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

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 for other countries to consider.

It is now nearly 20 years since I left BIGGA to front the GTC although many have questioned the theory for two separate organisations, BIGGA and the GTC.

A brief reminder is that, whilst BIGGA admirably represents the golfers, the Home Unions who represent the golf clubs and golfers, the GTC is the Home Unions who represent the golfers and golf clubs - the employers.

In the main, the Home Unions have traditionally only represented the private members clubs but, as Golf Course Owners Associations have been established to represent the proprietary clubs, the Unions have become very much aware of the need to ensure that all employers, in this case greenkeepers, are represented.

The GTC is funded by the Home Unions and the Golf Course Owners Associations.

The GTC Education Unit (EGEU) was formed and is now attracting the interest of many countries.

BIGGA’s reputation is growing and so is its need to promote greenkeepers training in Britain. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) and the EGEU will promote to other countries the reasons for the two separate organisations, BIGGA and the GTC.

The education and training options for both golf club employers and greenkeepers in Britain range from work-based to residential, online, seminars, workshops, and conferences, together with tremendous support from those companies with specialist staff, that are committed to quality standards.

The outcome is that we are now in a position to help our colleagues in the world of greenkeeping and also learn from those countries where there is a structure that works well.

Indeed, 1987 was a momentous turning point for greenkeeper training BIGGA was formed and the per-capita levy introduced.

25 years on, greenkeeper training in Britain still benefits from funding to the GTC by means of annual grants from the three British Home Unions, the PAGA, the PGA, the PGEU European Tour, BIGGA, special projects with The R&A and income from the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

In recent years, we have seen new organisations established to represent the Golf Course Owners and they too, are very important, as the percentage of proprietary clubs has increased in Britain.

The GTC and the EGEU will engage with all organisations that have a stake in the standards of greenkeepers training.

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Winchester Garden Machinery have a vacancy for two Groundscare Technicians to join our team of technical sales representatives. Due to expansion we are looking for the successful candidate to call on Golf Courses and Sporting Clubs in and around the North West of England.

Candidates would require experience in the turfgrass industry and no sales experience is necessary. You should be able to communicate effectively at all levels and have the drive and self motivation to succeed in a strong marketplace.

If you feel you have the necessary skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your CV to:

Richard Aitken, Aitkens Sports turf Ltd, Aviation Road, Sherburn In Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6NB

Please post or email your CV for the attention of Andy Hoskings.