

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

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if you can!

Issue 54
December 2017 & January 2018



1 env win **Pest** readers'
Best Product Award



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Leaving CEPA in good
shape for the future



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Our verdict on the
new-look PestTech



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Controlling resident
house mice



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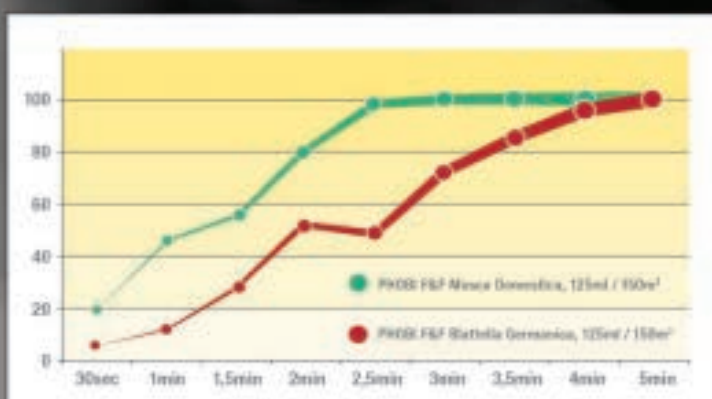
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As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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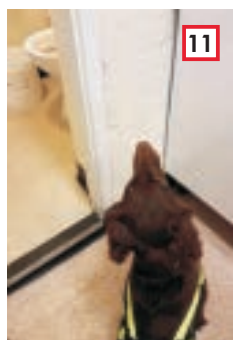
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More change on the way...

As 2017 draws to a close, there's a feeling among those who track the industry's wider fortunes that we're approaching the end of one era and the start of another. There's a changing of the guard at the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA), see page 13 and the British Pest Control Association's (BPCA) Simon Forrester is also set to leave the industry at the year-end, so there will be new people at the helm of both organisations in 2018.

The National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) has already completed a major change – taking PestTech to a new and prestigious venue, the Ricoh Arena. But we understand that the Ricoh cannot accommodate PestTech in its traditional first week of November, and with PestWorld immediately before it, 23-26 October, and Parasitec running 14-16 November, another venue change may be the only way forward – watch this space.

There are changes afoot too for pest professionals who use metallic phosphides see pages 31 and 32 – changes which may force a move away from gassing, so the advice on trapping moles (pages 18 to 21) is particularly timely. Of course, some things never change, so we make no excuses for our special feature with Syngenta and Killgerm on house mouse control.

Happy Christmas to all our readers, contributors and advertisers. We look forward to bringing you more news, views and technical reports in 2018.

Frances Helen

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Yet another massive Rentokil acquisition

The ink was hardly dry on the purchase of the previous two pest control companies in the US (Fischer Environmental Services and Batzner Pest Control) than the announcement was made on 13 November of a further acquisition in a slightly different, but complimentary market. This was for the purchase of Vector Disease Acquisition (VDA), North America's largest provider of mosquito control services.

VDA operates from 52 offices in 32 US states with annualised revenues for the 12 months prior to acquisition of c. \$47m (£36m). In line with this acquisition, the company is establishing a new global centre of excellence in North America for mosquito control – maybe akin to its new UK Innovation, Science and Training Centre which opened this September.

Watch out readers, as commenting on the acquisition, Andy Ransom, CEO of Rentokil Initial, said: "Our mergers and acquisitions pipeline remains very strong and therefore we now expect spend to be £100m+ in the second half of 2017." This backs up the report regarding the big companies just getting bigger, as reported in **Pest 53**: October & November 2017.

Proposed safety legislation for drone users

The use of drones within pest control is becoming well established, so, is the announcement on 26 November that drone users in the UK may have to take safety awareness tests under legislation planned by the government, good or bad news?

The answer is simple – it's good news. Like several other practices within pest control, applying legislative standards restricts the 'cowboy element'.

As Gareth Davies, Mitie's regional director (South) for pest control & drone solutions explained: "We welcome these new proposals. There are far too many

people thinking they can make a fast buck flying drones and giving CAA qualified pilots a bad name. The current flight restrictions are to a height of 400ft high and the drones must always be in the line of sight. Mitie, as a qualified drone business, can apply to the CAA, case by case, to fly above the current limits. We are one of the few companies granted night time flying which is a real bonus for wildlife management using a thermal camera."



Mosquito genetic engineering gets a step closer

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside have developed transgenic mosquitoes that stably express the Cas9 enzyme in their germline. The addition of Cas9 will enable the use of the CRISPR gene editing tool to make efficient, targeted changes to the mosquitoes' DNA. Or, for those of us who are not top flight scientists, this means that this method may accelerate scientists' work towards identifying the genes to target for disruption of mosquitoes' ability to carry and transmit human diseases.

As proof of this technique, the researchers used the system to disrupt genes associated with cuticle pigment causing *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes to turn from black to yellow, and disruption of genes associated with eye pigment, caused eye colour to change from black to white.



Hands across the world

During PestWorld 2017 (see report on pages 34-35), the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) hosted a further meeting of the Global Pest Management Coalition to discuss the structure of the organisation and its focus areas for the coming year. This follows their last meeting held in New York in April 2017 during the Global Summit of Pest Management Services for Public Health & Food Safety (see **Pest 50**: April & May 2017).

"The Global Coalition participants used the opportunity at this meeting to discuss structure, funding and strategy for moving forward," said NPMA CEO Dominique Stumpf. "Ultimately, the Coalition will drive collaboration among global pest management associations in achieving our common goals – particularly those involving the protection of public health and property."





© Bessie Lo

On the international pest control circuit

Backing up our comments on previous occasions on how international professional pest control has become, we have received reports from two events far from our UK shores.

The first was Peruplagas held in Lima, Peru on 9 & 10 November. It followed the well worn path of an exhibition with associated technical seminars and attracted delegates from South and Central America.

The second was Pest Summit 2017, organised by the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Association (FAOPMA) and held in Thailand on 22-24 November. No small affair, this attracted close to 1,500 delegates from 35 countries.

Special award...

This edition includes a report on PestTech (pages 23-25) and also on the winners of the **Pest** Best Product award (page 9) but in the **Pest** office we have decided to make an *ad hoc* best giveaway award!

At events we are all very pleased to be given pens, USB sticks and the like, but, our special award goes to Bell for their 'goodie bag' freely given to all visitors to their stand at PestTech.

Nestling within a carrier bag were not only two keys rings, two quality pens, two keys for use with their bait boxes, an on-the-move drinks bottle plus, star of the show, an LED extendable torch with a flexible top section. Well done Bell.



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New leader for Octavius Hunt

Octavius Hunt, the Bristol-based developer and manufacturer of smoke generators and pellets, has appointed a new managing director. Nick Dale takes over from Seamus Butler who has left the company. Nick started his career at Octavius Hunt some 26 years ago as a projects technician and for the last 10 years has been technical director. He is a qualified chemist and has product development, regulatory and commercial knowledge and experience.

As Nick explains: "When I relocated to Bristol, I thought my stay with Octavius Hunt would only be short term, but 26 years later I'm still here! It's a great team to work with and I feel really positive about the growth and future of the company."



New team member at PestFix

Tom Dacey joins the Littlehampton-based distributors, PestFix as a key account manager in their sales team. Tom's brief is to work closely with key customers to provide day-to-day sales support.

Tom started his career with the Household Cavalry Regiment, culminating in the post of Lance Corporal Tank Gunner, known in the trade as a CVRT. During his time in the army he saw action around the world, including serving in Afghanistan. Following his seven year action-packed army career, Tom moved to a more sedate role in executive recruitment before joining PestFix in August.

Two weeks after joining PestFix, Tom welcomed his first child into the world with wife Sam. Baby Theo is doing well and Tom is learning what sleep deprivation feels like. Wish Tom well as he is sitting his RSPH Level 2 in December, a pre-requisite of all PestFix sales and support staff.



All change at Bureau Veritas

Jessica Morgan who has looked after the CEPA (Confederation of European Pest Management Associations) certification initiative since

December 2015 has left Bureau Veritas. She returned to full-time study to complete her professional diploma in interior design in The Netherlands, where she now lives.

Roberto Zimbello has taken over her duties as CEPA manager UK and Ireland. He has worked for over five years at Bureau Veritas where he led the operations for key accounts in the food and beverage industry.

Robert said: "I am really excited to be building relationships with key stakeholders in the pest management industry and will be fully supporting the development and growth of CEPA certification in the UK and Ireland."



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Irish government tightens rodenticide regulations

Regulations governing the access to and, use of, rodenticides in the Republic of Ireland will come into force on 1 January 2018.

It is interesting to note that the Irish authorities have pretty much followed the French approach, albeit only for rodenticides at present. The French system licensing pest management professionals is known as Certbiocides, covers all aspects of pest control, last five years and requires annual registration with the Ministry of the Environment.

In a nutshell from 1 January 2018 Irish pest controllers wishing to buy or use professional strength rodenticides outdoors, around buildings, in open areas and in sewers must be licensed as 'trained professional users'.

To obtain a licence they must hold the IPCA Diploma in Pest Management, or the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management, or other course deemed equivalent by the Irish Government plus the CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Certificate. They must also register with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Department will issue a PMU license number which will then be required as proof of competence at the point of sale.

New rules greatly curtailing 'permanent baiting' have also been adopted.

The continuous use of toxic bait can now only be used at sites with a high potential for re-invasion and when other control methods have proven insufficient. Only licensed professionals can deploy the technique and only products containing either bromadiolone or difenacoum may be used. Environmental Risk Assessment should be carried out prior to any application of these products.

Clearly UK businesses operating in the Republic will have to comply with the new requirements. Will such a system be introduced in the UK? It seems unlikely as the UK Government has consistently supported a voluntary industry-led approach i.e. the now established UK rodenticide stewardship regime. However, should things change the UK already has all the basic elements in place plus a continuing professional development scheme through BASIS PROMPT.

PestWest USA moves to larger premises

Having been established in the US for the last 15 years, PestWest USA has now out-grown its original facilities, so this autumn moved to larger premises, also in Sarasota, Florida. The new base combines both warehouse and office space on the same site.

"We're enthusiastic to start this next chapter for PestWest USA at our new North American office," said James H Shaffer Jr, president.



Christmas decorations?

This festive picture of a bait box 'decorated for Christmas' was sent in by a **Pest** reader. It was discovered on a routine inspection of external bait boxes placed to counter a current rodent problem.

What must have been a field mouse was making good use of a bait box as a winter store for collected rose hips!

Pests in the White House?

There have been plenty of reports about the mice and other pests infesting the UK's Houses of Parliament but, according to reports on the BBC, the White House in the USA has similar problems. Mice, cockroaches, ants and a broken toilet seat are some of the dozens of issues reported to maintenance workers by Donald Trump's White House staff.

Rodent sightings were reported in the Navy mess food service area as well as the Situation Room. Hundreds of requests were received over the two years. "They are old buildings," Brian Miller, former inspector general for the US General Services Administration (GSA) which oversees maintenance work, told NBC Washington. "Any of us who have old houses know old houses need a lot of work."

