Following on from recent Chairman of Green workshops, I encourage all Course Managers and Greenkeepers to make plans to attend Harrogate Week 2012 and to bring along their employers.

Once again the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate Week 2012 has something for everybody, and for many involved in golf course maintenance and management, it is the one event where they can truly bring themselves up to speed with everything, ranging from education, to what is new in technology, machinery and product development.

The GTC, in recent months, has been encouraged by the support for greenkeepers education and training it has received for hosting four EMPLOYER focused workshops around the country.

Whilst only recently scheduled as a pilot programme of three Chairman of Green workshops, ably delivered by Laurence Pithee MG, Turf Master One, to assist the Chairman of Green understand the role of the employer, the role of the Course Manager and all aspects of golf course maintenance more dates and venues have now been added.

The GTC, with tremendous support from English Golf Union staff and volunteers from their Golf Services Committee, believe we have broken new ground and are looking forward to improving the relationship between the Course Manager and their employer.

We know there was some concern from certain greenkeepers regarding workshops for Chairman of Green, however, I can only report on the feedback from delegates and their Course Managers which has by far exceeded our expectations in terms of how beneficial the events have been to their relationship back at the club.

Not only are we hoping to add dates and venues for Chairman of Green and Green Consultants in Scotland and Wales but also add workshops aimed at the employers and their Course Managers in other key areas such as Health & Safety and Communication using GT2 Quality Assured Training Providers.

From the very first workshop we had requests for Secretary/ Course Managers and Course Managers to attend and in some cases three representatives from one club have attended.

All credit goes to Laurence for tailoring the workshops to ensure there is something for all and no topic is ‘out of bounds’.

Please visit the GTC website to view the latest workshops, dates, venues and subjects.

I won’t embarrass the Course Managers or their Chairman of Green or Secretary. Managers who have benefitted from the workshops but I am sure you will see them promoting their improved relationship and appreciation of each others responsibilities in the turf and golf press very soon.

All designed to help bring about a better maintained and managed golf course.

The stories over lunch at the workshops have been enlightening as a pilot programme of three workshops but I am sure you will feedback on the programme has been excellent and it is our intention to smash the record for the number of attendees through the education doors that was set in January 2011.

Session Seminars

There are a number of ‘Featured Sessions’ in the 2012 programme:

Tuesday 24 January

• The Biology and Effects of Paraquat on Golf Courses – Dr David Jones, and Principal, Bruce Williams Golf Course Management

• The Most Recent Scholarship Awards – Chris Hargreaves, ITI – Bruce Williams CGCS, Owner and Principal, Bruce Williams Golf Consulting

• The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses – Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum.

• Let’s Re-build 20 Greens in 10 Days – Mission Impossible – Cameron McMillan, Course Manager, Queenswood Golf Club

• From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years – Chris Haspell, course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Links

There are many more Seminar Sessions being presented by companies exhibiting at BTME and additional sessions are regularly being added. For full up to date information of the Continue to Learn education programme visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars.

STOP PRESS

Chairman of Green - Secretary Manager Workshop to be held during Harrogate Week

DATE: THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2012
VENUE: OXALD GOLF CLUB, HARROGATE (CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE)

CONTACT THE GTC FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Happy Halloween I know that it is a major problem to Course Managers
But I do think we should try to mark the year with these little high-
lights. Bonfire Night is also a favourite of mine, watching fireworks
followed by a trip to the pub with good

friends – oh and I do like a good

sparkler! Speaking of sparklers, Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week promises to be full of sparkles…

We are now able to offer the new Microsoft Online Learning ‘Skills Collections’. Skills Collections include beginners, intermediate and advanced learning for the selected Microsoft applications.

Skills Collections are available in either 2007 or 2010 versions in the following subjects:

Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Out-
look, Access, Project

Each of the Skills Collections is available to BIGGA Members at a reduced cost of £18.00 (inc. VAT) thanks to the support of the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Other applications are available, contact the L&D Department if you
have a specific requirement.

Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to
Gret Fitpatrick – HNC in Golf Course Management
Gary Douglas – HNC in Golf Course Management
Frans Morris – Foundation Degree in Sports Turf linejob
Stephen Jack – NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf Management