This month David updates us on how the UK’s Further Education Colleges once again have to cope with more funding cuts from the government.

The GTC is constantly monitoring the situation to ensure there is still access to specialist greenkeeping education and training courses for all levels of greenkeepers.

For many years the sports turf sector has relied on traditional land based colleges throughout Britain, to deliver a variety of education and training courses, all leading to the formal accredited qualifications.

The highly acclaimed Apprenticeship Scheme continues to provide the sector with many of today’s top Course Managers and with distance learning and an on-line Degree available, you might think our employers and greenkeepers are well set for the long term.

In terms of a suitable range of formal qualifications the UK is fortunate as there are the vocational providers, all leading to the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, all leading to the GTC's Quality Assured training courses, all leading to the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Providers.

The Centres have certainly tried their best to meet our industry’s request for flexibility for learners to gain access to formal certificates and qualifications.

They’ve featured the very popular delivery of qualifications for learners in their workplace, to the traditional part time option, plus distance and online learning.

In recent years we have also seen several private companies enter into the delivery of greenkeeping training, hence, the GTC’s policy to introduce the Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers.

Many readers will be aware of the various changes within Further Education colleges in recent years, Mergers, often prolonged and unsettling for the staff, have affected almost all parts of Britain and very often policy changes at a college has resulted in sports turf courses being subject to ongoing viability reviews.

Sadly for many friends working in the colleges, despite their best efforts, delivery of quality programmes has become increasingly difficult.

There are still colleges, private companies and individuals who are totally committed to delivering quality education, training and qualifications for our sector.

The GTC intends to work closely with them and to promote their courses and workshops to employers and all levels of greenkeepers.

Clearly the Government’s policy of the early nineties, to encourage industries to become involved in vocational qualifications, required a total rethink by the colleges.

Some did, and still do promote, their courses and workshops, are looking to serve our sector and we should look to support them.

Many will remember when there were over thirty “GT Approved Training Providers” offering greenkeeper training courses but following a 2010 review the GTC has currently seven Quality Assured Centres in England, two in Wales and two in Scotland.

In summary, the GTC are continually working with the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

We want to ensure there are not only the formal qualifications and apprenticeship available but also short courses.

These are often the employers’ preferred training courses for new staff not ready for a more formal full qualification e.g. Level 2, 3, HNC or Degree.

colleges and private companies will continue to assess whatever funding support they can provide.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, all dedicated through formal courses and informal workshops, are looking to serve our sector and we should look to support them.

2. Man City player seen ‘vaddying’ by the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Lytham

2. Which team (and manager) won 5-0 away on the opening day of the new Premiership season?

3. New Spain forward signed by Arsenal

4. These two international Premiership players were recently fined for actions at Euro 2012 for France

5. Top scoring Southampton forward who came off the bench to score within minutes of the first home league game at Man City

6. Name the four first team forwards at Man Utd, plus the fifth who seems headed for the exit.

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Northumberland Golf Club is seeking a full time Greenkeeper to operate a full range of equipment associated with the post.

A proven track record of high standard course presentation – day to day running and excellent communication skills.

As the ideal candidate you will have been working for at least a year on a golf course or fine turf environment, studying at NVQ level 2 in a turf or horticulture-related subject and be prepared to continue studying to achieve NVQ level 3 in this subject. We will actively encourage demonstration of high standard course presentation – day to day running and excellent communication skills.

As the ideal candidate you will have been working for at least a year on a golf course or fine turf environment, studying at NVQ level 2 in a turf or horticulture-related subject and be prepared to continue studying to achieve NVQ level 3 in this subject. We will actively encourage and support you in these studies and honour day-release obligations.

This is a varied role with other responsibilities that include:

• Maintaining the golf course including furniture and decking
• Pruning trees, trimming hedges and cutting back shrubs, as required
• Assisting with customer visits, demonstrations and product training, as required
• Assisting with the test and trial of newly developed equipment

This could be your springboard to a successful career in the turf care industry, so if you’re looking to progress and are interested in this career opportunity, please send or email your CV to: Carol Melliehu, HR Director, Ransomes Jacobsen, West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9TT

Email: cmellelieu@tip.textron.com