Rodent detection dog retires

Archie, the first dog in the UK to be trained to detect rodents, has retired. Archie worked for Mitie identifying and locating active mouse infestations with a high degree of accuracy whilst ignoring old infestations and other rodent types.

He was trained by experts in the narcotics detection industry.

Mitie says that clients were receptive to the use of a sniffer dog at their facilities, Archie also proved very popular with employees. He was a valued member of the Mitie pest control team!"





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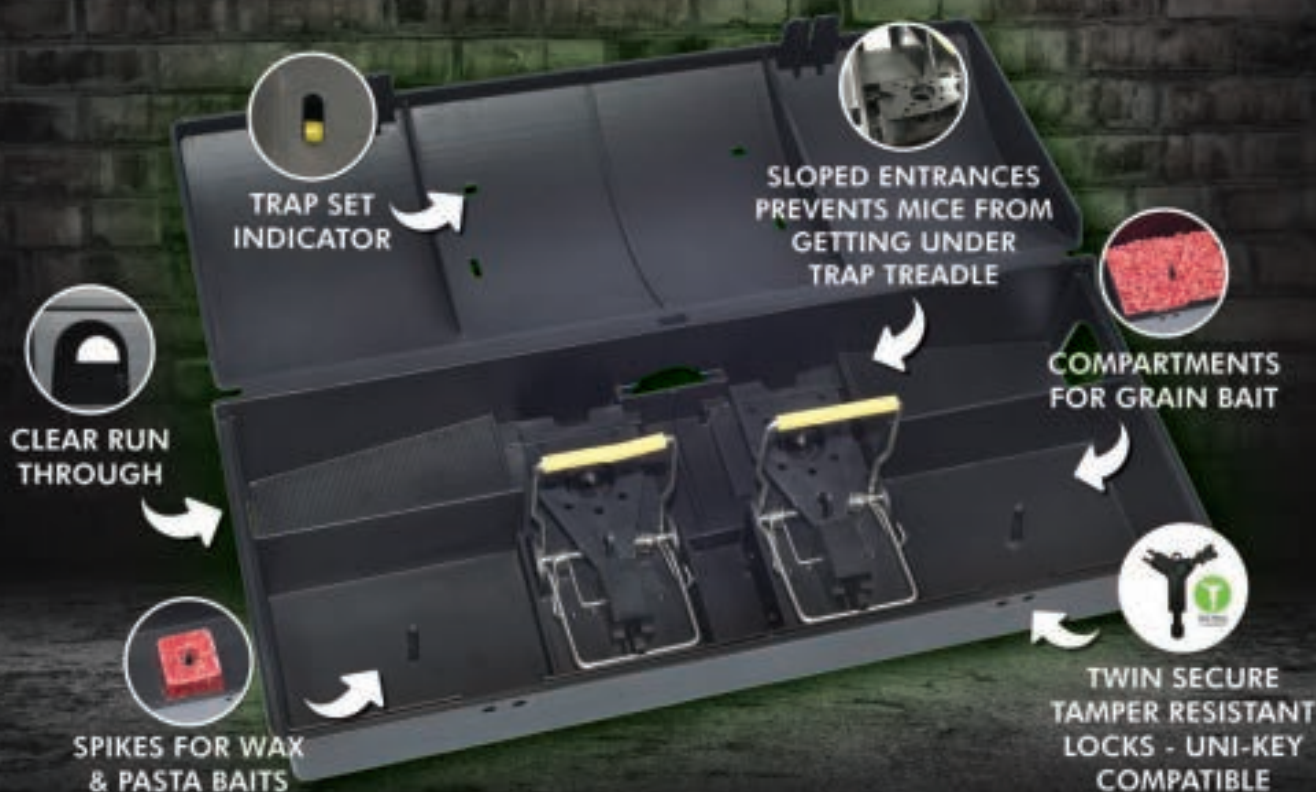
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The votes are in...

The 2017 **Pest** Best Product Award attracted more readers' votes than ever before, so our winners should be doubly proud of their achievement:

- In first place was Tenv Solutions with Rotech Ranger dual trap mouse station;
- Runners-up were Edialux with Ratwall developed by Metex, a relatively new name in our sector, yet a company that specialises in product innovation in the construction industry;
- And in a creditable third place, Cimetrol Super from PelGar International.

The winners were announced during PestTech 2017 and the trophy and certificates were presented to the winners on the National Pest Technicians Association's stand.

James Mendoza, operations director, spoke on behalf of all his colleagues at Tenv saying: "The whole team at Tenv is thrilled to have won the prestigious **Pest** Best Product Award for 2017. The Rotech Ranger is a great product in our Rapid Acceptance Technology (R.A.T.) range and worthy of its first place.

"We teamed up with one of London's leading servicing companies to design a box that provides outstanding trapping results in an industry that's focusing more and more on non-toxic control methods. Our customers are seeing phenomenal results within hours of placing these boxes. I would like to thank every one of them for voting."

Accepting the runners-up spot, a delighted Daniel Bamford from Metex said: "I would like to thank everyone within the industry who voted for us and for the support Edialux, our distributor, has given the product.

"The potential of rat blockers is beginning to be recognised in the UK and we believe they should be fitted routinely, as they are in Denmark where they are actually required by legislation. They provide robust long term protection. Prevention is most definitely better than cure!"

PelGar's Nic Blaszkowicz commented: "It's fantastic to gain the recognition of the end users and a real credit to our R&D and technical team. The return of this product was long awaited and sales have far exceeded our expectations which has put Cimetrol firmly back at the top as one the nation's most trusted insecticides."

Interestingly, of the 17 nominated products, the top six accounted for over two-thirds of the votes. The others gaining good support were Romax Venom Lipogel from Barretine, Rotech Bullett rat bait station and Probird Solar-Guard, both from Tenv.

best
product
award
2017
pest

Look out for details of how to nominate products for the 2018 Award in the New Year.

1st



James Mendoza from Tenv Solutions accepts the trophy and first place certificate for Rotech Ranger Dual Trap

2nd



Amy Firth, left representing Edialux with Daniel Bamford from Metex picked-up second place with Ratwall

3rd



Third place went to Cimetrol Super from PelGar International. Nic Blaszkowicz collected the certificate

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Passing the paste taste test

New trials data from Germany has shown the value of using a monitoring paste to identify rodent activity before switching to a toxic paste formulation to speed up the control of both rats and mice.

Syngenta technical manager for Europe, Dr Kai Sievert told **Pest** that the trials had demonstrated that the combined use of Talon Track (the company's non-active monitoring paste) with Talon Soft (the active formulation with the same bait matrix) allows great continuity when moving through the track, treat and monitor phases of an integrated approach.

Effectively Talon Track acts as a pre-bait as well as a monitoring tool, so the rodents are familiar with the paste bait and continue to take the bait when it is switched to the active formulation.

"Rodents are known to be highly selective of food sources, making palatability crucial to ensure they consume sufficient bait," said Kai.

He also pointed out that using a non-toxic bait to monitor for rodent activity also minimises the use of rodenticide and therefore reduces the risk of secondary poisoning.

Smooth transition

One brown rat trial in Dresden, for example, demonstrated the attractiveness of the Talon Track pre-baiting – quickly seeing the consumption of bait rising, to average 57.5 g/day across the trial area in the nine days before a switch to Talon Soft. When the active bait was exchanged, consumption of 88 grammes on Day 1 was exactly the same as the previous day's Talon Track.

Consumption of Talon Soft then declined day-on-day as control was achieved, falling to 19 g by day four and ceasing altogether by day 10 – indicating complete control.

A second trial, in Kaiserslauten, showed very similar results, with 67 g/day of Talon Track consumed in the five days prior to Talon Soft introduction, followed by 72 g/day on the first day of active bait use before rapidly falling to just 12 g/day within five days as the rodent population was brought under control.

The Talon Track trials for mice showed that whilst some bait stations were consistently visited and bait consumed, others within the same vicinity, even just centimetres away, were left untouched.

"This reinforces the need for multiple bait station placements when tracking and treating mice," added Kai. "Pest professionals may be rightly concerned about putting down too many bait stations containing active bait – from both a cost and exposure viewpoint," he advised. "But when using an inert tracking paste there are no such issues."



Syngenta's Dr Kai Sievert

New UK rodent detection dog

Bed bug detection dogs are now an established part of bed bug monitoring in the pest management industry, but dogs that detect rodent activity, well, there are not so many of them!

Meet Fly, a 12 month old male cocker spaniel who, we believe, is the second rodent detection dog in the UK and the only operational one as Mitie's Archie retired earlier this year at the ripe old age of ten.

Fly was trained by Phil Bowyer of Crown Canine Security Solutions for Bill Lewis of BioNet Pest Control Services based in London.



Phil has been working with dogs since 1987 when he joined the dog section at Her Majesty's Prison, Pentonville. Over his career with the Prison Service he trained many dogs including, in 2006, the world's first mobile phone detection dog, Murphy.

Phil took early retirement from the Prison Service in June 2013 since when he has been using his training skills at Crown Canine Security Solutions. This was the first rodent detection dog he has trained.

As Phil explains: "Fly is trained to locate fresh evidence of the presence of mice. He receives a tennis ball when he locates the target scent. He is trained to sit to indicate when he is close to the source of the scent. It took three months to train him. Bill has already had numerous successful deployments with Fly."



Phil Bowyer, left, with Bill Lewis and Fly

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A changing of the guard

Roland Higgins, director general of the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA), retired at the end of October, although he is staying on to handover to the new team. **Pest** associate editor, Helen Riby, caught up with him to reflect on his time in the CEPA hot seat.



Roland Higgins, eight years at CEPA

Eight years ago the European industry appointed an industry outsider to lead CEPA. The appointee had a good understanding of the workings of Brussels and the language skills to go with it, but not much knowledge of pests! Choosing Roland Higgins to lead us in Europe was a step-change in our industry's approach – a change which has proved very productive.

Sitting down with Roland in Baltimore during PestWorld 2017, I asked him what his first impressions of the industry were. In the best lobbyist style he began by answering a different question:

What has it been like working in the industry for the past eight years?

"It's been a fun time this past eight years getting to know this industry. When I arrived I knew nothing about it. I had a network of contacts in Brussels, especially in the lobby factory, but my background had been working for a Belgian fast food company. In a nutshell, when that company was sold and it became apparent there was no role for me, I had to re-invent myself. I thought that there might be a need for a permanent representative for the fast food industry in Brussels and out of this came the European Modern Restaurant Association, so I did have some experience of running a Brussels-based trade association."

So what were your first impressions?

"When I arrived I felt there was pretty much a blank canvass to work with. Yes, the vision was there, as there was already broad agreement that the industry needed to professionalise but, within the EU institutions in Brussels, CEPA was not known."

What has been the biggest challenge?

"The biggest challenge for a leader of an association like CEPA, which doesn't have much money but has some big ideas, is to motivate the people who give their time to the Association for nothing."

