc) and frequency of checking (there are no specified statutory intervals). All users of such techniques must be competent in the humane dispatch of captured animals.

Under the **Pests Act 1954**, the majority of England and Wales was designated a 'Rabbit Clearance Area' whereby every occupier of land must take the necessary steps to control wild rabbits living on their land unless it can be established that is not

practicable to do so. Under section 98 of the Agriculture Act 1947 Defra has the power to back-up this requirement by serving a notice on an occupier requiring them to take specified action against the rabbits.

However, in November 2008, Natural England announced that it would now only be issuing Agricultural Act Notices in exceptional circumstances. The reasons for this change were numerous – but economics were perhaps the greatest driver. Fines under the Act were relatively modest (maximum £500) yet the legal costs of raising the notice could run into thousands of pounds. Natural England's policy is to encourage voluntary action between neighbours to resolve rabbit damage.

Shooting is one control method and the **Ground Game Act 1880** gives every occupier of land a limited right to kill and take rabbits. An occupier may also authorise, in writing, other persons to assist him. Under the **Firearms Act 1968** a shotgun certificate is required, whereas a firearms certificate is required for rifle use.

If undertaking gassing all fumigants which generate phosphine gas must be approved under the **Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986** and used according to label recommendations. Gassing must only be undertaken by those trained in the use of aluminium phosphide. Users must comply with the COSHH Regulations.

Take the Pest Test

BASIS has made two PROMPT CPD points available if you can demonstrate that you have improved your knowledge, understanding and technical know-how by passing the **Pest Test** and answering all our questions correctly. So read through our technical feature on rabbit control and then complete the questions below.

Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the article. **Take care as some questions may have more than one correct answer so tick all the answers you believe are correct.** **SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS** to: **Pest Magazine**, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ. We will contact you with your result and if all your answers are correct we will send your details to BASIS who will credit the CPD points to you.

1	Why are rabbit numbers on the increase?	4	Which animals can gassing products which generate phosphine be legally used to kill?
	a) Warmer winters <input type="checkbox"/>		a) Squirrels <input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Rabbit invasions from Europe <input type="checkbox"/>		b) Rabbits <input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Reduced effects of myxomatosis <input type="checkbox"/>		c) Badgers <input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Failure to carry out effective control action <input type="checkbox"/>		d) Foxes <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Which of these UK wildlife Acts affect the control of rabbits?	5	When is the most effective time for a rabbit control programme?
	a) Pests Act 1954 <input type="checkbox"/>		a) During the summer <input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Animal Welfare Act 2006 <input type="checkbox"/>		b) Any time <input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Ground Game Act 1880 <input type="checkbox"/>		c) Early winter and spring <input type="checkbox"/>
	d) All of these <input type="checkbox"/>		d) Only in those months with 30 days <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Spring traps and snares must legally be checked?	6	How many young rabbits can a female rabbit produce each year?
	a) Weekly <input type="checkbox"/>		a) Four <input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Every other day <input type="checkbox"/>		b) Forty-four <input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Every day <input type="checkbox"/>		c) Ten <input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Twice a day <input type="checkbox"/>		d) Twenty <input type="checkbox"/>
Name:		Tel:	
		PROMPT registration number:	
		Email:	

Rabbit facts and figures

- Rabbits were introduced by the Normans in the 12th century to provide meat and fur.
- They can live up to nine years. However in the wild they rarely live longer than 12 months.
- Rabbits become sexually mature at four months and breed rapidly. On average a doe (female rabbit) will produce 20 live young per year. The gestation period is four weeks.
- Body length is 30 - 40 cm. Weight 1.2 - 2 kg.
- Adults rarely venture further than 200 metres from the main burrow.
- An adult will eat 500 grams per day of green food i.e. up to 30% of their body weight.
- The myxomatosis epidemic began in 1954 and almost wiped out the entire population. However, rabbits are now increasingly resistant to this viral disease.



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Web: www.getthatrat.com

Use rodenticides safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Robah contains 0.005% w/w difenacoum. Rodex contains 0.005% w/w bromadiolone.

MADE IN BRITAIN

SX all set for continued growth

SX Environmental Supplies is now one of the leading distributors of pest control products in the UK. However they are very much seen as the new kids on the block – having only started in 1995. **Pest** editor, Frances McKim, finds out how it all began.

