This month David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, updates readers on his work within the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) and why the British greenkeeper training structure seems to be more attractive to other countries...

Whilst Britain has battled for many years to have a Government and employer recognised greenkeeping specific education and training structure, we must never be complacent, even though ‘our’ system is now much sought after especially in golf developing countries.

Recognised greenkeeping education and training is a basic requirement for all golf courses. Whilst Britain has battled for more countries…

The message therefore is that employers and greenkeepers must continue to work in harmony to maintain standards for greenkeepers.

That is why the GTC, through the Home Unions and BIGGA, are an ideal model as employers must work with their staff and greenkeepers.

It is now nearly 20 years since I ‘left’ BIGGA to front the GTC and although many have questioned the wisdom of such moves, the Education and Training structure seems to be now attractive to many more countries…

The GTC is an umbrella body that is the link between the Home Unions, the Unions who represent the greenkeepers, and the Proprietary Clubs, who have their own representative bodies.

The GTC has an advisory panel with representatives from BIGGA and the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

The NOS ranges from the basic tasks an apprentice would learn on their first day of employment to the knowledge and skills a competent manager should possess.

The GTC website is an important source of information on the NOS and qualifications and how to work through the system.

It is this model, together with the commitment of the Home Unions to the industry, that has helped BIGGA and the GTC to develop the British model of national standards for golf courses.

In 1987, a group of Home Unions, the R&A and BIGGA, formed the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) to develop the National Occupational Standards (NOS) that would provide a defined education and training structure for greenkeepers.

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In 1895, the R&A introduced the GTC with the aim of providing a framework for the education and training of greenkeepers.

The GTC has a number of committees and working groups, including the National Occupational Standards (NOS) Committee, which is responsible for developing the NOS for the greenkeeping industry.

The Education and Training Committee is responsible for the development of the NOS, and the NOS Advisory Group is responsible for ensuring that the NOS are fit for purpose and relevant to the needs of the industry.

The GTC also has a number of partnerships, including the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU), which is responsible for the development of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the greenkeeping industry.

The GTC is funded by the industry and the Department for Education.

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