"I am happy that I have been able to establish sufficient trust to motivate people to do some excellent work. I have been privileged to work with some great, dedicated people. I have had four excellent

chairmen: Gunner Ackerblom, Patrick Vernie, Bertrand Montmoreau and, most recently, Henry Mott from the UK. I want to make particular mention of Bertrand who has been chairman for four of the years I have been at CEPA, up until June 2017. His tenure saw the launch of the CEN standard and the CEPA certified initiative. Bertrand was the right man for that job, he got behind the launch and organised its roll-out.

"Henry has a very different style. He has appointed four vice presidents and delegated responsibilities to them for particular subjects. Together with the new young energetic team in Brussels, there's a bright future for CEPA."

What's changed for the better during your time in office?

"Membership of CEPA has more than doubled and that means more ideas and more money. The budget has tripled from Euros 100,00 to Euros 300,000 so there's more to spend on motivating all those industry volunteers."

"Brussels has listened to our CEN standards story. The regulators are aware that soft legislation, such as the CEPA certified initiative, is often more effective than penalties and laws. If an industry can say to Brussels, here is an instrument which is improving standards, Brussels is inclined to embrace it. Having our standard is a game changer for the industry and a good defence when pressure groups, with other stories about our sector, lobby Brussels. There are now around 400 certified companies so we have met our objective for this year. Our promise is for 1,000 by 2020."

Looking to the future what would you like to see the industry doing?

"My future hope for the industry is that it will

move away from talking about killing and controlling. Look around this US exhibition and what do you see – lots of pictures of rats and beetles and other pests. What I would like to see are more caring pictures of the solutions. That's what this industry is about, caring for people and protecting public health. But this will require the whole industry to change – the advertising, the packs, the mindset of those in the industry and the language we use. The way we describe ourselves, our company names – such as the use of words like 'Exterminate' and 'Control'. I hope the industry can find a way to do this."

At a more parochial level, does Brexit mean CEPA will turn its back on the UK?

"Not at all. CEPA will be more important for the UK as it will effectively become the UK industry's embassy in Brussels. CEPA's objective is to look after the interests of European pest management, not EU pest management, and the UK will still be part of the continent of Europe."

I know you are staying on to handover to the new team at the end of the year but, after that, will you be leaving the industry completely?

"No, not immediately. Henry has asked me to take on responsibility for the organisation of the third Global Food Summit, which will be held in Portugal in June next year."

But after June 2018, will this really be goodbye to the industry?

"Yes, I have already bought a house in the South of France and I really want to spend more time there with my partner. But I can leave content. This industry has a bright future."

And finally, any advice for the new team?

"My message is simple. Never forget that the people you are working with are working for nothing."

Dealing with delusory parasitosis



Dr Nancy Hinkle provided advice for pest professionals at PestWorld 2017

Delusory parasitosis is not something you come across every day but it is something every pest professional ought to know about. A paper from PestWorld 2017 provided some very helpful tips on what to do if a sufferer finds you.

Imagine the scene. You pull up outside a new customer's home. An elderly, female comes to the door and shows you in. She explains that her home is infested by invisible insects that crawl under her skin and bite or sting her repeatedly. She elaborates at length about the pests' lifecycle. She tells you she's tried so many home remedies, sprayed the whole house with insecticide from B&Q, cleaned the property thoroughly from top to bottom, boil washed all her clothes, curtains and the like, but still the insects infest her. She's desperate for your professional help. You inspect the property and can find no evidence of any infestation, but she doesn't believe you and won't be reasoned with. What do you do?

Speaking at the 2017 PestWorld event in Baltimore, USA, Dr Nancy Hinkle from the University of Georgia explained that this scenario is typical of delusory parasitosis or, more correctly, Ekbom Syndrome.

Unshakable belief

She pointed out: "These people are not malingering, they are not pretending and they are not imagining. They are suffering from an erroneous, but unshakeable, belief that their skin is infested with parasites.

"Whilst by no means all sufferers are elderly, or female, the condition is most common in the elderly and a disproportionate number of sufferers are female," she added.

This delusion is a false belief that has no connection with the person's intelligence, educational level or cultural background and it cannot be corrected by reasoning.

Nancy said that she has come across several cases where the sufferers were medical professionals – nurses, doctors, even psychiatrists.

As a recognised expert in this condition, Nancy and her laboratory receive plenty of correspondence on delusory parasitosis.

She illustrated her talk with some pretty gruesome pictures of the harm sufferers inflict on themselves, digging out bits of skin and flesh to send in to her laboratory so that the University can 'identify the bugs concerned'.

The culprits

This correspondence talks variously of infestations by such things as springtails, bed bugs, bird mites, black pepper mites, paper mites, flying mites and midges or, as Nancy described them in a way that Americans do so much better than us Brits, 'no-see-ums'.

But, as she explained: "Springtails don't live on humans, midges are outdoor insects, bed bugs are not invisible and don't burrow into the skin, bird mites only infest birds. There are no such creatures as black pepper mites or paper mites and no mites have wings so none of them can fly."

She continued: "The only arthropods that infest humans are scabies mites and human lice. Because these live exclusively on human bodies, there is no role for pest control in their treatment. They are strictly medical conditions."



This patient was convinced worms were infesting his neck. He used a pair of scissors to cut out the imagined worm

Research findings

Nancy and her team at the University of Georgia are researching Ekbom syndrome. As she put it: "Folks were turning up at the lab even though we asked them not to, so we thought we might as well use the opportunity to do some research."

Findings so far show a pretty depressing picture of the impact of delusory parasitosis.

Very often sufferers, believing themselves to be contagious, quit their jobs, they rip up and destroy carpets and curtains as they are convinced the bugs are living in them and furniture is often destroyed for the same reason.

They isolate themselves from family and friends, again to avoid passing on the bugs.

In severe cases they end up living in an empty house, sleep on a rubber mat or blow-up mattress, or even abandon their homes altogether, moving to a hotel or even living in their cars.

They order gallons of pesticides online and douse their homes.

Usually the onset has coincided with a major life event, such as divorce, bereavement or job loss and, by the time they end up at Nancy's lab, they have often been suffering for more than three years.

Scale of the problem

According to Dr Hinkle there are more than 250,000 cases per year in the USA which, assuming a similar proportion of the UK population is affected, would mean some 50,000 cases in the UK. A Google search of scientific papers on this topic however, brought up just one paper and this suggested rather fewer – more like 3,000 cases a year in the UK.

Pest controllers on the frontline

Whichever estimate is true, there is a chance that pest professionals will come across this condition because these people will be far more likely to make an appointment with you than with their GP. Pest professionals definitely have a frontline role and so need to know how to recognise the condition and what to do when confronted with it.

Emphasising that this is a mental health condition and that for the sufferer it is an illness that is as real as cancer, Nancy advised pest professionals that all they could really do is try to persuade the individual to seek medical advice, although she did acknowledge that this was much easier said, than done!

Her advice was to explain that you cannot treat for a pest until you have identified it and to stick to your guns.

She said: "You are the professionals, so don't be persuaded to treat a home just because that's what the customer wants. Whilst the placebo effect might bring some temporary relief, typically, the symptoms return and are more severe than before."



Sufferers frequently self harm digging out bits of skin and flesh to send in, so that the University can 'identify the bugs concerned'

She also stressed that servicing businesses need to make sure all their technicians are briefed on this subject, so they know what to do if/when they are confronted with the problem.

Practical advice

One piece of very practical advice came from the audience.

When faced with this situation, one delegate said he would conduct a thorough inspection of the home, then write a comprehensive report for the householder, with a recommendation that he, or she, make an appointment with their doctor or dermatologist.

In addition he provides a second report for the medical professional asking the customer to hand this over when they attend the appointment. In his experience this seemed to encourage sufferers to seek medical help.

Bed bugs and mental health

Not quite on the same medical scale as delusory parasitosis, but there is mounting evidence of the negative psychological impacts of bed bug infestations.

There is certainly plenty of anecdotal evidence of the stress infestations cause and the extremes that some people have gone to, to try to rid themselves of this pest.

More scientifically, there have been studies showing how infestations increase stress levels leading to anxiety, depression and even paranoia. There is also one well-documented case of a bed bug-related suicide in Canada.

All current research on this topic is pulled together by Stéphane Perron, Geneviève Hamelin and David Kaiser in a chapter for the soon to be published bible on bed bug management.

The new 456-page book, *Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs*, is billed as the first comprehensive scholarly treatment of bed bugs since 1966. Due to be published in the spring of 2018, it is edited by a team of globally-recognised bed bug gurus: Stephen Doggett, Dini Miller and Chow-Yang Lee, with over 60 expert contributors from across the globe.

In the introduction to the chapter on mental health, there is a reminder of why we should not be surprised that bed bugs are a source of stress.

The factors listed include:

- For most individuals the mere presence of the insects in their household is stressful;
- The physical discomfort associated with bed bug bites may add to the distress;
- The presence of children in the household and the associated worry for them;
- The duration of the infestation;
- The financial burden associated with bed bug eradication, especially where infestations keep coming back;
- The preparation of the household for treatment;
- The cost of replacing items that are discarded;
- Social isolation and the stigma associated with the presence of bed bugs.

Bed bugs may not have the huge health impacts associated with insects such as mosquitoes, but, simply putting them in a box labelled nuisance pests, rather than a public health threat, is too simplistic. Pest professionals dealing with bed bug infestations do need to be aware of, and sensitive to, the distress they can cause.





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Image of can for illustration purposes only, the design of the can is subject to change.



Caught with my own bare hands

In over 23 years of practical mole control, Adam Leonard of Advance Pest Control Bristol has caught more than his share of moles, but never before a live one! This all changed when he was on site with a customer in his garden at Dundry Hill, Bristol.

As Adam explained: "I was called to a house at Dundry Hill where the couple had had a persistent problem with moles in their garden. I started the job on a Wednesday in October, first rolling back some newly laid turf. Underneath it was an extensive maze of runs. I found runs of varying depths and proceeded to lay Duffus mole traps in five of these runs – my normal preference would be to use Putange traps, but all my stock was out on other sites.

"I then returned to check the runs for mole activity. Unfortunately, and to my disappointment on checking the traps, they had all been back-filled with earth, which is what I believe a clever mole will do once he finds newly laid traps in his environment!

"I began talking to the householder, explaining that moles are indeed very intuitive and had probably sensed the traps and back-filled them with earth, rather than getting caught. As we stood there chatting and looking at the maze of tunnels under the hedgerow, I suddenly saw the earth begin to move. In a second I dropped to my knees and began clawing at the rustling ground. To both of our amazements, I managed to unearth and grab the mole in my left hand, proudly showing it to the astonished householder. I even managed to take a video of us for my website and Facebook page."

Adam made a final visit four days later and found no further activity. Summing up, Adam described his feelings as: "One very happy pestie."



A first for Adam catching a live mole



See how they run!

Much ado about moleing

PART 2

In **Pest 53**: October & November 2017 rural pest specialist, Dave Archer of DKA Pest Control, investigated the welfare aspects of mole traps and how the trap design and manufacture plays a large part in the capacity for a clean kill. In this follow-up article he offers some practical tips on how to deploy traps for an effective and humane kill. There's rather more to it than just trap selection!

Mole catchers have a reputation for being very secretive in their vocation. Trapping hints and tips being shared are akin to the mystery of *The Magic Circle* and can be hard to learn.

