

Hosts:

Hamish Macleod – Director of Public Affairs, BSW Timber Group

Hamish Macleod has over thirty years' experience in the timber processing industry. He graduated from University of Strathclyde with a BSc in Technology and Business Studies and joined Unilever as a Graduate Trainee at their subsidiary, Thames Board Ltd, firstly in Essex and then in Workington, Cumbria where he took on the role of Timber Buyer. This business was subsequently acquired by Iggesund AB of Sweden when Hamish took on the responsibility for their sawmill as MD.

In 1993 he moved to south west Scotland to join the family timber business of Howie Forest Products in Dalbeattie as General Manager. He oversaw the design and construction of a £15M high-speed Linck/Springer sawmill line at Dalbeattie for Howie Forest Products Ltd in 2007, where he was MD. BSW acquired that business in 2009. From 2008 to 2015 he was as a Non-Exec Forestry Commissioner and Chairman of Forestry Commission Scotland's National Committee.

He is a Board Member of Wood for Good Campaign and was formerly President of the UK Softwood Sawmillers Association. He is now Director of Public Affairs for BSW Timber, based in Carlisle. His key role is as an advocate for forestry and timber products, currently working on a number of key projects utilising domestically grown timber in innovative construction. BSW Timber are active supporters of Grown in Britain. Hamish lives with his family in Dumfries. South West Scotland

Tim Liddon BSc Hons FICFor – Forestry Director, Tilhill Forestry

Tim grew up with forestry in the South West of England where his father had a forestry business. He studied Forestry in Aberdeen graduating in 1980, when he went on to join Tilhill Forestry as a forest manager. He has enjoyed the challenges and opportunities in the industry over the last 38 years.

After a spell in landscaping in Central Scotland he moved to Yorkshire and worked in a diverse range of operational work from landscaping in Tyneside, Community woodland creation in Teeside, to investment and estate forestry in Yorkshire. In his time in Yorkshire he was also Chairman Yorkshire Division Royal Forestry Society – 1996-1998.

In 2001 he moved to South West Scotland managing commercial investment forestry in that area. In 2007 he was instrumental in planning and delivering the Eskdalemuir Timber haul road, and also managed the rising restock programme and its associated challenges of large weevil numbers and an increasing deer population. 2009 saw promotion to Regional Manager for Scotland and responsibility for forestry and landscaping. In 2014 he became a founder Director of the then Sitka Spruce Breeding Cooperative (now the Conifer Breeding Cooperative), which is a public private partnership to ensure the improvement of productive Conifer continues.

In 2015 Tim was appointed to the Tilhill Board as Forestry Director. He has been a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters since 2004. He continues to seek solutions and to raise standards in forestry - from large scale re afforestation, weevil and deer management to protecting the workforce and the environment.

Harry Stevens – Timber Buying Director, Tilhill Forestry

Having left school at the age of 18 Harry worked in Agriculture for a year and then started with the Forestry Commission at the age of 19 in the New Forest. Initially working for Forest Surveys and then on the squad. After three years Harry attended Newton Rigg and studied forestry at Diploma level. As part of the course Harry undertook a middle year at Buccleuch estates at Bowhill and was involved in management of continuous cover silvicultural systems.

Since leaving college Harry has had several posts with the production side of the sector. Initially with Harvesting and Marketing operations, and more latterly log buying with BSW since 2005. Harry has bought and sold standing and roadside roundwood from the south of England to the north of Scotland.

Since the acquisition of Tilhill Harry had been a member of the board concentrating on the coordination of supply of logs into the BSW total log requirement.

Robert Herbert – Tilhill Forestry District Manager

Robert started in the forest industry 33 years ago in Argyll, first as a planting contractor and then as a tree feller and chokerman. After studying Forest Management at Newton Rigg he spent time living and working in Australia and Ireland before joining Tilhill in Yorkshire. He spent 8 years there before transferring to South West Scotland District, initially as forest manager for 6 years and subsequently as District Manager for the last 9 years.

Stephen Smith – Tilhill Forestry

Steve joined the company as a graduate trainee in 1978 and spent 20 years based in Oxford working on Forest Management and Timber harvesting and marketing, as well as Forestry Contracting. In 1998 he moved to South West Scotland to take on a new challenge of restructuring the large scale commercial forests planted in the 1970's and 80's. He has never looked back.

Ian Murchie – Mill Manager, BSW Dalbeattie

Educated at Dumfries Academy and Heriot-Watt University and with a BSc Hons in Biochemistry he started work in the animal pharmaceuticals industry as a quality assurance chemist. He then progressed through manufacturing and site management responsibilities before taking on a European logistics and procurement role based in London. A return to South West Scotland and a move to the timber industry made a welcome change.

Ian joined Howie Forest Products, Dalbeattie in 1995 as the Project Manager for the installation and commissioning of a new sawmill which was designed to process short log material available in the local forest area. He has continued with various operational responsibilities and became Production Director in 2001. After acquisition by the BSW Timber Group in 2009 Ian assumed the role of Mill Manager. The Dalbeattie site now employs 170 and will be processing in the region of 500,000 tonnes of timber next year.

Married to Fiona and with three children family is important. Having been a past captain Ian is a passionate supporter of Dumfries Rugby Club & also enjoys fly fishing & cycling.

Robert Lamont – Production Manager, BSW Dalbeattie

Robert has been at Dalbeattie for 18 years and has built up a wealth of operating experience on site. He has progressed through from machine operator, Supervisor to Manager, Roles have covered most elements of the sawmill operations from Logs in to blade care to the end products

He is now responsible for the primary production from log sorting to processing through the Linck and Springer sawline.

Eddie Balfour – Director, James Jones and Sons

Eddie graduated 1988 with a BSc Hons degree Forestry from Edinburgh University. In 2005 completed an MBA with The Open University

He has spent 30 years working in the timber industry, in both Wales and Scotland. Initial part of career spent on timber harvesting, the past 20 years have been working in sawmill operations.

Joined James Jones & Sons Ltd 18 years ago as Mill Manager at the Aboyne mill and moved down to the Lockerbie Stevens Croft site in 2006, and has overseen the developments on the site for the last 12 years.

Appointed a Director of James Jones & Sons Ltd in 2016.

Stuart Goodall – CEO, Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor)

Stuart is Chief Executive of Confor which represents forestry, wood-processing and related businesses. Based in Edinburgh, Confor operates across the UK. Stuart has over 30 years' experience in the sector, the first 17 with the Forestry Commission where his roles included briefing ministers and representing UK interests at European level. He joined Confor at its inception as head of policy and became CEO in 2007. Stuart has advised the UK government on forestry policy as well as the World Bank, and provided consultancy services in China, Japan, Hungary and Latvia.

Emma Harper MSP – Member of Scottish Parliament (SNP) South Scotland

Emma Harper MSP was born and grew up in Stanraer, Dumfries and Galloway. Her parents were farmers and her family later moved to a farm in Annan, near Dumfries, where she attended the local school. She then enrolled at the Royal College of Nursing and Midwifery in Dumfries.

Ms Harper practiced as a surgical nurse for many years, both in the UK and the US. For the last few years of her nursing career, she was a nursing educator and -as per NHS requirements- she still practices a few shifts every year to retain her qualifications.

Her political career started when she joined the SNP in 2010. In 2015, Ms Harper was selected as the SNP candidate for the UK Parliament seat of Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale for the 2015 General Election. She came second, with a big swing to the SNP, but failed to secure the seat for the party. In 2016 she was a candidate in the regional list for South Scotland in the Scottish Parliament election. She was successful on this occasion and was elected as MSP in May 2016. She was then appointed as aide to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing.