MONITORING MATTERS

One of the GTC’s main responsibilities is to monitor the delivery of education and training programmes for the greenkeeping sector.

In this article, David Golding the GTC’s Education Director, explains how some of his contacts help him to ensure the quality of education and training is to the industries required standards.

For many years the GTC has maintained a list of Approved Training Providers, mainly agricultural and horticultural colleges where we suggest to employers and learners that the specialist greenkeeper courses are best delivered.

The official verification and inspection of Approved Centres, is firmly the responsibility of the Awarding Bodies and the Inspectorate, but again we have forged an excellent relationship with the key personnel who operate on behalf of our sector.

All in all we do keep our eye on the ball most of the time, however we need you to work with us to ensure quality provision is available and when you feel the GTC can investigate a problem through its advisory network or indeed where excellent provision is available, please let us know.

My work with Ken and Sami at BIGGA also is great assistance, especially when the Student of the Year interviews are reviewed. It is very encouraging each year, when they report that the students who are both enjoying their work and making most progress in terms of qualifications, is when their Course Manager AND employer are involved in their training programme. If only this was the norm! Sadly too many learners on golf courses are let down by their “bosses” who still do not think that it is their job to train and educate staff!

Regular readers will know that while I do have a problem with this negative attitude and while I fully understand the current day pressures on Course Managers, I honestly believe that by becoming more formally involved in staff training you and the employer benefit tremendously and this is borne out by the students themselves. The important factor to remember in the whole concept of vocational qualifications, is that they are designed to be work-based and aimed at training staff to agreed national standards so who better to “control” the standards than Course Manager assessors? So many course managers, having attended assessor-training days, say the A1 qualification only formalises what they have been doing for years! Yes!

Many assessors feed in to me or via the GTC Liaison Officers information relating to the delivery of all the various sports turf awards. This is priceless to the GTC.

Please be reassured that the GTC will continue to work to maintain and where standards slip, improve the system for the benefit of the learner and the employer but please be part of our “honorary” advisory network, as we need your help.

Please feel free to contact the GTC on, Tel: 01347 838640 or email: david@the-gtc.co.uk

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