However, this industry has been very good to me and I am always keen to pass on any advice to newcomers. In this article I give my hints and tips to help you become a better mole catcher. This isn't someone else's advice passed on from their publications, or old wives' tales that have no basis in fact; but it is real, in the field knowledge, passed on from experience gained from 40 years worth of trapping.

Practical advice

To start with, the first piece of practical advice I can bring to mind is to keep your fingernails as short as possible. Long fingernails are magnets for soil residues, and you will be forever pulling at the dried soil trying to extricate it from under the tip of your nail. Short fingernails prevent this problem from occurring. Never, ever, wear gloves! How on earth can you feel the inside



Dark mole hills are a sign of recent activity

of a run with gloves on. Even latex ones are a big no no. If you are a little worried about human scent on your traps, then you really have been taking some ill-informed advice. Rub a little soil on your hands before you start trapping if you must and away you go.

Don't underestimate your quarry

Secondly, never ever be so bold as to underestimate your quarry! He spends his life underground and you are attempting to place a foreign object in his living room without him (hopefully) suspecting that anything is wrong.

If anything is out of place the mole will simply bung your trap with soil, or push it up onto the surface out of his living quarters. Oh, and in addition you may well have made him trap shy to boot.

Moles going trap shy? Really? Oops! you just underestimated moley again. You are often being called to domestic jobs where the customer has been trying to catch the mole for a good while and so has alerted the mole to their efforts. When out in the area where moles are working, don't go tramping all over the molehills, probing here and there and generally banging about, thereby alerting the mole to your presence. Be quiet, stand back to start with and assess what you can see.

Look for signs of activity

Are there dark hills in amongst the light brown ones? If yes, this is where the mole has been most active and the soil has not yet dried from his tunnelling exploits. If soil is tumbling off the hill, watch and you will very likely see the hill heaving within a few minutes, as the mole is working beneath.



Dave Archer knows about moles and he's sharing that expertise

If worms are emerging from the grass around a hill that is another surefire way to be confident the mole is working close by and the worms are making a hasty exit! If you listen, you will often hear him working away beneath the soil, scratching and bumping around. That always makes me smile. But of course if you are loud and clumsy you will miss all these signs to start with. Around a couple of hours after dawn, lunch times and late afternoon are perhaps the best times to see moles working, but they can be active at any time of day (or night!).

I would suggest if you are regularly trapping and if you are not seeing these clues on a regular basis, you are not being quiet in your work. I would also say that when I am out trapping all day, it is exceptionally rare not to see moles 'heaving' soil, or for traps not to spring whilst I work on site. Work

Mole catching kit

I carry a small rucksack to transport my mole catching paraphernalia, which basically contains:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ■ a thin trowel; | ■ a tamp, (a tamp being a wooden handle to compact the soil in the run; a good type is the dibber sold in the Pound Stores); |
| ■ a knife; | |
| ■ needle nose pliers; | |
| ■ spare string; | |
| ■ orange plastic tent pegs; | ■ my traps. |

Never ever use metal trap markers in agricultural land! In fact, I never use metal markers at all; they are not all that visible in any case. If grass is being collected for a hay cut, or worse for silage bales, in the area you are trapping, the markers will without doubt be harvested. You then have inadvertently placed a long metal spear in the bale, which can cause serious injury to the farmer, or worse still, injury or death to livestock from ingestion of the spike.

If the grass is reasonably short, then you need nothing more than some bright twine tied to the top of your trap; it is easy to spot, and unless you leave a trap behind, you collect your trap and marker in one go upon clearing up behind you.

However, in late spring, when the grass is growing on a daily

basis you can very easily lose traps; so use orange tent peg markers to locate them. If the grass is getting too long for tent pegs, I use bamboo canes dipped in white paint to locate the traps, but in all fairness when grass is this long it is not really practical to trap.



My every day mole catching paraphernalia

quietly, confidently and in the right weather conditions and you will get results.

Best quality traps essential

You must also ensure your traps are of the best quality you can source. Cheap traps will flex and bend very easily and moles will very quickly rumble your intentions. Weak, badly positioned springs will not produce the clean humane kill you must always strive for.

Surface rust on a trap is not a problem; in fact I think it a positive asset. It helps blend the trap into its surroundings well. But pitted old bygones with weak springs on bent jaws may well cause suffering for the mole. Discard these traps and purchase new ones, if not for you, then certainly for the welfare of the mole.

Consider the weather

Firstly, before you even pick your trap up think of the weather conditions. Dry, hard subsoil is the mole catcher's worst enemy. Ask yourself – Do you really need to trap just now?

As I have stated many times before, your first chance is always your best, so it pays to make it count. If you can wait until a good rainfall has soaked into the ground, then your trapping attempts will be that much better.

If you are new to trapping, a good idea is to just open the soil to a depth of around six

inches or so and pull out some soil; if it clumps together like pastry dough that, in my opinion, is the best structure of all. Too dry and the trap won't sit in the run, too wet and you are essentially trying to work with mud and everything cloyes together.

If your trapping campaign, (which started so well,) has now slowed to a miss nearly every time you check a trap, think; Are the weather condition the same as when you started? I'll wager good money it has gone much drier!

Always clean your run out once you have located it so it's free of any obstructions and don't forget this also includes inside the tunnel! If the tunnel is on a slight incline, expect to clear more soil from the lower end. Once this is done, tamp all of the run firmly! Moley expects to find his run as he left it and does not expect loose soil all over his kitchen floor! Ensure all soil is removed from traps when moving from one area to another. For example, clay soil deposits left on a half barrel trap from a previous job may well alert the mole to your intentions, especially if you are now trapping in another soil type such as light loam.

Tools of the trade

Mole run probes and dibbers

If you are trapping intensively you should invest in, or you can quite easily make, a probe and tamp combined – see the photograph above of my mole kit.

I use a wooden end to my probe as it sits comfortably in my hand when moving between trapping areas. Also wood has a definite 'feel' when tamping a run.

The size of the tamper should never exceed the inner diameter of the mole run. Another tip is to always push your bar into the ground when not using it, as bars left laid down on grass can be surprisingly difficult to locate, especially if you have walked a few hundred yards before realising your loss. I have lost a good few over the years by not leaving them visible.

Also, by doing this, it keeps the tamp end dry, thereby stopping soil from cloying onto it if it were wet. I think a mole bar is akin to a good walking stick, you do get to know one another, especially if you are in each other's company for ten or so hours a day. Losing a good bar is a real loss.

I know of trappers that use plastic electric fence poles to locate runs. The small spear on the end does a good job of locating runs. Try one and see what you think.

Trowels

I use a thin stainless steel weeding trowel that cuts a thin clean strip. Using a great plant digging trowel, or worse a spade, will essentially mean you are opening up too much ground and the trap laying process will be akin to putting a size eight foot in a size 10 boot! The idea is to have a tight fit.



Trap preferences and setting

So as a mole catcher, do you have your preferred weapon of choice? Perhaps you didn't succeed with certain trap types and therefore gave up. Maybe you keep swapping types hoping one type will suddenly bring the success you have been striving for?

I use many different styles of trap, depending on weather, soil conditions and other factors. Here are my thoughts on each individual style of trap:

Duffus traps

For setting Duffus traps, remember the mole uses his tail as a rudder and, in addition, has small whiskers and body hairs that alert him to any foreign objects in his runs. If he finds condensation on cold hard metal he will reverse out of the trap and simply bung it with earth before it has a chance to spring.

Sounds familiar? Then a good idea, especially if the mole is trap shy is to line the inner curve of the trap with moist soil with your thumb and spread it thinly, as per butter on bread. Ensure the springs are in the set position, but pushed forwards so they can't fire as you spread the earth. You may regret not doing this if your fingers are in the way!

Also ensure you set your trap on a straight run, preferably one going to, or from, the feeding ground.

Moles feed about every four to five hours or so and they are hungry after waking! Setting a trap on this run is where the mole is moving faster to get to the feeding area. Also try to push the mumble pin as close to the catch bars once set, so the mole is caught as far up the body as possible.

When laying the trap in the ground, keep the edges of the trap free from any soil that may be pushed into the run. You may have a perfect trap fit and you would have caught your mole, but the very last action of pushing the trap into the run also took a slice of earth down with it.

Think of laying the trap as snuggling it into a bed and lift the cut soil edges like a blanket before you insert the trap fully home. If this isn't done, then the first thing the mole encounters is a small wall of soil before he enters the trap and he is inevitably suspicious.

Snug the trap into the run. Don't leave it to wobble around. Small sods of earth can be pushed around the edge of the trap in the

run to secure it; but don't let any soil fall into the run.

Scissor traps

To set a scissor trap always do a test springing of the trap in the run. You will be surprised how often the jaws clamp a stone or roots etc before closing. This can mean the difference between a catch or a miss for the mole.

In addition, the test cuts a small groove into the soil, and the next time it fires it will close faster and therefore more effectively. If you do encounter a tree root don't go tugging away at it for all your worth, as you will just disturb the site. It may also snap when you least expect it to and send you cavorting backwards into other mole runs!

Take your knife or secateurs and snip the offending root off cleanly. I have a preference for Fenn Scissor Mole traps. They are a nice small size, fit snugly in the run and are very easy to use.

Putange traps

These are difficult to set in the initial stages but practice makes perfect! This is the only type of trap I employ in branch lines; that is, when opening the earth you find a three way split of mole runs. Simply slide a Putange down each opening and you have covered all areas. Of course occasionally you will hear a small 'clunk' as a trap fires as you slide it down the run, but simply reset it and insert it again.

A small piece of bamboo inserted at the traps' loop end when it is in the run and protruding out of the ground will show you where the traps are on your revisit. If it is a busy public area, a line of twine attached to the trap and laid on the surface will just appear as discarded waste to passers by. Very few people stop to collect rubbish these days so your actions should remain undiscovered.

If you don't have some means of identifying your trap, you cannot recover it and welfare issues again arise. I also use plastic tape wound on the triggers to cover the gap left in the manufacturing process. I then tie thin braided line from the trigger to the end trap loop to prevent the trigger being lost.

Oh, and by the way I set 40 brand new shiny Putanges last week and caught ten moles within 24 hours. Ten sprung, ten caught moles. So if you are still burying your traps to 'remove all human



A Fenn scissor trap after firing



Two Putange traps set in a run before covering



The identifying peg after setting Putange traps in a run

scent' or wearing gloves to set them, or if you are setting five traps per run, it tells me you are still a little nervous of mole catching and are not getting the results you deserve.

After setting your trap

Finally, once you have set your traps, ensure the opening you made is completely covered before your work is done.

A good idea is to use the sod of turf you used to open the run. It is the same size fit as the opening and just needs cutting around the trap if you are using a scissor type. Any small chink of light you allow into the run will be noticed by the mole and may just render all your previous efforts useless.

Before you leave the area, flatten all the surrounding molehills. Upon your return (which should be within 24 hours to comply with welfare legislation) you will see, even before you have checked your traps whether you have been successful, by virtue of the fact that no new hills means no new moles, for now!