Ask anyone their opinion of pest control and 'traditional' is a word which frequently emerges. Yet, visit SX Environmental Supplies at its base near Southend in Essex and you find a young, enthusiastic, professional and customer-orientated business. Heading-up the operation is owner-manager, Richard Lunn.

Chance involvement

Richard's involvement with pest control came entirely by chance. Although born in Essex, Richard grew up in Hampshire. He left school at 16, but at 18 his family moved back to Essex. He then had several jobs but for five years he worked for a local property company, buying and selling residential and commercial units. However, in 1994 this came to an end and Richard found himself in need of a job.

At the Job Centre two possibilities were on offer – one with the courier firm, City Link

and the other a six-week training course with Rentokil Pest Control leading to the position of area manager. City Link turned him down, but Rentokil said yes and off he went on his six weeks training – little realising that both of these companies were owned by Rentokil Initial.

It was during this training that Richard decided the hands-on practical side of the business was not for him. However he



How it all began! Richard Lunn holds up his original mouse box patent drawing and first promotional leaflet

identified the need for a mouse bait box and decided to design one himself. Having filed for a patent and manufactured some samples, he set out to sell these into the established distributor companies.

Novel concept

Not only was his box novel, but he also produced them in five colours and developed the idea of personalising the boxes to the servicing company by printing their names on the top of the box. The response from the distributors was negative. How things have changed!

Not to be deterred Richard set-about selling his boxes direct, mainly via mail order and through trade shows. Sales were not sufficient to provide a living, so he worked during the day in the financial services sector, returning at night to print and despatch the mouse box orders from his conservatory at home.

The concept of coloured and company branded boxes took-off, sales grew, the design of the box was refined and a rat box was added to the range. At the same time, customers were asking him to supply other products so Birdex bird spikes were added.

After four years he had outgrown his

conservatory and the volume of business was such that he resigned from his 'day' job to concentrate on what was now becoming a full-time fledgling distribution company.

New premises

So in 2001, the business was relocated. The new premises were basically a hired garage unit. Problems with articulated lorries attempting to make deliveries meant the unit was inappropriate, so in 2002 the business moved to a 4,000sq ft industrial unit.

At the same time Richard was being asked by customers to supply the various rodenticide and insecticide chemicals they required. By chance, Pelgar International had entered the market and was looking for UK distribution, whilst Hockley International also wanted to extend their insecticide sales into public health. Exclusive distribution agreements were struck. Both companies remain SX's main pesticide suppliers to this day. The range of products handled grew, SX produced its first annual product catalogue and began exporting overseas.

Disaster turned to opportunity

Disaster struck in 2007 when the battery to a fork-lift truck overheated, resulting in a major fire at the warehouse. Luckily, Richard in his retained fireman capacity (see below) was on hand to direct proceedings and, whilst his office records were salvaged, his entire stock was damaged by water and smoke.

Yet again what could have been a tragedy turned into an opportunity. Within days the company was up and trading again having relocated to the current even larger premises (14,000 sq ft). Today SX offers its customers a full-range of supplies and prides itself on its level of stock holding (meaning products



What began in Richard's conservatory now needs a 14,000 sq ft warehouse

are always available) and speed of turn-around from order to delivery.

Originally known as Essex Rodent Control, the transformation of the company into SX Environmental Supplies should be complete by the end of the year.

Richard is still a very hands-on manager and is certainly not afraid to roll his sleeves up and pack a few boxes when required, so as to fulfil his objective of offering the best service in the industry. Whilst much involved with the hurly-burly of trading in the pest control market, he is not one to sit on committees nor involve himself backstage within the industry.

From his modest beginnings, SX now employs 12 people including two in-field sales managers – Trevor Green and Richard Lamb.

Impressive growth

For the future, Richard sees his business continuing to grow at the impressive rate of 20% per year, with an expected annual turnover this year approaching £5 million. Having now set his sights on further growing his export business, this is sure to rise.

He sees the industry as a whole expanding, as awareness of environmental health issues – by restaurants, shops and commercial operations – continues to increase.

Asked if he views the DIY market from the likes of B&Q affecting the industry, the answer is no. He likens the pest control sector to the plumbing business – there will always be work for professionals, but some householders prefer to have a go themselves.



Keeping it in the family. Richard's daughter, Jordan, is a real whizz on the mouse box printing

Five facts you may not know about Richard

- 1 For several years he was a retained fireman as he didn't want to see his local fire station close for lack of volunteers.
- 2 SX is certainly a family business. Richard's daughter works full-time, whilst his Dad helps-out when busy.
- 3 At home Richard is very much a family man. For many years he and his wife, Sam, have fostered many children and they are in the process of adopting a son whom they have fostered for the last three years.
- 4 Richard's other three children are pony crazy. Most weekends he can be found driving the horse box transporting the children to show-jumping competitions.
- 5 Richard is a keen supporter of local and national charities, claiming never to have turned down a request for sponsorship or a donation – he even opens his stables at home to local groups and has provided ponies for use by Riding For The Disabled.



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SX Environmental
professional pest control products

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SX Environmental
professional pest control products

Delegates gathered at the East Midlands conference centre in Nottingham (21 to 23 September) for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's (CIEH) Best of the Best 2009 conference.

Professor Hugh Pennington gave the key note lecture on day one. He declared that EHOs are a low priority in many councils and that their status is unlikely to improve in the face of current funding priorities.

Day three featured pest control and fittingly opened with a presentation by David Hine and Claire Ritchie from Westminster City Council. They presented an overview of year one of the Council's *Aiming High in Pest Control* project. This aims to raise standards of pest control in selected areas by means of

Best of the Best 2009

a training and partnership approach between the Council's environmental health team, the restaurateurs and the pest control contractors (represented by BPCA). Having initially only covered three hot-spot areas, an area in Soho was added in April 2009.

Paul Charlton from West Lancashire Borough Council discussed some of the practical issues affecting rodent control. He stressed: "Whatever method of treatment is selected, it must always be based on an initial risk assessment." Steve Hughes from Liverpool

City Council related the experience faced by this inner city authority when the Council decided, almost overnight, in 2005 to introduce a charge (£15) for the treatment of public health pests.

Dr Dini Miller (see also USA bedbug law article on page 27 opposite) described the problems faced in the USA with the control of bedbugs. If we think things are bad in the UK – go to the USA – as their arsenal of effective products is far smaller than is available here.

www



Speakers Paul Charlton (left) and Steve Hughes



From Westminster City Council, Claire Ritchie and David Hine



The busy CIEH National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) stand. BPCA also exhibited at the event.

hi



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Landlords want quality pest control advice

The recent London Landlord's event on 9-10 September at the Olympia Conference Centre provided an opportunity to understand the drivers in this very unique market. Over 2,400 visitors attended, ranging from the mega property management companies to individual investors.

Presentations, covered the usual finance, legal, investment, health and safety topics, but, for the first time pest management was included, with presentations from David Cain of Bed Bugs UK Ltd and Rob Fryatt of Xenex Associates.

So, was there an interest in pest management? "A resounding yes," said David Cain. "The enquiries about pest control services ranged from the usual 'how can we get a cheaper service', to many landlords expressing concern at the standard of pest control service they had received." He continued: "Many were surprised that no report was provided to help reassure their tenants, whilst others were disappointed at the lack of explanation of the products and techniques used. We are a specialist bedbug management company but we were able to point landlords to the BPCA online directory of pest control companies."

Most questions though were about bedbug control. As a generalisation, landlords are unclear as to how they should minimise infestations and at what point they should abandon trying to save money with self-treatment and call in the professionals. Amongst the pest control items on display was the new BB Alert bedbug monitoring system with many landlords asking about

availability. The event also marked the public launch of the new publication *Bed Bug Beware* booklet (see page 33).

Summing-up the event, Rob Fryatt said: "It is clear there is an increasing demand from landlords for pest management services as they discharge their legal hygiene responsibilities. There is a lack of understanding as to what they can do themselves or when they should be calling in the professionals. An event like this is an excellent opportunity for the industry to promote itself to an open and willing market. It is to be hoped that BPCA and NPTA will recognise this and attend the show next year. Pest management will then figure even stronger in the conference programme and in the exhibition hall."



Pest management's debut at the London Landlord's event

USA bedbug laws



In the USA, several States are introducing laws to clarify the responsibility for bedbug control in multi-unit properties. To date, making tenants pay for bedbug control has failed. Many literally do not have the funds, so they simply fail to report infestations.

This failure to address infestations adequately has allowed some apartment complexes to become 90% infested.

