In trying to keep you updated on the Government’s current thoughts and policies for education and training, it is a little like trying to hit a fast moving target!

The GTC’s role is to lobby various Government bodies or funding support towards the qualifications and schemes we are involved in developing and reviewing.

Over many years employers and learners have benefited from the generous support given by the Government approved qualifications including the apprenticeship scheme but as we all know nothing is safe in the present economic climate, education has not escaped.

Our colleagues in both colleges and private training Centres are all seeing a reduction in funding support from the Government, with very few exceptions.

However, we must remain positive and seek out every opportunity for funding to ensure even the "poorest" golfer can still access the training they need.

I know many Course Managers have overall responsibility for staff development has to be where a budget item for staff training or, essentially, "HR". But as we all know nothing is safe in the present economic climate.

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who, in ensuring their staff do develop, sometimes forget their own personal development (CPD). Please remember to keep yourselves up to speed on all the subjects relating to the maintenance and management. Attend as many courses as you can and remember home study is an option to gain those formal qualifications.

The GTC are in regular contact with our Quality Assured Centres including colleges and encouraging the use of modern technology to assist with the access to knowledge and recording of evidence e.g. sport.

Which moves nicely onto Higher Education and nobody can have failed to have noticed the continuing debate relating to student fees albeit this depends differing country you live in and what you are studying for.

In 2010, thanks to contributions to the fund, we have supported 14 members with a refund of fees for their education, provided subsidies for several sections and all of the Regions, reprinted field guides, bought new books for the library and introduced the ‘How To…’ Guides.

It’s got to finally see the lighter and feel some warmth in the sun. I think my song for this month will be ‘Lovely Day’ by Bill Withers. Long may these lovely days last!

Work has been steadily progressing on the new look Safety Management System website and it looks like the launch date will be later this month, so watch the website and see next month’s magazine for full details.

I would also like to mention Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who, in ensuring there staff do develop, sometimes forget their own personal development (CPD). Please remember to keep yourselves up to speed on all the subjects relating to the maintenance and management. Attend as many courses as you can and remember home study is an option to gain those formal qualifications.

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My thanks go out to all of our Greenkeepers and Silver Key supporters on behalf of all of the Members.

In Brief

Quality Assured Centres are constantly seeking every source of funding support and where costs have to be introduced these are kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Despite the forecasted cuts in funding support for 2011/12, there is still every reason to keep yourselves up to speed on all the subjects relating to the maintenance and management. Attend as many courses as you can and remember home study is an option to gain those formal qualifications.

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Hands up who remembers the Y2 - Y5 training and people got involved in staff training. This have I say I find disappointing even allowing for the fact that the level of training is not the highest. For Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers when the pressure is on to gain the course in top condition every day of the year. All I will add is that you get don’t get involved with your staff training it could cost you and your employer a lot more in the future.

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