How does the industry ensure that national standards are maintained?
Both the GTC Centre and the College Centres have to ensure that a quality control structure is in place. Eighteen of the above advisers are also Internal Verifiers and their job is to ensure all assessors assess to national standards. There are now over 300 qualified greenkeeper assessors throughout the country and to identify your nearest assessor you should contact your Internal Verifier.

What are Modern Apprenticeships?
They are the latest Government initiative to ensure quality training for anyone under the age of 25. The scheme is open to new entrants to the greenkeeping profession as well as anyone already working on a golf course.

What is the aim of Modern Apprenticeships?
To raise the standard of the workforce with the goal that those undertaking the Modern Apprenticeship must be capable of achieving NVQ Level 3.

How much would it cost me?
The training may not cost you or your club anything. A 100% training subsidy is available for those employers in England and Wales who have a modern apprentice accepted on the training scheme. For full information contact the GTC.

What about Scotland?
The Modern Apprenticeship framework has yet to be accepted in Scotland but the GTC hope to contract with Local Enterprise Councils in future so that the framework will be accepted in Scotland.

I thought the Training and Enterprise Councils were controlling Modern Apprenticeships?
They do. The GTC has contracted with one Training and Enterprise Council to offer Modern Apprenticeships to all employers and candidates ensuring that qualified advisors, training, assessment and funding is available.

Next month Ken and David will look at how you become an assessor.