Dr Dini Miller, pictured, is associate professor and urban pest management specialist, from Virginia Tech in the USA. She detailed what is being done. In 2006 San Francisco was the first to add an amendment to its Public Health Code requiring:

- Property owners and operators "shall not have a public nuisance on the property" (bedbugs are listed as a public nuisance);
- Tenants must clean and co-operate with owners and pest control operators or be cited (they are fined if they do not allow PCOs access or do not follow their instructions);
- PCOs have specific guidelines for inspection and treatment.

In 2009 Virginia introduced a bill to the House of Representatives with similar requirements, whilst Ohio has also recently passed the same requirements. Is this a model appropriate to the UK?



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Afternoon speakers Gary Pepler (left) and Garry Pease (centre) with Acheta's John Simmons

For food manufacturers the penalties of any pest management failure are extremely high – valuable contracts with major retailers are at stake. The same goes for pest control contractors working in the sector. So, what tools are available and are there any new options that pest controllers need to be aware of?

Keeping on top of food pests



The morning speakers, left to right: Tony Koral, Mike Dudbridge, Dr Cameon Ivarsson and Mark Braithwaite

For many years pest control in food manufacturing relied heavily on the fumigant methyl bromide. But concerns about methyl bromide's ozone-depleting properties have led to the removal of this versatile product from the market.

The challenge of controlling stored product insect pests in a post methyl bromide world was the subject for an interesting, one-day seminar organised by SOFHT in association with Acheta Consulting in High Wycombe on 23 September. *Life After Methyl Bromide* highlighted the amount of lateral thinking that is being employed to prevent and control stored product insect (SPI) problems.

Before looking at some of these novel solutions, there was a review by Mark Braithwaite of Connaught (formerly Igrox) of the other stalwart, phosphine. It was soon apparent that, used properly, phosphine is still a very effective fumigant and, compared to carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the only other fumigant available in the UK, it is a pretty cost effective option.

Sadly, the relatively small size of the UK market combined with the high cost of registration means that none of the more recent technologies using phosphine, such as the Horn Generator and the cylinderised ECO2FUME formulation, can be used here. Whilst there is some evidence of resistance Mark suggested that this is not generally a UK problem. "In my experience over 20 years the number of cases of true resistance has been extremely rare. A failed fumigation is much more likely to be the result of a poor fumigation," he said.

Tuning in to pests!

Radio frequencies are not the first thing to come to mind as a tool for controlling pests but Tony Koral from Koral Associates sees definite possibilities. Although he admitted there are no commercial examples yet in operation, researchers from Washington State University and the University of California Davis, together with commercial companies Strayfield UK and Diamond Walnuts of California, have proved the technology's potential.

Trials funded by the California Walnut Commission and the US

Department of Agriculture, have successfully used radio frequency (RF) heating to disinfest walnuts on an industrial scale. RF heating is not new. It has been used in food for many years primarily for final drying in biscuit bakeries. Unlike conventional ovens RF heaters are similar to domestic microwaves and produce direct heat. This means that the commodity being treated heats up quickly and uniformly.

For walnuts the trials clearly showed that using RF heating to raise the temperature to 54°C followed by a very short hold (all completed in about five minutes) resulted in a 100% mortality rate in all life stages of the insect pests tested. The pest chosen was the one identified as the most difficult to kill – the fifth instar of the navel orange worm. In addition, because of the rapid and uniform nature of the heating as well as the short hold period there was no detrimental effect on the rancidity or colour of the walnuts. Whilst the process works well for nuts, RF technology is not suitable for dried fruits as the high sugar content means that fruit cannot be heated sufficiently uniformly to ensure all the pests are killed.

The cost of the process is largely comparable to treatment with methyl bromide. It does however depend on the cost of electricity but as a ball park figure based on a UK price of 10p per kilowatt hour, one tonne of walnuts could be treated for around £3. Unfortunately, because methyl bromide is still available in the US this process has not yet been commercialised.

Full steam ahead

In contrast, the steam and vacuum combination developed by Napasol is already in full commercial use in many countries.

Dr Cameon Ivarsson from the Switzerland-based company explained: "The beauty of the system is that it doesn't rely on high-tech equipment which means that our high-tech process can be implemented worldwide with locally sourced low-tech equipment. All you need is a suitable chamber or autoclave, a steam generator and a powerful pump to create the vacuum."

