As the dust settles on the European Ryder Cup team’s win at Celtic Manor, please excuse the pun, those of us working within greenkeeping would never have doubted Jim McKenzie and his team’s skills and ability to present the course to the standards that had been planned for the course to the standards Jim McKenzie and his team’s win at Celtic Manor, please allow me to say that I believe the profession is slowly becoming more professional and the work of the greenkeepers for their work during the Ryder Cup is now being recognised as skilled work that deserves to be paid what it truly deserves.

I would like to think that some of this recognition is down to the opportunities now available for greenkeeper education and training but there are some very informal methods of communications, which, I believe are worth considering.

All the following I know have been introduced to raise the awareness of the role of the greenkeeper and have improved the status of the Course Manager and his/her staff at the same time “educated” the golfer.

• An evening with the Course Manager often with a supporting cast of Green Keepers/Chairman of Golf and advisor or agronomist.

• An AGM Party – an evening when the clubs equipment and machinery is displayed for the members to view their investments and to question the Course Manager on which machine or piece of equipment does what on the golf course.

This I remember as being a huge breakthrough for Ed McCabe, Course Manager at Brockenhurst. He proposed some ideas, which, I believe have adopted to raise awareness to golfers on the work of the greenkeeping staff and how it all is tailored to meet the policies for the course as agreed by the employers.

It is also appreciated, that for some, report writing and making presentations, is one of the natural skills for some Course Managers but with the help of staff within the GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, help is at hand.

Many new greenkeepers are looking for opportunities to progress to the professional level and these or a summary of their ideas are designed to assist with training but there are some very informal methods of communications, which, I believe are worth considering.

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In Brief

Davie hands out the 2010 Royal Ashdown Forest Greenkeeping Award at the Trustee’s meeting. The GTC is funded by:

http://www.royalashdown. co.uk/html/about-us/course- managers-facts

Weekend at Aldwark Manor

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