Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, Education Director, with a monthly update from the GTC

The 2010 series of workshops were designed to meet the main aim of the special project: to engage all turf staff working within the GTC’s Approved Centres and colleges to not only help them understand and promote through the various training courses all aspects of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme but also to see best practice first hand at venues throughout Britain.

This second series of workshops was hosted at the following venues:

Kings N酌e Golf Club, Edinburgh
Course Manager, Steven Drexon

Embleton Golf Club, near Newcastle
Course Manager, Jonathan Wood

Esqington Golf Club, near York
Course Manager, Paul Worster

Minchinhampton Golf Club, near Stroud
Course Manager, Paul Worster

Tyrells Wood Golf Club, near Leatherhead
Course Manager, Billy McMillon

Lymm Golf Club,

Course Manager, Stuart Yuwoud

The courtesy and support from the Directors, Committees and Course Managers at the above clubs is much appreciated by the GTC and The R&A.

It should also be noted that, as with last year’s venues, all clubs are willing to share their experiences with others. Contact details available from the GTC.

A reminder of the 2009 venues:

Glencorse GC, Wilmslow GC, Gog Magog GC, Cleveland GC
Kings Hill GC, Burnham Berrow GC and Temple Golf Club.

Following the 2009 workshops it was agreed to extend invitations to widen the delegates beyond turf Centre staff. The PGA and GCMA were invited to identify representatives who could attend and in turn distribute the message to their members.

Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being integrated into future seminars and education programmes for the various organisations.

In recent years “sustainability” has become a word that many industries have adopted but few people really understand what it means or how it can be applied within their particular working environment.

With the support of the turf staff at the nine Approved Centres and the information and learning materials produced by the various organisations, including those associated with the GTC, we are starting to make real progress to promote best practice for the future maintenance and management of British golf grass.

From the outset of the promotion of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme the GTC has always promoted the need for a united approach as any golf club before embarking on the programme and, in particular, the basic requirement of creating a Course Policy Document.

This message seems quite old now and while it has been adopted by many clubs it appears there are still some who manage the course solo. We have been proactive in putting all the facts to the clubs and the people empowered to manage the course.

The sustainable programme is not just about encouraging and maintaining the most suitable and sustainable grasses...it encompasses all the facets of playing and economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

In an effort to keep share the sustainable message the GTC had the workshops filmed and with the kind permission of the speakers on the day we invite you to view one or more of 11 films on the GTC website.

Another development during recent years has been the ongoing capture of best practice case studies at various golf clubs and as these become available we will ensure that these can be accessed through our website and mobile app.

It is with the support from The R&A and the Home Unions that case-study research has been undertaken and there is clear evidence that this source of information, together with visits to clubs, is the best way to see the work still in progress, is an excellent method of promoting the various aspects of the sustainable programme.

In supporting the sustainable programme, also promotes the fact that there has to be a sense that it is not enough to have a policy not only falls on the Course Manager but also the management team of staff and clubs and equally their employers.

During all of the GTC workshops the issue of communication to the golfer was highlighted and despite the GTC ensuring all aspects of the sustainable programme being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

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September halts the journey to Saltdean, the world of golfing packed, next to our suntan lotion! September also features the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the delivery of the GTC’s Continue to Learn Education Programme. The focus shifts from ‘planning to ‘organising’ and, for the next few months, all roads lead to Harrogate.

Continue to Learn 2011 – Turf Managers’ Conference

The 2011 Continue to Learn education programme has been finalised. You will be receiving your copy of the programme with next month’s issue of Greenkeeper International.

Brand new for 2011 is the introduction of the ‘Turf Managers’ Conference’. Taking place on Monday, January 17, the new conference has been developed specifically with Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and those who manage turf worldwide in mind.

We have secured a first-class line up of speakers:

- Dr John E. Kaminski, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre
- Robert Hunt, Chairman, International Design Group
- Stanley J. Kostka, PhD, Director - Technology and Innovation, Aquafina Corporation
- Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum

Presenting a range of topics:

- Effective use of Primo on golf courses
- New challenges in turf disease management
- Golf is Dead
- It’s not just about dry patch anymore!
- The science of soil water repellency, surfactants and sustainable turf management
- Microcose phosphorus: a new threat to golf greens
- Preparing for and dealing with Winter damage

Further information on the Turf Managers’ Conference will feature in the Continue to Learn Education Programme. However, if you want to reserve your place, please contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3).

New Field Guide Coming Soon!

A new field guide, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at the STRI, will be available soon. The subject for the new guide was selected following last year’s Field Guide survey for new subjects. It will deal with Winter damage and will be published in the spring.

The introduction of the updated guide, on the production of the “Turf Managers’ Conference” Winter damage, will be available in the spring.

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