The commodity to be treated is put into racks or containers and then placed in the autoclave. A deep vacuum is created then steam

pumped in. A second vacuum follows with more steam and finally a third vacuum. "There are no moving parts so everything is very easy to keep clean," she added. By using a vacuum, both treatment temperatures and times can be reduced making the process suitable for use with delicate products such as nuts, spices, herbs and seeds and even dried fruits, where sugars will caramelise at high temperatures.

Killing the pest in the pack

Closer to home, Mike Dudbridge and his team from the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) at the University of Lincoln, Holbeach have come up with another novel way of killing SPIs for a major packing company.

The company concerned had experienced a large increase in complaints about insects in the porridge and muesli it was packing for a major UK retailer. NCFM suggested modified atmosphere packing as a solution and using their new facilities were able to test the theory. Product was deliberately contaminated with viable eggs and packed into a series of low oxygen (below 0.5%) atmospheres containing different ratios of CO₂ and nitrogen. As a control some product was packed in air. Samples were stored in standard warehouse conditions and examined weekly for any insect activity.

"We found that in the packs with 7.5% or more CO₂ no insect activity was detected," explained Mike. "After a month some packs were opened releasing their protective atmosphere and simulating opening in the home. No activity was detected in any of these indicating that the eggs had been killed and were not just dormant."

"The food manufacturer is now testing the system in the factory and the retailer seems happy with the solution viewing it as an extra 'belt and braces' defence which complements standard pest control activity in the factory," says Mike.

Pheromones a slow but sure solution

Pheromones are not new to food industry pest management where they are used in monitoring, attracting pests to traps to provide early warning of impending infestation. Increasingly they are also used in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programmes to actually control all five major species of stored product moth.

This has been made possible by Exosect's novel technology in which minute quantities of the female sex pheromone zeta are blended with waxes and milled to produce Entostat powder. The powder in tablet or block form is sited in traps around the premises. In a process which the company calls 'autoconfusion', male moths are attracted to the pheromone and pick up the powder. This overloads their pheromone receptors so that they cannot find the females. At



The exhibition proved popular with delegates

the same time these males lay false trails of pheromone attracting other males. Product development manager Garry Pease presented data showing the effectiveness of the system under 'low', 'medium' and 'high' pest pressures. "It does not have an instant effect," he admitted, "but, as part of an IPM system, it reduces the need for chemicals and slowly but surely devastates moth populations."

Not all moth traps are equal

Dr John Simmons managing director of Acheta Consulting is a keen advocate of the use of monitoring data to trigger pest control action but that requires reliable data. He outlined findings from an in-house assessment of the relative effectiveness of three commonly used moth traps: the Demi-diamond (DD), the Funnel trap and the Delta trap. The conclusions were striking as he explained: "The DD traps proved to be a far more sensitive monitor of moth activity allowing both earlier warning of the development of an infestation and more accurate evaluation of the success of control measures." In true scientific fashion there were a couple of provisos: "The longevity of the DD lure does have some question marks against it so needs to be renewed at least every six weeks. In addition, in really heavy infestations the pads can become ineffective because of the number of moths caught on them."

How many recalls are caused by insect pests?

Recalls/reason	2008	2009 (to end Aug)
Undeclared allergens	49	35
Foreign bodies	21	9
Microbial contamination	20	9
Pests	3	0
Others e.g. date code errors, faulty packs	28	11
Totals	116	64

With so much effort being put into developing pest solutions for this sector you could be forgiven for thinking that the food industry has a huge pest control problem. In fact, as Gary Pepler of Food Integrity Consulting explained, that is far from the case. Based on figures that he has collected on product recalls it seems that the work which pest controllers and food manufacturers put into prevention is largely successful.

However product recalls are expensive. Gary estimated that each recall will cost a minimum of £150,000 covering physical withdrawal of the product, advertising the problem in national press etc. In addition there are the often much bigger hidden costs of the damage to the brand image and customer relations.



Pest control is one of the many standards that the food industry has to work to, said exhibitor John Adams of food assurance organisation NSF-CMI

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PRODUCTS
What's new

High performance thermal fogger

The TF 65 from German manufacturer, Igeba, is a universal high-performance fog generator. It is designed to be used either stationary in closed indoor spaces or vehicle-mounted for outdoor applications. The equipment can be used in a variety of applications, be they vector or pest control, disinfection, plant protection or for stored product insect control.

