Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, looks at golf club investment in training

The GTC Board of Directors are continually looking at engaging golf club employers into improving their business through investing in greenkeeper training

The feedback from all 100+ delegates has been very positive and plans are in hand to extend the workshop into Scotland and Wales with the support of the Scottish Golf Union and Golf Union of Wales. The Home Unions are all working in association with the GTC are proving very popular.

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Surely this relationship is crucial for the business to be successful?

We could add the Professional, Secretary Manager, and Catering Manager into this debate as they surely are the Management team at any golf club.

All the various Professional bodies from the PGA, OCMA and BIAGA in Britain, also have seen European Organisations changing to ensure Member’s bodies are well educated, trained and qualified to the highest standards.

But what about the employers?

We all would like to think all golf club employers will recruit professional staff to manage their facilities and many do, however we have to respect the Proprietor and Committee person(s) who have the overall responsibility for the business.

During the last twelve months, the GTC with the excellent support of England Golf, has hosted seven employer-led workshops with Laurence MG, Turf Master One, delivering the training on behalf of the GTC.

These pilot workshops were designed to give employers an overview of all aspects of course maintenance and management.

We report that all workshops had a mix of delegates from Chairman of Green, Secretary Managers, Golf Professionals and Course Managers.

Credit must go to Laurence for pitching all the workshops at a level that all delegates enjoyed the day.

There is little doubt that maintaining a golf course is a must for any golf course to survive. Few can argue with this statement, however, what about the employee’s continual education and training?

The GTC continues to maintain its Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers, where apprenticeships, workshops, seminars etc. are all available to ensure golf clubs can access greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

Colleges and private training providers all carry a vital role to deliver quality education and training courses but they would all pay tribute to the increasing number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, many of whom have gone through the modern training system in recent years, and who now are wisely sharing their knowledge and experience with their staff and at local and national events.

There was much criticism when vocational training appeared in the Sports Turf industry, but I believe the campaign that commenced in the early nineties is really paying dividends now.

Formal and informal on the job training is now very much taken for granted at golf clubs and carried out to National Standards, which are freely accessible for all to see.

Take a bow all of those Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who host in-house training sessions. Knowledge is so much more accessible and the suppliers, dealers and manufacturers are all there to support you with information, website links and attendance at seminars and workshops.

BIGGA local section, regional and national have all played a major role in educating greenkeepers as well as the formal qualification route. Turf Clubs are appearing, all driven by passionate, knowledgeable greenkeepers and I am sure these will also grow from strength to strength.

So, if we are relatively content that greenkeeper education and training standards are in safe hands, why don’t we also collectively look at how best we improve the Course Manager/greenkeeper relationship with their employer?

Puzzle Answers on page 65

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9. and the letters A to S.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. The alimentary canal (3)
2. Group who had UK hits in 1992 with Little Miss Can’t Be Wrong and Two Princes (4,7)
9. Italian town in Lombardy, birthplace of golfer Count Rozza (7)
10. To plunder (7)
11. Germany’s currency before the Euro (6,4)
14. On an area or establishment, sordid or disgusting (5)
15. Bring back to union or friendship (6)
17. Skilled anecdotist (9)
18. Sharp mountain ridge (5)
22. The larger of the two bones in the forearm (4)

DOWN

1. Vast arid region of China and Mongolia (4,6)
2. Irrational atmospheric air movement (10)
4. Early term for a steam locomotive (4,5)
6. Type of wheat commonly used to make pasta (5)
7. Egg-shaped (4)
8. Follower of a religion (5)
12. To classify rigidly, often without justification (10)
13. Excessive reliance (10)
16. Resembling a pupa (9)
20. Freight (5)
21. Covered calumet of ancient Greece (4)
22. The larger of the two bones in the forearm (4)

Contact Details

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