GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk
Events Coming Up

Central

Our seminar at Auchtenderer Golf Club is on 10 December. At the time of writing 20 of the 50 available spaces have already been booked and registration only opened 3 days ago so that’s a good sign.

Our thanks to Auchtenderer GC for the use of their facilities and to the speakers who have given of their time to support us.

The 2014 golf outings are confirmed as Kinghorn GC on Tuesday 29 April and Duffinmeline GC on Tuesday 9 September.

East

Social night booked for Friday 13 December at The Comedy Club, The Stand in Edinburgh, doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 9pm, cost of entry £12.

If you are interested in coming along to a great night and having a few laughs then please contact Jamie Martin (jamie.martin77@sky.com) or 07852 954254) to book your place.

Thanks to Sponsors

East

Thanks go to Everriss for the Lunch provided at the AGM, your support is much appreciated by the section indeed.

Welcome New Members

Amanda Dorans Assistant Greenkeeper Dundonald Links Golf Club; Andrew Wentworth Assistant Greenkeeper West Kilbride Golf Club; Gary Hamilton Student; Sean Harkness Greenkeeper Turton Golf Club; Graham Capewell Affiliate Tower Sport Ltd t/a Amenity Golf Club; Andrew Peattie Affiliate Member; Michael Skinner Assistant Greenkeeper Boat of Garten Golf Club.
Welcome New Members

Northern

Congratulations to John Osborne on his appointment at Baldon Golf Club.

Northern

Movers and shakers

North Wales

On 1 October Oswestry GC promoted their Deputy Head Greenkeeper Gary Barnfield to Head Greenkeeper and also in October Gary completed 25 years service at Oswestry.

Northern

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...
**South East**

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**Events Coming Up**

**East Anglia**

Did not make Bury St Edmunds unfortunately, but understand that the course was in excellent condition, thanks to Steve Millard and his men, and the food was great.

**Results**

**London**

The Xmas tournament is on Thursday 12 December at Vertu Golf Club and is followed by the AGM. To those that can’t make it wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year form the London Committee and wish that you can make it to Harrogate as it’s a great place to learn more about turfcare and to date in this fast moving industry. And meet for a drink after a day’s work!

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Movers and Shakers

East Midlands

The only personnel change I am aware of at the time of this issue is that after almost five years at Forest Hill Golf Club, I shall be moving on to take up the position of Course Manager at Gainsborough Golf Club. This represents a very exciting opportunity for me in terms of my career and the challenge that my appointment there represents. My predecessor, John Evison, spent almost twenty years in the role before retiring earlier this year and I shall endeavour to keep up the high standards that he set.

Results

Midland

Our Autumn Tournament was held at North Warwickshire Golf Club on 16 October with 21 competitors. Despite the weather restricting the day to 9 holes, the course was presented beautifully by Course Manager John Ganley and his team.

The results of the day were: 1 Chin Woodall 22pts, 2 Ed Stant 18, 3 Alex Broughton 16. As always many thanks to North Warwickshire for allowing us the use of the course for the day, especially the Captain Martin Higgins who was a charming host.

East Midlands

Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October saw Carl Chamberlain (Rigby Taylor), Aas Ennang and Derek Fuster return a net score of 60 to beat Matt Gillis (Farols), Nigel Colley and James Burberry with a 62 into the silver medal position. The podium was completed by James Moore (Dorothy), Derek McJannett and Greg Skinner with a score of 62.8. Longest Drives were won by James Burberry and Andy Lane (Countywide) with Nearest The Pin won by Andy Marsh and Nick Ashman (John Deer), John Barr, Course Manager, and his team presented the course to a very high standard and did so after a substantial amount of rainfall over the previous few days.

AGM news: Carl Chamberlain of Rigby Taylor stepped down after several years of representing the trade on the East Midlands Committee and Matt Gillis of Farols was voted on. I would like to thank Carl, on behalf of the section, for all his efforts and support that he has shown the section committee over the last few years. In addition Nigel White was also voted on with part of his remit to help our RA, Sandia Raper, develop membership numbers within the section. Other than this all other committee members and officers were voted back on with no change to their roles.

East of England

Spalding Golf Club 16th October - a rather poor turnout for the section AGM and golf day. I Rob Welford, 2 Bruce Hicks, 3 Benjamin including an eagle 2 at the 10th9, 4 Russ Moody. Trade Gary Cooper.

Well done to Geanne Macdonald, Rob Bemment and Rob Welford for winning the Midland Region inter section trophy for the fourth time in five years. A superb 107 points tally including an impressive 40 point total from Geanne helped secure the win by a large margin. Well done again.