The unit is handy to use and can easily be operated by one person alone. The fuel tank, fog tube and air pump are all manufactured from stainless steel. The quick-coupling system facilitates easy changing of the solution tank and every model comes with a special conversion kit to switch between water and oil-based solutions, making its use truly universal.



www.igeba.de

Phobi Dose from Lodi UK

This new product from Lodi UK contains a combination of two active ingredients – 10% imiprothrin with 15% cyphenothrin – presented in a liquid form, unique to the UK market.

The imiprothrin component provides quick knock-down as demonstrated in both field and laboratory trials – a kill of 100% of cockroaches within two and a half minutes is claimed, as opposed to up to three hours with some other brands. In combination with cyphenothrin, Phobi Dose offers both knock-down with residual activity of up to three months on non-porous surfaces, says the manufacturer.

Currently the UK registration is for cockroaches only but other insects, including bedbugs, are to be added once approval is granted. The product is presented in easy-to-use 25ml soluble sachets, packed 10 to a box. Each sachet dilutes with two and a half litres of water, enough to treat 45 square metres.



www.lodi-uk.com

Anchor with Load-N-Lock

Safely securing bait stations by gluing or staking them to the ground has always been somewhat messy and time consuming. Protecta Load-N-Lock from Bell Laboratories offers an easy solution.

Made of heavy-duty, injection-moulded plastic, the Load-N-Lock holds bricks or other materials to add weight to the unit. Technicians place the bricks into the Load-N-Lock base and then snap the bait station into place. Once it is closed, the base and bait station cannot be separated. The ramped design of the base allows easy entry for rats or mice and portrays a professional image.



www.belllabs.com

Killgerm goes low-profile

The latest addition to the Killgerm AF Range is the AF Tunnel – a low-cost, low-profile, discreet tunnel.



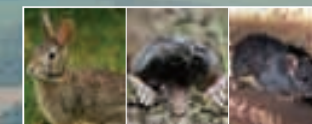
This unique design enables the use of both blocks, grain in a bait tray and Ratimor, whilst the bait bar enables bait to be placed off the ground, favouring the natural feeding behaviour of rodents.

www.killgerm.com

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Encyclopaedia of insects

The second edition of this reference book provides a most comprehensive, useful, and up-to-date resource for pest professionals. Edited by Professors Vincent Resh and Ring Carde from the University of California, USA, the list of contributors is a virtual Who's Who in entomology. It covers all aspects of insect anatomy, physiology, evolution, behaviour, reproduction, ecology, and disease, as well as issues of exploitation, conservation and management.

Extending to 1,132 pages this is certainly not a light read – in both senses of the word! The authors say their aim is to convey the exciting, dynamic story of what entomology is today. The book is intended to be a concise, integrated summary of current knowledge and historical background on each of the nearly 300 entries presented.

ISBN 978 012 3741448

Price £60.99 from www.elsevier.com



Pest verdict: Ideal for research entomologists and libraries. Not aimed at the practical pest controller.

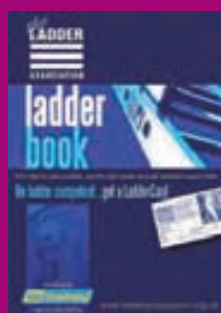
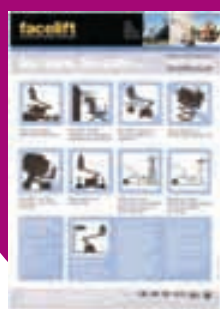
Tips for effective autumn rat control

An eight-minute video has been released by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) to help farmers and gamekeepers mount successful rat control initiatives this autumn.

The video runs through the seven point CRRU code for effective and responsible rodenticide treatments.

It can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/farmingsunday

Alternatively, order your own DVD copy for £10. Contact phil@redrock.uk.com Tel: 07802 672304.



Wildlife management and licensing

This leaflet describes the role and functions of Natural England in this important task. Copies from their website www.naturalengland.org.uk

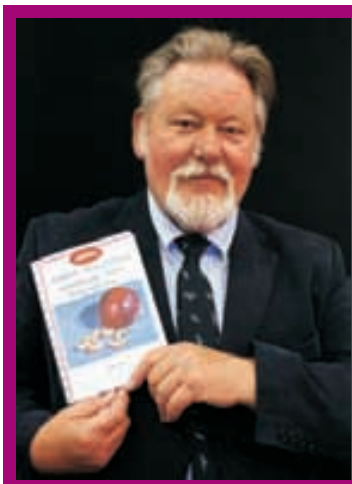
Working at height poster

Designed by Facelift Access to be a constant and professional reminder of how to work safely at height.