If you have not caught a mole, nor had a trap sprung within three or four days, then the trap is in all likelihood set in the wrong area. Consider re-siting it near fresh activity.

To conclude

Of course, there are many other trap designs in the market place and one mole catcher's meat is another's poison. Perhaps that is the beauty of our craft. Please bear in mind I simply cannot cover all traps in one article.

Finally – don't ever ask me about gassing moles; I don't, I never have and to be honest, after all these years, I know I never will. It appeals as much to me as Morris Dancing, that is both the observing of, and the taking part in!



Got questions? Catch Dave at PPC Live March 2018

Dave Archer is presenting an outdoor mole catching demonstration at PPC Live at the Malvern Showground on 14 March 2018. So, if you have any questions, catch him there.








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Hello Ricoh

New-look PestTech – the jury's out

You can't please all of the people all of the time, so when a decision is made to move an event like PestTech, which is part of the British pest control industry's DNA, there will be those who can't, or perhaps don't, want to cope. In our website news article, at www.pestmagazine.co.uk, we describe this as 'pest controller neophobia'. But, having re-set Sat Naps to the Ricoh, Coventry most declared that their initial fears had been overcome!

PestTech 2017 was held at the prestigious Ricoh Arena, Coventry on Wednesday 15 November – a week later than usual. All credit should go to the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) team, led by Julie Gillies, who masterminded the move. On the day, virtually without exception, exhibitors and visitors were impressed. All the exhibition stands were in one light and airy hall which was easy to navigate – unlike the 'friendly crush' at the old Motorcycle Museum venue.

Visitor numbers were reported at over 1,000, but around 80 down on 2016. Pest professionals came from across the country and the new registration technology worked well, especially if you had pre-registered. The catering was good too and there were adequate places to sit to enjoy your refreshments. Outside the seminar room, which was on the first floor, there were plenty of tables and chairs, ideal for private business meetings – a facility always in short supply at the Museum.

Topical seminars

The seminars covered where the industry was moving to and technical subjects such as the problems of controlling mice in the food industry, changes surrounding aluminium phosphide, flies in waste and non-native species. For those who have not yet dipped a toe into the business management software waters, there was a useful final session from Service Tracker, which provided a simple, jargon-free

explanation of how this particular sort of IT can help. Read our full reports at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news

Adding to the success was the friendly and very helpful Ricoh support staff and plenty of free parking. Fathoming out how to get your parking ticket validated at the end of the day however did prove challenging.

Old favourites still exhibiting

It was pleasing too to see the unique collection of exhibitors always present at previous PestTech events were still in evidence – for example the snake, bat, bird and taxidermy stands!

One thing that was missing though, was the outdoor demonstrations.

It is interesting to note that the one-day PPC Live events being staged by the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) in alternate years to PestEx, now include outdoor demonstrations, so there's been a change of provider if you want to see practical stuff!

What about PestTech 2018?

Quite what NPTA is going to do next year is not yet clear. No dates, nor a venue have been announced.

The Ricoh has signed a three-year contract with Snooker's Champion of Champions event for the first week in November so there can be no return to the usual date unless a new venue is found. Sticking with the middle week poses another problem as the French event, Parasitec, is already booked for 14-16 November 2018. This may not be a problem for most visitors, but it does create huge headaches for the exhibitors, and also the **Pest** team, who can't be in two places at the same time.

The verdict

By upping their game and moving to the Ricoh, the NPTA has effectively become a one-day PestEx. If you're a technician, particularly in the Midlands, the new-look PestTech is great. But if you also attend PestEx, the difference between these two events has now blurred to the extent that, for many visitors, we suspect the question will be: 'Do you need to go to both?'

By moving to a much more professional venue, the cost of everything for exhibitors was greatly increased – the charges for stand electricity supplies were a case in point – £600 for three electrical sockets for one day. As a rule of thumb, exhibitors claimed the cost of exhibiting had doubled – they wondered if their payback in custom had also doubled?

All in all, professional pest control put its best foot forward at the Ricoh and there was a very pleasing professional feel to the whole event.

read more
on the web
[www](http://www.pestmagazine.co.uk)

PestTech in pictures



From Bell Laboratories Martin Kuffel, centre, & Shyam Lakhani



On the Tenv stand, James Mendoza and Richard Lunn



The PestFix England team from left Dan, Joe and Matt England with Tom Dacey who has just joined the PestFix team



Rentokil Products' Deadline team was kept busy...



...as was the team from PelGar



First time exhibitor, Itallifters



All smiles from NPTA's Julie Gilles, left, & Donna Alvey



Syngenta's Daniel Lightfoot, left, with Andy Tullett of ACT



Time for a coffee, the team from Melford Pest Control take advantage of the seating facilities outside the seminar room



Visiting ServSuite, left, Keith Prowse & right, Dave Radek of Action Pest Control with exhibitors Jacob Laubscher & Elena Petzovska



As ever, the seminars were well attended. CPD was available



Phil Huggins from Bower Products with Italian visitors Enrika Carnevali and Daniela Pedrazzi of OSD



Duncan and Denise Ross flew down from north of Inverness



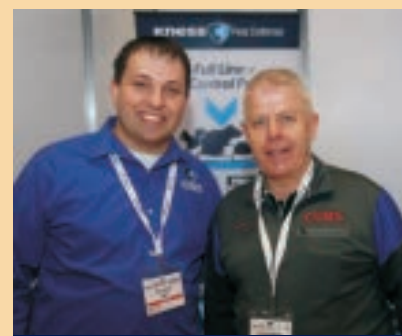
WaspBane's David Brazier, left, with Jason Waldron from AIM



Claire White baked 200 cup cakes for the Rat Pak stand and they had all gone by mid-morning



Visiting Octavius Hunt's Luciana Neagoe is Rafal Brymer from Beaver Pest Control



Nick Fugate from Kness, left, with Glyn Brookshaw of ACP Pest Control



From Barrettine, Ellen Rodgers, left, & Jo Crowell



Some of the Killgerm team, from left: Rupert Broome, Sophie Newton, Liam Cowling, Sabra Everett and Charlotte Cooper



Terry Sanders, left, East Herts Council with Tony Knight of Lodi UK



Cooking up some interesting squirrel dishes is The Wild Chef



On the Jones & Son stand a 'pigeon' confronts their spikes



A crowned hawk eagle on the CJ Birds of Prey stand



Jenny Humphrey from DRE brought her trainee ratter



Great to see the stuffed animals still at the show

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3-dimensional target to hit mice



Rats raid, feed and leave, whereas mice invariably take up residence. Combine this with a mouse's natural preference to take small amounts of food from many places, meaning it's difficult to get a mouse to take a lethal dose of bait at one sitting and you have a truly difficult pest to manage.

Ask the 'man/woman on the Nottingham tram' "Which is the most serious pest – rats or mice?" The answer will invariably be rats. Ask someone in the food industry, or a pest professional, the same question and the answer will almost always be mice – more specifically the house mouse – *Mus musculus domesticus*.

Thanks Syngenta

Aware of just how important it is for busy pest professionals to keep up-to-date, Syngenta Professional Pest Management (PPM) has sponsored the production of this technical update on one of our most difficult pests, the house mouse.

Dr Kai Sievert, Syngenta's technical manager for the PPM business backed by their global research and development team and senior service manager at Killgerm, Robin Moss, share their expertise to get you on the right track.

This is part of Syngenta's commitment to provide expertise and solutions that enable pest management professionals to deliver a life uninterrupted from the nuisance of pests to their customers.

The content of this article is the basis for **Pest Test 54** (see page 41). Two PROMPT Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points are available. Of course you can also complete the **Pest Test** online at

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/pest-test

Unlike rats, which tend to be casual invaders, house mice are anything but. Once indoors they want to stay indoors, exploiting the food and shelter that we gift them.

This behaviour is not just driven by preference, it is a capability that mice possess and that rats don't. Rats need a source of water on a daily basis, without it

they will not survive; they raid, feed and leave. Mice, however, can often survive on the moisture content of the food they eat and so do not need to maintain that escape route or movement in search of water.

Effective control of house mice can also be hampered by their feeding behaviour.

Dr Kai Sievert, Syngenta's technical manager for PPM, points out: "Once brown rats have overcome their innate neophobia (fear of a new things), they are content to take a large meal from one food source.

"Mice, on the other hand, are naturally inquisitive, and will investigate





Killgerm's Robin Moss

baits as soon as they have been placed. "However, they will typically only ever take a small amount of food from one source, preferring to acquire their daily diet from several, if not many, different places.

Laying one or two bait points for mice, therefore, will not solve the problem as they, in all likelihood, will not eat a lethal dose," he warned.

Kai suggests that to overcome this issue when baiting against house mice, it is vital to lay many baits, with the objective of building that lethal dose by way of small takes from several bait points.

3-d baiting required

Bait location is also crucial. Mice are acrobatic climbers and, once in a building, will quickly spread to all levels, he added: "A baiting strategy for house mice should be



Dr Kai Sievert, Syngenta

'three-dimensional'. Baits should be placed in the loft, in false ceilings, on top of beams, cupboards, pelmets etc. Each station, however, need only hold a small quantity of bait," Kai concluded.

Underbaiting, from not providing sufficient baiting points, is a common cause of treatment failure when baiting against mice. This is particularly the case by DIY householders who do not understand this aspect of house mouse behaviour.

This problem has been made more difficult by the way the marketing of amateur products for mouse control has developed. For sound safety and environmental reasons, amateurs have access to smaller and smaller amounts of bait – soon to be as little as 100g for mouse control and 300g for rat control.

Furthermore, amateurs will not be allowed to

buy the current high strength 50ppm products in future, but only <30ppm products – with the consequence that the mice would need to eat even more to get a lethal dose. Store shelf presentation is often as a blister pack, usually containing just one or two boxes with the bait sealed in – which is clearly never enough!

As we can see, pest controllers have to understand and exploit house mouse behavioural traits if control is to be achieved. They also need effective products, and herein lies a problem.

Rodenticide resistance

As Robin Moss, senior service manager at Killgerm, points out: "House mice have shown significant levels of tolerance to first generation anticoagulant rodenticides, from their inception. As early as 1961 it was recognised that warfarin was failing to achieve control over some mouse infestations," he recalled.

The introduction of the newer first-generation anticoagulants (diphacinone, chlorphacinone and coumatetralyl) did not bring about an improvement. The initial second-generation anticoagulants (difenacoum and bromadiolone), introduced in the late 1970s, were developed specifically to address the problem of resistance.

Robin observed: "Early results were good, but examples of infestations where complete eradication was not achievable were still manifest.

"It was not until the advent of brodifacoum and flocumafen in the 1980s that full control of the house mouse became realistic for certain jobs."

Environmental consequences

Whilst high levels of control were now achievable, it has to be recognised that overuse of these rodenticides has had a potential impact on the environment.

A number of both predatory bird and mammal non-target species are showing unacceptable levels of contamination with anticoagulant rodenticide due to so called 'secondary poisoning'. The message from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the industry itself is clear; this state of affairs cannot continue.

"To address this problem, we are reminded that the use of rodenticide to control mice and rats is not the only solution," points out Robin.

