The GTC has the responsibility to ensure the employers and greenkeepers it represents are serviced by its network of training providers by way of a variety of qualifications, which can be delivered in a variety of ways e.g. part or full time at a college, on the job or online.

The choice of delivery is very much up to the student and if employed, the employer.

Some employers still consider it best that the student attends college even when they have registered them on a work-based training qualification.

I still feel there is a great deal of misunderstanding of the modern vocational qualifications and without wanting to bore regular readers I will briefly explain the structure and content of a vocational qualification.

Vocational qualifications include skills AND the related knowledge which are assessed using nationally agreed standards NOT individuals standards!

The VQ’s are nationally accredited National Vocational Qualifications standards! Vocational qualifications include skills AND the related knowledge AND the ability to work within the workplace.

Each provider will be provided with notes which the GTC can circulate as additional learning materials to turf students over and above the current set of Level 2 and 3 materials through its Approved Centres.

The VQ’s are nationally accredited National Vocational Qualifications standards and will be sent out to students.

The GTC has a major input into the content of the qualification ensuring that it is relevant to the workplace.

The GTC, while promoting vocational training, also promotes the college based Higher education qualifications such as the Higher National Certificate/Diploma, Foundation Degree, BSc and MSc.

No matter which course or qualification a greenkeeping student registers on the GTC is looking to ensure they get a balanced education within the workplace.

The workshop proved to be a very worthwhile event and the GTC will continue to work on raising the maintenance issues facing the sport with all parties.

Clearly the Home Unions and BIGGA are committed to the awareness campaign through conferences and seminars but we accept that each golf club has to have the responsibilities for the standards it requires.

The GTC is committed to ensure its provider network teaches best practice in aspects of course maintenance providing qualified turf professionals for the employers.

The best practice information produced for use by all the providers is also available within the hard copies of the Level 2 & 3 and will be sent out with future copies of the CD Rom format. The learning materials are available from the GTC direct – Tel: 01347 838640 Email: david@the-gtc.co.uk or visit the GTC website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

The entitlement is expected to benefit some 60,000 learners in 2007/08, enabling more young adults who have missed out on education and training who have satisfied the Learning and Skills Council are:

- Providers are able to get free tuition to obtain a first, full qualification.
- It is not often that we can get anything for free but as from August this year, those under 25 and living in England can get free tuition to study towards NVQ Level 3 and including NVQ Level 3.
- The new entitlement for the young intermediate technician level skills employers say they need will provide routes back for those who left education early and want to return to improve their qualifications and job prospects.

The new entitlement will be available from August '07 through colleges of further education and other providers of high quality education and training who have satisfied the Learning and Skills Council quality assurance process. The entitlement is expected to benefit some 60,000 learners in 2007/08, enabling more young adults to achieve higher-level technical and professional qualifications.

The next seminar takes place at McDermid Park, Perth on Tuesday, August 28 from 11am to 5pm. Details as follows:

MIND WHAT YOU SAY AND HOW YOU SAY IT

Drawing on experience with professionals at national and international level, our experts reveal the secrets of ‘talking the talk and walking the walk’ – with proactive and entertaining presentations that reveal how to project confidently an image of self confidence, gain trust, establish a rapport and read the signals, mannerisms and gestures of others.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Billy Dixon is a Managing Partner of MIND Associates and is a specialist in public relations, image consultancy and communication. With his passion for sport, Billy’s presentation will be especially relevant. Mary Knightley is also a Managing Director of MIND Associates, specialising in human motivation, leadership skills and performance enhancement. Mary coaches senior executives and speaks regularly at industry conferences.

BIGGA Members £75 - Price includes lunch, coffee, tea and all handout material. Register by fax on 01334 460859 or email cmae@ elmwood.co.uk

FREE TRAINING FOR UNDER 25S

It is not often that we can get anything for free but as from August this year, those under 25 and living in England can get free tuition to study towards NVQ Level 3 and including NVQ Level 3. Details just released by the Learning and Skills Council are:

FREE TRAINING FOR UNDER 25S

Adults under the age of 25 who have missed out on education and training opportunities will be able to get free tuition to obtain a first, fully qualified course, equivalent to 2 A levels, from this August. The new entitlement for the young intermediate technician level skills employers say they need will provide routes back for those who left education early and want to return to improve their qualifications and job prospects.

The judging of this year’s Student of the Year Competition begins on Monday, July 2 in Edinburgh. There are 32 entrants in this year’s competition and judging will finish on Friday, July 6 when the judges will select eight finalists to progress to the National Final that will take place on September 17 at BIGGA House.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Club Managers Association of Europe is running a series of seminars in Summer and Autumn. They have agreed that BIGGA members can attend at the same price as CMAE members.