Downloadable from www.facelift.co.uk (from Resources section) or email trainingposters@facelift.co.uk

The Ladder Book

Produced by the Ladder Association it details how to work safely with ladders. Request or download



Indoor insect pests

All credit should go to Mike Kelly, left, of Acheta for publishing the *Indoor Insect Pests Handbook* Volume I. Volume II which is to cover risk assessment and control options will no doubt appear shortly.

Mike certainly calls upon his 40+ years of working within the industry to produce this first-class, 185 page handbook. Each page is packed full of relevant information supported by colourful photographs, illustrations and tables. In the introduction Mike declares the objective was to cover food storage and public health insects, covering their classification, biology, structure and the adaptations that make them so successful as pests. It opens with chapters on insect

classification, insect orders and characteristics. This is followed by detailed descriptions of 76 insect pests. Interspersed is the occasional funny story to keep you on your toes.

Price £29.50 inc p&p. From K-D Publications.

Email: K-DP@acheta.co.uk

Pest verdict: Excellent. Well illustrated and practical. Recommended for all pest controllers.

Report issued from international workshop

A very comprehensive review from the recent International Public Health Pesticides Workshop (IPHPW) held in London on 19-21 May has just been made available. Not only does it include reviews of each of the 30 presentations, it also summarises the findings from each of the work group sessions.

Communication was one of the agreed outcomes from the Workshop, so all credit to the organisers for producing this publication.

Downloadable from www.iphpw.org/london/index.htm



Pest verdict: Good resumé and a valuable addition if involved with vector control.

Mosquitoes and public health

Written by Dr Colin Malcolm, left, from the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences of Queen Mary College, University of London, this publication is an independent report commissioned by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) as part of their debate on the need for greater public interventions in resolving pest problems.

Spanning 24 pages, this document reviews the potential for mosquito born diseases with the focus on present and future health risks in urban areas of Britain.

It argues that improved knowledge, targeted control measures and monitoring are needed to ensure that current mosquito problems do not escalate.



The problems are complex and largely unpredictable, so a proactive strategy of education, detection and prevention is better than a misconceived or misplaced, contingency plan. Downloadable from www.cieh.org/policy/npa_publications.html or email npap@cieh.org

Pest verdict: Useful if involved in any way with mosquitoes in the UK.

Bed Bug Beware

This handy 36 page booklet is written by two recognised industry experts – David Cain and Richard Strand. It covers what bedbugs are, reasons for bedbug resurgence, their biology and life-cycle and how you might tell if you have an infestation. Once an infestation is confirmed, sections deal with disposing of infected material and should a homeowner try DIY or call a professional. More interesting and novel sections provide helpful hints on what not to do if infested, plus a practical guide on how to avoid picking-up bedbugs in the first place if travelling abroad.

Bringing the booklet bang up-to-date, is a spread detailing new advances in the battle against this pest. Finally, there is a useful set of references and websites offering further information. The booklet describes itself as: "A new guide to help homeowners and professionals understand and deal more effectively with the increasing problem of bed bugs." And this it does do. ISBN 978 09562617 00 Price £14.99 from www.bedbugbeware.com or www.PestFeeHome.co.uk

Pest verdict: Excellent resumé of current state of play re bedbugs. Recommended for consumers and professionals alike.





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It's a small world

EU pest event with an international perspective

The seventh European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference (EVP MC) was held in Lyon, France from 8-12 September. Although the conference focused on European problems, more than 70 delegates representing 14 countries assembled from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Dr Alan Buckle from the University of Reading filed this report.

The programme was very varied and included sessions on zoonotic diseases carried by rodents, rodent behaviour and alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides. But the largest numbers of papers were presented in sessions on anticoagulant resistance and management of invasive species.

Dr Hans-Joachim (Jo) Pelz from the Julius Kühn-Institut, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, Münster, Germany gave a keynote paper on 50 years of anticoagulant resistance in Europe. He summarised the spread of resistance across Europe and spoke about the development of the new genetic testing methods. According to Dr Pelz, knowing the genetic mutation present is very helpful but more work is needed before we can say which anticoagulants are effective or ineffective against the different resistant strains. He ended his talk by raising the intriguing question whether resistance will ever develop to the most potent anticoagulants, brodifacoum and flocoumafen, and answered his

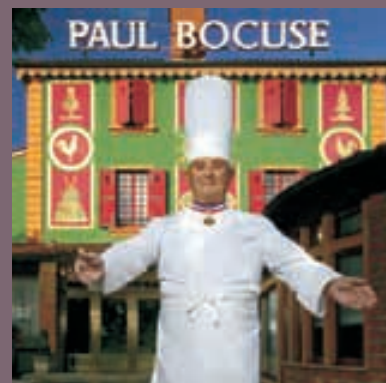
own question by saying: "Maybe not"!

