People talk about grass roots greenkeeping but what about the grass tips of Greenkeeping, equipment technicians are the very people who have the responsibility of keeping grass tips cleanly cut?

It was good to read the Chairman’s column in last May’s edition of Greenkeeper International; what Peter Todd said was very true:

“The work involved in maintaining golf course equipment properly, demands the skills and experience of trained staff together with an adequately equipped workshop. Many clubs rely on dealers and outside help whilst some see in house facilities as essential to the smooth running of their operation. Whatever is appropriate.”

But it also raises the question where do trained workshop staff come from?

I come from inside the industry starting as a greenkeeper in 1987 at horticultural college and then moving on to the workshop and attending agricultural engineering college, finally becoming the Workshop Manager here at John O’Gaunt Golf Club, which I believe to be a near perfect apprenticeship role here at John O’Gaunt Golf Club, which was offered as a career path or any other where Golf Course Machinery and Turf Equipment Managers and Technicians could attend engineering college and then move on to the workshop and workshop management.

In this article, Stuart takes the opportunity to make the case for the unsung heroes of the industry.

“Where do we come from? (Workshop technicians that is)”

But what about if someone in Spain, Australia or just down the road has experienced the same fault, well this is where IGCEMA comes into its own, you make a post regarding the fault, describing what happens and when, it may just be the case that Jo Bloggs from outer God knows where has just fixed the very same fault, well this is where IGCEMA can learn from each other, of add constructive input to solve the problem.

IGCEMA is dedicated to expanding the education, enhancing the professionalism and improving the image of the Golf Course Equipment Managers and Turf Equipment Technician nationwide.

Supported by various manufacturers in the turf care industry, IGCEMA membership is free to join and strives to be an association where members and industry alike can learn from each other.

There is no reason why every golf club, dealer and manufacturer in the country should not have a member of IGCEMA within its staff.

So next time you’re at a BIGGA meeting, training day or golf day tell your colleagues there about IGCEMA and encourage them to join.