"Today's pest controllers, whether it be to control rodents in domestic, commercial or

House mouse facts

- An adult house mouse weighs approximately 25g;
- A house mouse will eat approximately 3g of food per day;
- House mice dribble urine wherever they go and produce about 80 droppings a day which are scattered randomly;
- House mice breed all year around;
- A female mouse will give birth to a litter of six to eight young;
- The gestation period of a pregnant mouse is just 21 days;
- Newly born house mice will become sexually mature in eight weeks.



agricultural premises, must have the knowledge and skill to deter them from gaining entry to premises in the first place – although that's no mean feat when mice can squeeze through a gap of just 6mm.

"Furthermore, pest controllers should seek to limit the resources that mice need to sustain them once indoors and to be able to apply non-chemical options such as traps.

"All of the above is in addition to being able to select rodenticide products that can actually achieve eradication, and knowing how and where to apply them," he advises.

Constraints on rodenticide use

The lion's share of the constraints on the use of rodenticides relate to rat control, where baiting predominantly takes place outside.

As house mice live almost exclusively indoors 24/7 and baits laid targeting them are also indoors, neither the baits nor the mouse carcasses present the same level of threat to wildlife. This, of course, assumes that the mice you are baiting against are indeed the house mouse, and not wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*).

If the problem is in outbuildings, it is not always easy to recognise the difference. Yet wood mice are less likely to remain inside those buildings, so may well fall victim to an owl or a weasel.

Check product labels

Many labels for products approved under the Biocidal Products Regulations are species specific. They will specify *Mus musculus*

What do house mice like to eat?

In common with other mice, the house mouse is primarily a seed eater. They will sit up, hold the seed with their front paws, de-husk it, discard the husk and eat the kernel. They eat just a small amount of food a day, some 3g.

It is possible that this small amount may be at the root of the house mouse's sporadic feeding behaviour. They need to feed from several places if they are to get a balanced diet.

It has been known for many years that house mice like variety in their food and that fats and sugars are sought after. Favourite lures for traps include chocolate and peanut butter.

Syngenta has formulated mouse control and diagnostic products such as Talon Soft and Talon Track that appeal to the varied diet that mice seek.

domesticus as opposed to older labels that just referred to 'mice'.

If it transpires, from trapping or other signs, such as open baits being covered with surrounding debris, that the mice are something other than house mice, then the baiting must cease and the baits must be taken up.

Even though the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) guidance may permit permanent baiting indoors for mice, it remains good practice to remove toxic baits when there is no current or expected infestation.

Options such as non-toxic Talon Track can safely be deployed and, if the need arises, Talon Soft can quickly be substituted.

For reasons discussed above, of tolerance/resistance levels in house mice to first generation anticoagulants and also to bromadiolone and even difenacoum, baits

containing brodifacoum, such as Talon Soft, should be the product of choice for mice.

In summary, house mouse control can be problematic. The mice want to be in our property and, despite our best efforts in design and maintenance, can readily establish themselves in our buildings. Once inside they can quickly spread to occupy all levels of the building. Habitat management and the use of physical methods of control take priority over the use of rodenticide and, even when the use of rodenticide is the preferred option, product choice is critical and skill in its use essential.



Palatability test

The habit of house mice to be so selective of food sources makes palatability crucial to ensure they consume sufficient bait, highlighted Dr Kai Sievert.

He has recently completed a palatability and bait consumption



trial for mice on a farm in Germany, using the non-active monitoring paste, Talon Track, along with the active bait with precisely the same formulation, Talon Soft.

Taking Talon Track during the monitoring phase, using 5g in each bait station, Kai reported the paste consumption quickly identified sites of prime activity, with complete bait removal.

However, the trial identified that some bait stations within the same vicinity, even just centimetres away, were left untouched. This reinforced the need for multiple bait station placements when treating mice.

Furthermore, the monitoring paste Talon Track in one bait station location that was not touched in the initial stages, was consumed completely in the ninth week. That highlighted the importance of a long shelf life for baits.

With the monitoring paste exchanged for active Talon Soft, bait consumption followed the same pattern – which indicated mice determined no difference between the Track and active rodenticide – ensuring rapid and complete bait consumption, he reported.

Four become one under Curtis Gilmour banner



In **Pest 53**: October & November 2017 we not only detailed the current merger mania among the large multinational companies, but also the many amalgamations underway within the professional pest control sector. The increasing portfolio being put together by USA-based Curtis Gilmour is one such example. So it was a pleasure for **Pest** editor, Frances McKim, to catch-up with the company's president, Dave Avery, at PestTech to hear of their ambitious plans.

Today, Curtis Gilmour is not a name that registers highly with professional pest controllers in Europe – not yet anyway – but it certainly will do soon if the company president, Dave Avery, has anything to do with it.

So who is Curtis Gilmour?

Readers, whilst not too familiar with the Curtis Gilmour name, may find they are much more at home with the company's constituent parts – namely Agrisense, Silvandersson, Curtis Dynafog and B&G Equipment Company. The acquisitions of the first two of this quartet, namely Agrisense and Silvandersson, were only finalised in March 2016, having been backed by London-based investment company, Harwood Capital.

As Dave Avery explains: "Our plan is to utilise the synergies and strengths from within the four constituent companies to grow the business overall. Their operations may be diverse, yet they are certainly complimentary. They all centre around the manufacture of equipment and systems. By manufacturing application equipment and traps we are not held back by any regulatory requirements.

"B&G and Curtis Dyna-Fog specialise in the manufacturer of spraying and fogging equipment, the later being very well-known in the mosquito market, whereas many pest controllers may well own and use a B&G sprayer. Both these brands are well-known in the US but less so in Europe. However, the converse is true for both Wales-based pheromone and insect monitoring manufacturer, Agrisense and Swedish insect product manufacturer, Silvandersson. They are well established brands within Europe, but less so in the US. Our objective is to raise the profile of all four brands internationally under the overall company umbrella of Curtis Gilmour."

Dave, who was brought in in 2014 and appointed president in June 2017, is no stranger to the companies having previously worked for Agrisense, as has Dawn Bolton, the organisation's sales manager. The immediate future of the business is to continue the integration of these businesses and brands into one group organisation, a not insignificant project with four such well-established family companies.

A daunting task maybe, but rest assured Curtis Gilmour is up to the challenge of establishing its presence in the market place. And don't bank on there being only four brands within the company stable. With the financial backing now available, Dave hinted that further strategic acquisitions were certainly not out of bounds. Watch this space!



Curtis Gilmour president, Dave Avery with sales manager, Dawn Bolton on their stand at PestTech 2017



At PestWorld 2017 all four brands were on display





All change again for metallic phosphide users

November 2015 saw the deadline for all users of metallic phosphide products to be certificated if they wished to continue to purchase and use the products. Just two years on and it's all change again. Richard Strand from the Pest Information Consultancy finds out what these changes mean for pest professionals.

Yes, just two years on from certification and we are confronted by yet more major changes to working practices when using metallic phosphides, brought about by further label changes.

This part is complicated, so stay with it. The complication is the result of the convergence of a number of regulatory changes. The first bit is straightforward, as with the rodenticides, the approval of metallic phosphides is being transferred from the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1987 (COPR) to the newer European Directives (No! Brexit will not ride to the rescue!).

In the case of rodenticides it was relatively simple, the approvals were transferred from the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1987, to the Biocidal Products Regulation, 2013 (BPR). For metallic

phosphides it is a little more complex due to the diverse range of uses to which the products can be put.

Two sets of regulations

Aluminium phosphide products (Phostoxin and Talunex) will now have to be approved under two separate sets of regulations.

The control of rabbits, rats and moles carried out for the protection of public health and safety will be under the BPR. However, the control of the same pests for the protection of crops will fall under the Plant Protection Products Regulations, 2011 (PPP).

Future labels will have to carry both approvals and their attendant instructions for use. Alternatively, each product will have to be sold in individual containers bearing one or other of the new labels.

In addition, whilst the approval for the use of aluminium and magnesium phosphide for the control of invertebrates (already under the Plant Protection Products Regulations) does not run out until August 2020, these products are also part of the discussion.

Occupational Exposure Limit changes

Coincidental with the changes resulting from the approval transfer described above, label changes have also been driven by the lowering of the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) to phosphine to 0.03ppm (parts per million).

The Threshold Limit Value has been correspondingly reduced to just 0.01ppm of phosphine. This is at the very limit at which phosphine can be detected by the detection equipment currently available. More about the impact of this change later.

Of immediate concern to many pest controllers has been the withdrawal, albeit temporary, of approval of aluminium phosphide products for rat control.

UK Germany dispute

In the switch over to the BPR, the lead evaluating competent authority for most uses of metal phosphides is BAuA, the Federal Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in Germany. This organisation has stipulated on product labels, that, following use, application equipment must be cleansed in a bath of soapy water for at least four hours.

This is contrary to the UK HSE's position which is that the application equipment should be vented by airing and that, on no account, should it be washed out with water!

HSE's concern is that if the proposed label change was followed, water would become

lodged in the trigger assembly and would be unlikely to dry fully between uses. This issue remains to be resolved.

Exclusion zone

The new BPR label stipulates an exclusion zone of 25 metres. This can be reduced provided that signage, tape and/or agreement with the land owners/occupiers can assure that people and animals are kept out of the treatment area.

Some countries are reviewing the exclusion zone and it is anticipated that it will be reduced to 10 metres in the UK.

Implications for RPE

Perhaps the most significant label changes relate to the lowering of the OEL.

This has implications for both Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and for confirmation of gas clearance.

A full face respirator with the correct filter is deemed to offer x20 protection, thus it provides safe working in concentrations of up to 4ppm under the previous Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) of 0.2ppm.

With the new exposure limit set at 0.01ppm clearly there will be implications for RPE. In the worst case scenario when undertaking vertebrate fumigations users will be required to use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, with all that that entails.

All of this is still under discussion but, at the very least, quantitative 'Face Fit' tests will become mandatory each time a new full face RPE is issued.

The new labels also stipulate that re-entry to a treated area can only be granted once clearance has been given that the concentration of phosphine gas is down to, or below, 0.01ppm.

This can only be accomplished by using a sensitive gas detector. Currently the only suitable portable detector is the Draeger PAC 7000. These devices are sufficiently compact that they can be worn attached to the operator's coveralls. They will act as a personal alarm if gas concentrations in the working area are high as well as confirming clearance of treated areas.

The downside is that the Draeger PAC 7000 retails at £550 to £650 and the units have to be calibrated twice per year!

Insect control in grain

Metallic phosphides are also applied for insect control.

Grain can be fumigated against insects using magnesium phosphide plates. Previously, there had been no constraints on the number of times that a cereal product can be fumigated. Under the latest label change, the number of treatments to a batch will be limited to just one application.

When applied against vertebrates the effect of phosphine is rapid. Not so with insects, where infested grain may need to remain under gas for up to two weeks. It may be necessary to introduce further plates during the treatment in order to maintain the gas concentration for the duration of the treatment. An application has been made to raise the number of permissible applications from one to four.

