People of all ages now use Facebook, Twitter and other social networks. Access to computers and mobile phones has revolutionised not only the way we communicate but also learn.

The Internet is a fantastic resource to access knowledge and there is much more openness by organisations to give free information and help.

Golf is fortunate in that there is a coming together of the many bodies who have some role to play in promoting the game, maintaining standards and off the golf course, coaching and in the case of the GTC ensuring employers and greenkeepers have the best information available to educate and train their staff.

All of the GTC’s representatives, bodies, Associates and Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers have excellent websites which can be viewed via www.thegtc.co.uk.

One recent additional website offers employers and greenkeepers access to training courses, workshops and seminars dates and venues through an online calendar. England Golf has engaged many golfing bodies involved in organising training courses and www.golfeducation.co.uk is well worth a visit. All of the contributors including GTC and IBIGA will be posting all events as they are developed.

For some Centres and students the traditional methods of delivering courses towards the recognised qualifications are still the preferred option but more and more employers and students are considering the ‘on the job’ delivery option. Either route to learn is fine by the GTC and we are very pleased as student registration numbers are still increasing annually – especially for the number of apprentices.

The GTC is also pleased to report the steady increase in student registrations on higher education courses, this again is mainly where online learning is a fixture of the delivery model offered by the Centre.

Education and Training from Appendice to the Degree, all with Government Accreditation, is a model Britain should be proud of and the students who have progressed through their careers by both vocational and HE courses and qualifications are now not only managing golf courses in Britain but across the globe.

I was invited to speak at the recent GTC/IBIGA Conference in Zurich and the exchange of experience and knowledge amongst delegates was, as with any gathering in our sector, so productive and we can all keep in touch so easily using modern technology.

Many international delegates from golf developing countries are looking for support from organisations like PEGGA, IBIGA and the GTC.

I will report in more detail on our supportive role through the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) next month but my personal involvement has highlighted just how much smaller our community is now through the development and use of modern technology.
Vacancy for Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicant should ideally have qualifications in the turf industry. It is essential that the individual is motivated and enthusiastic and will work under the direction of the Course Manager. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. Candidates will be required to submit a detailed CV and attend an interview if shortlisted. For further information please contact Ms S. Pagli on 0161 908 9278 (option 3). Closing date 26th April.

Head Greenkeeper, Didsbury Golf Club
Ford Lane, Northenden, Manchester M22 4NQ

Recruitment

Golf Course Head Greenkeeper

Melton Mowbray Golf Club is a private members course opened in 1925 set in the rolling north Leicestershire county side. Arranged over 18 holes with a covered driving range and additional short game practice area.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated Head Green Keeper who must be qualified to NVQ/Work-based Diploma level 3 in Sports Turf maintenance. You should also have PA1, PA2 and PA 6A qualifications in equipment. The ability to diagnose mechanical, hydraulic and electrical faults, and to keep accurate service records, is essential. The successful candidate will also be required to assist with golf course maintenance tasks. Any experience and qualifications in this area will be a distinct advantage but not essential. Salary will be in line with CGCS recommended rates.

An attractive, remuneration package will reflect the ability of the successful candidate. Please apply by email including your CV, and qualifications to: secretary@meltonmowbraygc.co.uk. Full job description can be supplied upon application. Closing date for applications 12th April 2013.

Interviews will take place w/c 12th & 15th April 2013

Mechanic/Greenkeeper

Saffron Walden Golf Club requires a Mechanic/Greenkeeper to join its greenkeeping team.

Applicants should possess the appropriate experience to carry out routine maintenance, repairs and servicing to the club’s large fleet of turf equipment. The ability to diagnose mechanical, hydraulic and electrical faults, and to keep accurate service records, is essential. The successful candidate will also be required to assist with golf course maintenance tasks. Any experience and qualifications in this area will be a distinct advantage but not essential. Salary will be in line with CGCS recommended rates.

Apply in writing with CV and a covering letter to: The General Manager, Saffron Walden Golf Club, Windmill Hill Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 1HX. Closing Date: 20th April 2013

Recruitment

Two-Year Sponsored Placement

Ransomes Jacobsen Limited manufactures and markets a range of turf maintenance equipment for the golf course, municipal and professional lawn care markets. To demonstrate our products to new and existing customers, we have built a three-hole golf course, which is now in its fifth season.

We are currently looking to recruit a Greenkeeper on a two-year sponsored placement. The successful candidate will be responsible for the routine maintenance of the golf course and a 7-a-side football pitch, in accordance with our Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policies.

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 time-off for these purposes.

Salary will be in line with CGCS recommended rates.

Please apply in writing with CV and a letter detailing your interest and the reasons why you believe you would be successful in this role. Please include your grades, work experience and any relevant qualifications. Closing date for applications is 12th April 2013.

Your springboard to a successful career

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