

## **British Pest Control Association Statement of Board Candidacy**

**Name:** Karen Green

**Member Organisation:** John O'Conner

**My professional background:**

I joined John O'Conner in 2015 as an administrator for our ground's maintenance contract with North Hertfordshire which included pest control. I found both elements interesting, but I wanted to learn more about pest control, and I was able to gain more knowledge about pest control whilst working on the contract.

I had a lot of ideas on where the business could go with pest control and was asked to put together a pest control proposal for our directors, so I sat down and did my homework. It was reviewed by the directors and the feedback I received was positive and they believed in my proposal for the future.

I decided if I wanted to do more with pest control then I needed my RSPH Level 2 Pest Management and if the technicians could pass their assessment, then so could I! I enrolled on the online training course rather than the five-day course as I didn't want it to impact on my job at the time. I successfully passed my Level 2 in November 2018 making me a fully qualified pest control technician, which I am very proud of.

In 2018 I was promoted to Pest Control Co-Ordinator, and we were also awarded our first standalone pest control contract, which we successfully tendered for. Today, five years on, I am pleased to say we still hold a contract with them and have built a great working relationship.

In January 2019 I passed my IOSH Managing Safely Course and in January 2022, I was promoted to Pest Control Manager. I'm now responsible for all aspects of the pest control for the business and for managing the wider pest control team, whilst being supported by our admin team in Hitchin. The department has continued to grow, with the biggest growth taking place since 2020, and I now manage 10 large contracts covering housing associations and local authority work and with several commercial sites, domestic local sites and some extras via other grounds clients. The department has expanded from one technician in 2018 to now having 11 technicians, three contract administrators, one accounts administrator and 2 business admin apprentice as well as a wide range of new vans.

**Why I am putting myself forward:**

I am putting myself forward for the BPCA Executive Board because I am deeply committed to advancing the pest control industry, and I believe that my unique background and experiences position me to contribute significantly to the board's mission. Having started as an administrator in 2015 and subsequently progressing to the role of Pest Control Manager, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities within our industry. I would like to see more people coming into the industry and recruitment and training is a key feature.

**The skills I bring:**

My professional journey has equipped me with a diverse set of skills that I believe will be valuable to the BPCA Executive Board. Through my personal development plan, I have obtained qualifications in leadership management, RSPH Level 2 in Pest Management, and ISOH Management. These credentials have not only enhanced my managerial capabilities but have also provided me with a solid foundation in understanding and navigating the regulatory landscape of pest control.

Furthermore, my experience in implementing the BPCA's onboarding program for trainee pest technicians at John O'Conner positions me uniquely. This hands-on involvement showcases my ability to translate industry initiatives into practical, on-the-ground solutions. I am adept at fostering collaboration and driving change within an organization, skills that I believe will be instrumental in advancing the BPCA's objectives.

**If I am elected, I will endeavour to.....**

If elected to the BPCA Executive Board, my primary focus will be on upskilling the industry, with a particular emphasis on technicians and recruitment of them. The frontline of our industry, technicians play a crucial role in ensuring effective pest management. I am passionate about creating opportunities for their professional growth and development.

I plan to work closely with the BPCA to initiate and support programs that enhance the skills and knowledge of technicians. This includes expanding onboarding programs, promoting continuous education, and fostering a culture of innovation within the industry. By investing in the development of our technicians, we not only elevate the standards of pest control but also contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the industry.

By joining the BPCA Executive Board, I am eager to contribute my skills, experiences, and passion to further elevate the standards and capabilities of the pest control industry, with a specific focus on empowering technicians and our industry.

**Signed by candidate:**

Karen Green

**DATE:** 08/02/2024