Fumigation of ships

Such treatments using magnesium phosphide may take place on ships. For this use it is being proposed that, at the end of the fumigation, venting should only take place when there is no crew on board. De facto, ships can only be fumigated and vented whilst in port. Some dockyard locations are in areas where people live and work, making particularly large scale fumigations impractical.

To conclude

In conclusion, during the coming months we can anticipate a significant tightening of procedure that will have to be applied when using metallic phosphides, even if some of the new proposals are mitigated.

Some users will adapt, some will, no doubt, reach the conclusion that phosphine fumigations are not for them. There will, however, be a need to ensure that users who think that they are up to speed, because they were only certificated two years ago, are aware of the new requirements. Mole catchers, like their prey, are solitary creatures! Good communication will be vital.



Using metallic phosphides for pest control is becoming an increasingly specialised activity

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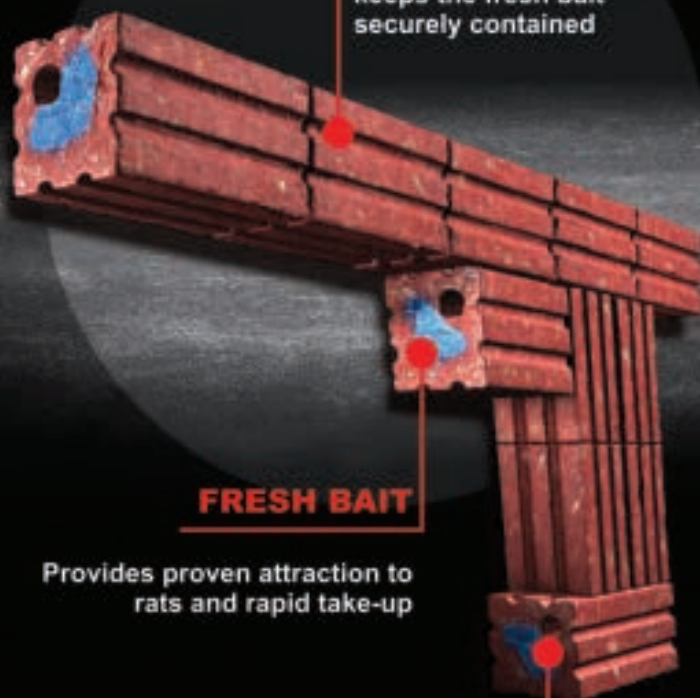
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B'more in Baltimore



Liverpool-based Yanko were first time exhibitors at PestWorld



Killgerm's Liam Cowling and Sabra Everett were scouting for new products



Richard Ardron from Pelsis shows off the innovative Project Neo prototype



Alberto Sabatini from IGEBA is a regular at PestWorld



Mathew Kaye CEO of Brandenburg, left, with Kevin Smith from Rollins

This year's PestWorld event was held from 24 to 27 October 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland. It was very well supported by its home audience of US pest professionals, as well as by a large contingent from around the world.

The PestWorld format doesn't vary. The opening plenary session brings all 3,000 plus delegates together. The US National Pest Management Association (NPMA) CEO welcomes everyone, the session sponsor says a few words, then the entertainment kicks in before everyone goes off to the exhibition opening. Similar plenary sessions follow on subsequent days, each served with a helping of razzmatazz and speakers.

Once you know the ropes you realise the first visit to the exhibition is key. The goal is to get round as many exhibits as you can as, unlike European events, the exhibition closes when there are plenary sessions or technical talks on the go. And there are plenty of talks to choose from - over 100 this year, many running concurrently, so you do have to be selective.

With nearly 200 exhibits any visitor has to be pretty determined to check out every stand. Read our full reports in the news

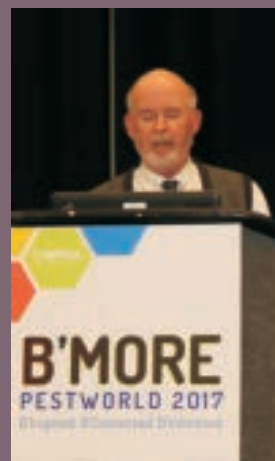
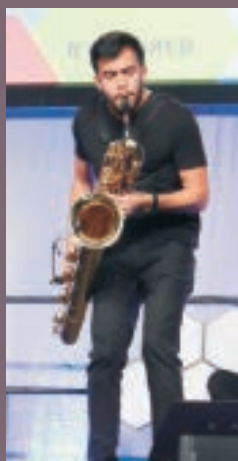
section on the **Pest** website.

Two new biological products caught our eye. Aprehend, a naturally derived, fungal-based pesticide for bed bugs has made it to market in most US States and birth control for rodents under the brand name ContraPest, has also been launched. Both however will face a rocky road to gain regulatory approval in Europe.

Electronic gizmos attached to, or built into, rodent traps that send a message to your SmartPhone have been a feature at exhibitions for the past few years. The noticeable change at PestWorld in 2017 was that the 'big boys' have woken up to this technology.

Dow has introduced the ActiveSense system and Bayer has a Rodent Monitoring System. developed with MicroSoft to be part of the Internet of Things. When, or indeed if, these two systems will appear in Europe is uncertain.

read more
on the web
WWW



There's plenty of razzmatazz at PestWorld. From left, Dominique Stumpf CEO of NPMA opened proceedings, the Drumadics Beat-N-Brass provided entertainment, Doc Hendley outlined his 'Wine to Water' campaign, Dr Bobby Corrigan was one of the many expert speakers in the technical sessions and Dow's Mark Neterer went 3D, demonstrating Dow's latest training aid



Pest editors Frances McKim, left, and Helen Riby, second right, with Hockley's Tommy Gill and Karin Allen



The Pelsis team was kept busy throughout the event



From left PelGar's Andrej Branc, Nic Blaszkowicz, Gareth Capel-Williams and Vincent Russo



From Portugal, Plastdiversity's Ricardo Fonseca



Above: Rupert Broome of Killgerm with Cameron Riddell from Bird Barrier



Above right: Octavius Hunt's Jo Scutcher and Nick Dale



Left: CEPA's Bertrand Monmoreau, Roland Higgins and Henry Mott



Jan Smits, left, from Dutch pest control software providers, PestScan



Rat Pak's Howard White, left and Jim Butcher were promoting their bait boxes



The Unichem stand generated a lot of interest



The Bell display highlighted the company's conservation work on the Galapagos and other islands



Mike Parkin from Syngenta spoke about the loss of active ingredients

Are you covered if things go wrong?

Insurance is not the sexiest of subjects for a pest professional running his or her own business, but it sure is a vital one. Certain elements are required for membership of the trade associations, but have you ever considered how you would cope if faced with a legal problem?

What if one of your clients decided to sue you? You could well be in the right, but proving it, once the legal brigade get involved, can be harrowing, expensive or even devastating for a small business. The implications range from short-term cash flow difficulties through to insolvency.

According to research by the Legal Services Board (LSB) total annual losses to small businesses due to legal problems were estimated to be £9.79 billion in 2015.

Of those business owners who reported legal problems, 20% said these led to health problems for them. Other key findings were that more than 90% of firms surveyed had neither in-house lawyers or legal capability, nor any sort of retainer with an external provider and only 13% of small businesses viewed lawyers as being cost effective.

How do you protect yourself?

Although Cliverton Insurance has been in business for over 40 years, it's only since early 2016 that the company that specialises in animal-related insurance, has really made an impact in the pest management sector. Realising that coverage for legal matters is a desirable addition, the company has just launched a new commercial legal expenses policy available to both existing and new customers.



So what does legal expenses cover offer?

First of all, help is available to avert legal disputes from the very start with a 24-hour legal advice helpline and online legal assistance. In the event of a dispute arising, access is available to a pool of lawyers with a wide range of specific expertise. A dedicated legal expenses claims handler is also available.

The policy is designed to cover legal risks that arise from carrying out your business, so it's not for private disputes, such as divorce proceedings. It is split into different sections with each section often having its own conditions and exclusions. Also it only applies to situations arising after the start of the policy.

What's in the policy?

The main sections of cover include:

- Employment disputes and employment compensation awards;
- Property and landlord disputes;
- Contractual disputes;
- Criminal defence;
- Tax protection;
- Regulatory compliance;
- Court attendance costs;
- Crisis communication;
- Downloadable templates such as contracts of employment, HR policies, Health & Safety checklists and many others.

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Rat Land in London reported

A report called *Rat Land* has just been published stating that the capital's rodent population is on the rise – hardly news to pest control professionals.



Produced by London Assembly member Susan Hall, through freedom of information requests, all 32 London boroughs were asked how many rodent complaints had been reported to them by members of the public over the past five years.

The book lists the results from all the boroughs with Tower Hamlets reporting the highest number of cases, dealing with 30,000 reports since January 2012, followed by

Brent which dealt with nearly 20,000 complaints.

The report looks at the possible consequences for local authorities who do not address the problem, as well as exploring what other cities have done about similar issues in Europe, in particular Paris.

It concludes with a series of a somewhat political recommendations, calling for the Mayor of London to play a role in preventing the spread of rodent populations and leading from the front with policies on street cleanliness. Among the recommendations suggested are a public awareness campaign, reassessing fortnightly bin collections and urging boroughs to publish the number of rodent sightings reported at least once a year.

Download your copy from the **Pest** Library.

New website for PROMPT

BASIS PROMPT has ramped up its online presence with the launch of a new website which was introduced at PestTech.



This is a welcome step forward bringing a fresh new look along with much easier access for members to check their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points tally. This includes a rundown of each event attended and the CPD coming from that event. It also shows how many more points an individual needs to collect to stay on the register. The new site allows members to use an interactive map, where they can type in their location and select how far they are willing to travel. There's a useful resources section as well as plenty of information on the mobile app.

www.basis-prompt.co.uk

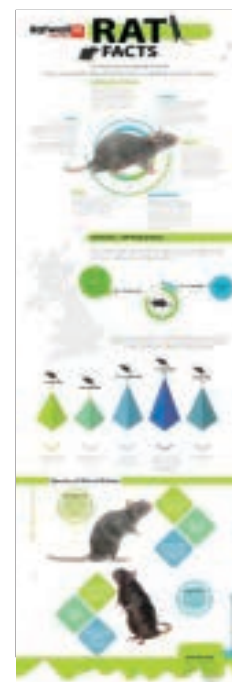
Rat facts

Produced by Metex, in support of their Ratwall product, this infographic provides a useful source of rat information 'under one roof'. Everything including their structure and biology is covered, along with population statistics detailed by Dr Dave Cowan of the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) who breaks the total down by location – homes, commercial premises, rural environments and sewers in towns and cities.

It describes the differences between black and brown rats, life spans, habitats and the supposed rise of the 'super rat'. Whilst the bad traits of rats are detailed, it does pay due reference to their good points – notably the fact they themselves provide a source of food for predators, act as seed dispersers and provide an efficient waste and rubbish reduction service. Finally, some well known myths and facts are addressed.

Copies from Ratwall or download from the **Pest** Library.

www.ratwall.co.uk



Abta adds pest chapter

It is worth recording that a dedicated chapter on pest control has been added to the recently revised Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) technical guide for destination governments and tourism accommodation providers.