Led by Dr Stefan Endepols, members of the Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee (RRAC) gave a series of papers on the effectiveness of difenacoum, bromadiolone and brodifacoum against the Tyr139Cys anticoagulant resistance strain, which is increasingly prevalent across Europe, including the UK.

Countries which are our close European neighbours suffer from a wider range of introduced vertebrate pests than we do in the UK. Interesting papers were given on the problem of invasions of red-bellied squirrels in both southern France and Belgium – this is a pest we really do not want to see come across the Channel. Other invasive pests covered included the common mynah in the Canary Isles, muskrats in Holland and roof rats on Mediterranean islands. It surprised UK delegates to hear that recent invasions of grey squirrels in France and Italy, currently of limited extent, were not met with plans for eradication, mainly due to government inertia and complaints from the animal welfare lobby.

An interesting counterpoint to the loss of active substances under the Biocidal Products Directive was provided by participants from New Zealand. Among them Professor Charles Eason described collaborative projects between the New Zealand government and industry to keep key rodenticides available for use. Compounds such as calciferol and zinc phosphide are seen by government as essential in the battle against vertebrate pests. Unlike the European Commission and Member States which see these compounds as easy targets for rapid removal from the market.

The eighth EVP MC will be held in 2011 in Berlin.



No international conference is complete without a programme of local tours. Lyon is only 25 kms from Beaujolais and our French hosts, Professor Etienne Benoit and Dr Philippe Berny, took us for a wine tasting evening followed by dinner at Paul Bocuse's world-renowned three Michelin star restaurant. It was not all work and no play!

Bed-Bugs.co.uk - Corporate Services

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For more information call 020 7720 6468, email info@bed-bugs.co.uk or visit www.Bed-Bugs.co.uk



Dr Alan Buckle



Dr Jo Pelz

	DAY	EVENT	VENUE	FIND OUT MORE
2009				
OCTOBER	26-29	PestWorld 2009	Las Vegas, USA	www.pestworld.org
NOVEMBER	4	PestTech 2009	National Motor Cycle Museum	www.pesttech.org.uk
	4	Pest Control News dinner	Windmill Village Hotel	Email: editor@pestcontrolnews.com
	14-16	Parasitec 2009	Maghreb, Algeria	www.parasitec.org
	26	SOFHT 30th Anniversary Lecture & Lunch	The Landmark Hotel, London	Email: admin@sofht.co.uk
	25-27	FAOPMA 2009	Beijing, China	www.cpcn.cn
2010				
FEBRUARY	4	European Termite Control Conference	Novotel at Bercy, Paris	rob@xenexassociates.com
	18-19	Eurocido 2010	Dortmund, Germany	www.eurocido.de
	18	Pest Control News dinner	Goldsaal, Westfalenhallen, Dortmund, Germany	pcnnight@pestcontrolnews.com
MARCH	3-5	9th Fumigants & Pheromones Conference & Workshop	Valencia, Spain	www.insectslimited.com/valencia
APRIL	20-21	Pest-Ventures 2010	Kegworth, Nottinghamshire	Tel: 01664 822678

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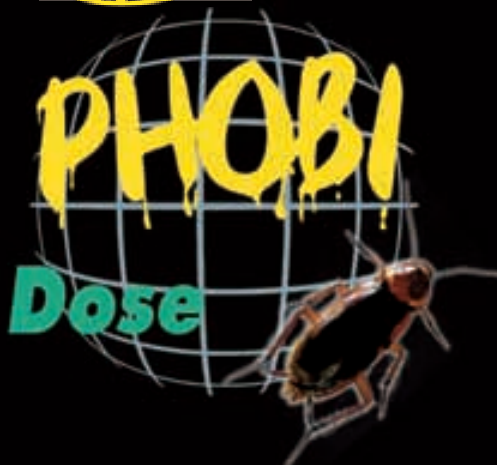
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