The move was prompted by a spike in the number of health outbreaks caused by insects and the continued rise in bed bugs. The new chapter states accommodation providers should have an integrated pest management system and all buildings should be made 'pest proof' to prevent the spread of infection. It also lists ways to prevent bed bug infections, checks which should be carried out and how infestations can be detected by staff.

Unfortunately all **Pest** can do is report this addition. Copies of the *Tourism Accommodation Health & Safety Technical Guide* are free to Abta members, but cost £2,500 for non-members.

Shooting handbook

The opening sentence to this 207-page book, produced in full-colour, clearly describes its objective: "The purpose of this book is to explain the principles of using a shotgun to shoot live birds and mammals." Be you a sport shot or a professional pest controller, a beginner or an experienced shot, each will find value in the book.

Now in its seventh edition, this book produced by the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) has been extensively revised and expanded. It covers shotgun safety, the basic rules of gun handling in the field, whilst travelling and at home. It outlines the law as it relates to shooting and possession of shotguns, as well as chapters on behaviour in the field. The role of gamekeepers is explored, as is shooting and conservation.

ISBN: 978-1-84689-2486

www.quillerpublishing.com



Q - WHAT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN RODENT CONTROL?
A - GETTING THE RODENT IN THE STATION

PROJECT **NEO**™

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Independent tests have shown a significant reduction in the time taken for a rodent to enter NEO™.

It took 79 hours for the first rat to enter the traditional design rodent station, but only 14 hours to enter the station incorporating the patented* Project NEO™ technology.



Aiming high with Apollo

New from Plastdiversity is Apollo, a sturdy, affordable and reliable rodent bait station. It is side opening with a removal bait tray. Bait can be fixed using either the horizontal rod, or the four vertical bait rods, so ensuring bait is kept secure within the station.

For use without rodenticide, the station can accommodate two Super Trapper snap traps or glue board. The bait station also comes with a tried and tested key system to prevent unwelcome access.



www.plastdiversity.com

New additions to the NARA menu



Two new aromas are being added to the existing range of NARA blocs and lures. These are choco-nut, as the name suggests, based on chocolate, a well-known favourite for rodents. Joining this is a completely new aroma in the rodent world, mango. As with the other NARA blocs and lures, both are non-toxic, allergen-free and ideal, says Futura, for use in rodent monitoring.

www.emitter.info

Protected by Protect

These non-scatter, ready-to-use wax bait blocks contain 0.05% bromadiolone, so are ideal for both mice and rats. Protect blocks each come with a hole in their middle, making them easy to secure in bait boxes. Available in 8kg tubs.



www.1env.co.uk

Trap those weevils

Russell IPM has added a new Rice Weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*) trap to its Xlure range for crawling stored product insects.

The Xlure RWT trap has been specially developed to monitor areas at risk, reducing the potential for infestations and the costly outcome of dealing with the damage. Simply insert the cartridge containing the attractant into the red cover and the trap is ready to go. The discreet and consistent performance provides an opportunity for early detection and more timely control, says Russell IPM.



www.russellipm.com

Farewell Demand CS

Unfortunately, due to regulatory requirements, Syngenta is withdrawing Demand CS from the market in Ireland and the UK. Containing the micro-encapsulated formulation of lambda-cyhalothrin, this broad-spectrum insecticide has been used around the world for the past 30 years. The official product withdrawal started on 30 August 2017, sales of the product will end on 26 February 2018, with a use-up period ending on 29 August 2018. Killgerm, the distributor of Demand CS, is planning a special offer, so watch out for this.



www.killgerm.com

Oil those eggs

Liquid paraffin oil, also known as technical white oil, is used for egg control of breeding pest bird species such as herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, greater black-backed gull and Canada goose. Depending on the species, application should be made from mid-April to May. Each egg is dipped in the oil to block the pores on the egg, stopping oxygen from reaching the embryo and so preventing hatching. This technique can only be used under a General Licence.



www.killgerm.com





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External trap addition to iPest

A new addition to the iPest range is a larger external bait station coming with modifications to the lid to house the Checkpoint electronics. This makes the unit waterproof, so suitable for use outdoors, explained Kieran Wyatt.

The trap incorporates a snap trap, attached to which is a colour-coded cable tie. The colours, yellow and black, are used to identify whether the trap is set (yellow) or not. If black is showing it means there is a catch. In addition, the electronic iPest sensors will send an alert.

www.russellipm-pestcontrol.com

Vlink and you won't miss it

Two new electronic rodent killers were proudly being displayed by Elaine Cameron from Woodstream. Part of the Victor range, they are cleverly designed electronic kill boxes – the larger for rats and a smaller version for mice.

Once in the trap the rodent is electronically and silently killed, both humanely and instantly; the body remaining discretely within the trap.

The associated communication technology relays catch activity to a mobile monitoring device. It is claimed, each Vlink hub can cover up to 250,000sq ft of commercial warehouse space.

www.woodstream.com



Arise Neo...

www.pelsis.com

Having been trailed by Pelsis, all was revealed at PestTech when Project Neo was on display for the first time in the UK. (It had been at PestWorld in the USA a couple of weeks earlier.) This time it was Pelsis sales director, Andrew Joy, pictured above, with the innovative new rodent box.

Neo comes without a base at the entry point, meaning the intended culprit feels right at home walking on familiar ground. The aim is to get over the pests' neophobia. Pelsis claims the first rats will enter within 14 hours, whereas it would take 79 hours with an alternative bait box. Once inside, traditional baited traps await. On display was a prototype, with sales due to begin in early 2018.



Wasp wonder from Woodstream

Also on the Woodstream stand, Caroline Barrow was demonstrating the company's new Terro, dual action wasp, hornet and fly trap.

Coming with specially formulated, odour-free bait, a quantity of the concentrate is added to the trap and water added. It is then sealed and hung-up for use. Once full, the trap is emptied and simply refilled ready to be used again.

www.woodstream.com



A painless end

In **Pest 51**: June & July 2017 we reported on the development in Scotland of Ratagon by entrepreneur Jim Steele. So it was good to be able to greet Jim and see Ratagon in the flesh on the Barretine stand.

All was revealed. Ratagon is a large dispatching chamber designed to quickly and painlessly kill live captured rodents.

Operating on 12v electricity, the caught rats are placed in the chamber, the door closed and a gauge then checks the vacuum pressure. The level of oxygen within the chamber is diminished, meaning the rats effectively drop off to sleep and die from hypoxia. Once dead, the carcasses can be safely removed and disposed of. Visitors to the stand spotted the opportunities for use with other mammals; squirrels for one.

www.ratagon.com



Natural removal of organic debris

Designed to biologically and naturally remove organic debris, PX-Viribus is a powerful cleaning product that is both biodegradable and non-toxic.

As Brady Hudson from Killgerm explained, it breaks down greases, fats, oils, proteins and carbohydrates as well as foul odours. Great for drains, it can also be used as a surface cleaner for walls and floors. After use, it leaves a fresh citrus scent.

www.killgerm.com

Pest Test 54

Now also
online

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**.

So, read through our special article on *3-dimensional target to hit mice* on pages 27 to 29 in this issue of **Pest** and answer the questions below. Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the articles.

SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS to: **Pest** Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ.

We will mark your **Pest Test** and, if all answers are correct, we will enter the results onto your PROMPT record held by BASIS.

- 1 Which of the following is a significant reason why brown rats 'raid' premises rather than occupy them permanently like mice?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Neophobia	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Rats do not feed sporadically
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Rats need to drink water	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Rats cannot find enough food indoors
- 2 What does Kai Severt say is a common cause of treatment failure when baiting against mice?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Underbaiting	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Inquisitiveness
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Neophobia	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Breeding too quickly
- 3 What is the approximate daily food intake of an adult house mouse?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 1g	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 3g
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 1g	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 30g
- 4 How soon after being born does a house mouse become sexually mature?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 8 days	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 6 weeks
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 19 days	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 8 weeks
- 5 What was introduced in the 1980s that made full control of the house mouse more realistic?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Coumatetralyl	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Brodifacoum
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Difenacoum	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Bromadiolone
- 6 Which major change to mouse product labels brought in under the Biocidal Products Regulation is highlighted in the article?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) They refer simply to mice	<input type="checkbox"/> c) They specify the number of bait points required
<input type="checkbox"/> b) They specify <i>Mus musculus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> d) They are all printed in red

Name: _____

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Diary dates

24-25 January 2018

PestProtect 2018

Messe Bremen, Findorffstrasse 101 28215
Bremen, Germany www.pest-protect.eu/

22-23 February 2018

Expocida Iberia 2018

IFEMA - North Gate, North Convention Centre, Madrid
www.expocida.com/en/

14 March 2018

PPC Live 2018

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire
WR13 6NW
www.bPCA.org.uk/Upcoming-Events/ppc-live-2018/ppc-live-2018/4335?Occlid=6555

25 April 2018

Benelux Pest 2018

NH Conference Centre Koningshof, Loch 117, 5504 RM
Veldhoven, Eindhoven The Netherlands
<http://beneluxpest.nl/en/>

4-6 June 2018

2018 Global Summit of Pest Management Services for Food Safety and Public Health

Hotel Cascais Mireagem, Av.Marginal n.8554, 2754-536
Cascais, Portugal

12-14 June 2018

13th Fumigants & Pheromones Conference

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
<https://store.insectslimited.com/fumigants-pheromones-conference-registration>

Need to claim CPD

If you're collecting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points as a member of BASIS PROMPT then the number you need to claim the two points available for reading **Pest** magazine throughout 2017 is:
PC/56963/17/g

PROMPT
Register



PestProtect in Bremen kicks off 2018 event season

The German exhibition used to have a permanent home in Dortmund, but not any longer. Members of the German Association, DSV, which organises PestProtect, have voted to move the event to a new location each time. For 2018 it is the historic city of Bremen, in north west Germany, which will play hosts.

PestProtect is held in alternate years to PestEx, but the 2018 event is earlier than usual, 24-25 January, so it will probably be wise to bring a warm coat. The exhibition is always popular and often used by exhibitors to launch new products. In addition, there is simultaneous translation of German-English for the technical seminars.

Uniquely for European events, there is an admission charge of Euros 55, which gives you entry on both days. Members of the British Pest Control Association are entitled to a discount, so if you fancy a trip to Germany next year get in touch with BPCA for details.

DSV has also organised an event dinner on the evening of 24 January in the Bremer Ratskeller (old town hall). The old town district with its many galleries, museums, restaurants and pubs has kept its medieval character and is well worth a visit, time permitting.



Organised by the Spanish Pest Management Association, ANECPLA, Expocida Iberia 2018 will be held in Madrid 22-23 February where visitors and exhibitors alike can expect warmer temperatures than at PestProtect in Bremen!

This is the fifth Expocida Iberia event; they too are staged every two years with the first being held in 2010. Since then it has grown steadily, attracting over 1,800 visitors and around 40 exhibitors in 2016, with more than 400 pest professionals participating in the associated congress.

Expocida Iberia is now established as the industry's main event in Spain. The exhibition is free, but there is a fee to attend the congress. The early bird rate, before 12 January, is Euro 185.



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