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncroft Amenity, Antech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vyasago Amenity, Rigby Taylor and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Bankus Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Midland

Many thanks to Campney Turf Care Systems, the prize sponsor for the Autumn Tournament at North Warwickshire. The amended support is most appreciated. Also thanks to Whitewoods Eco, Sheriff Turf Amenity and Countywide for their near the pin donations. Finally thanks as always to Paru’s Matt Gilles and Ken Pugh for the drinks and snacks on the 1st tee.

Now we come to our ever faithful sponsors of our Section’s fine calendar. I would like to apologise to Countywide for not mentioning them last month, but you can still contact Andy Lane, Turf & Amenity Specialist on 07774 416429 or Email: alan@countywiderfarmers.co.uk.

This month’s sponsor is Rigby Taylor and our old friend Tony Stilton ‘Cheese’, he can be contacted on: 07778 665306 or email t.chessey@rigbytaylor.com, please consider them for your fertiliser and chemical requirements.

East Midlands

Our thanks to Farols for their generous sponsorship of the AGM competition and the prize they sponsored. In addition to this Mark Chamberlain of Tacit kindly organised the Longest Drives And Nearest the Pin prizes. As ever, all trade representatives, either current or retired are always thanked for their support of our section events. This is either by their direct sponsorship, their presence or prizes donated at events. Thank you.

East of England

Many thanks to all at Spalding Golf Club for their hospitality. Also to Steve Clarke and his staff for providing an excellent course despite the horrendous weather conditions limiting us to only 13 holes. This did however allow Steve to get away in time for his M People concert! Thanks also go to Nigel Lovatt from Toro and Chris Sellars of Chris Sellars Groundcare for sponsoring the day and their continued support of the section.

Thanks again to White Moss Eco for sponsoring the inter section trophy. Thanks to all at Ashridge Golf Club for the course and hospitality afterwards.

Welcome New Members


Sponsors

Mid Anglia

Events Coming Up

East Midlands

At the AGM the committee and all positions remained the same. The East Midlands Committee and Matt Gilks of Farols was organised the Longest Drives And Nearest The Pin prizes.

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Well done to Graeme Macdonald, Rob Bemment and Rob Phillips - Sandy Lodge.

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Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to Tracey Harvey our new Regional Administrator.

South Coast
Half day seminar and section AGM was well attended with 44. Mark Hunt from Headland gave us a great presentation, many thanks Mark for your time. This format will be repeated next year to gain a good cross section of members views.

Welcome to Jamie Acton on joining the section committee. The committee nominated Joe Cooper for the sponsored place to BTME, well done Joe for your hard work and ongoing support.

South West
Our education coordinator Paul Worster has been very busy organising training sessions for excavator training, please contact Paul (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) should you wish to reserve a place on these popular courses. Additionally we are seeking interest in abrasive wheel certification training, again please contact Paul for details.

Once again the section will be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Please contact any of the committee members to express your interest in this fantastic opportunity.

Finally, we are in the process of updating our contact details for all South West section members, it would be huge help if all section members were to drop me a quick email to confirm your name and email address.

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South Wales
Results from Machynys Peninsula GC: 1 Rhys McDonagh 32, 2 Jamie Probert 31, 3 Big O 30. Longest Drive Ian Kinley. Nearest the pin Rhys McDonagh & Ian Kinley. Thanks to Marcus Weaver and his staff for the fantastic presentation of the course and holding our autumn tournament & AGM.

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Gavin Rogerson Assistant Greenkeeper Kendleshire Golf Club; Seamus Moriarty Deputy Head Greenkeeper Basingstoke Golf Club; Eduardo Vargas Greenkeeper Celtic Manor Resort South Wales; Thomas Frampton Assistant Greenkeeper Morfaen Castle Golf Club. International: Goran Hansson Affiliate Swedish Golf Federation.

Events Coming Up
South Wales
Friday 13 December we head to Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, let’s hope it’s not unlucky.

South West
A final reminder about our Section Christmas Tournament on 19 December, please note that this event will be held at Cotswold Hills Golf Club. Bacon rolls from 9.30, tee times from 10. Many thanks to Wayne Vincent for his assistance in organising this event.

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South Coast Turkey Trot, Weybrook Park GC 10 December, if you haven’t yet booked contact Tony on greenkeeper@gmail.com.

www.bmycharity.com/hardroadtoharrogate

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System (SMS) provides:
• All golf clubs with Golf Industry Standard Risk Assessments.
• All golf clubs with a SMS tailored to their needs.
• Golf Club Managers with practical help to meet their legal obligations.

Why do you need it?
• It is a key obligation of health and safety legislation.
• It is required by HSE guidance.
• It gives protection to employees and senior management.

The Safety Management System helps golf clubs:
• Prevent avoidable accidents.
• Meet the best standards of the golf industry.
• Reduce the costs.

Besides an SMS Policy, there are seven key areas to be considered when developing a full SMS at a golf club:
1. Greenkeeping activities
2. Maintenance facility
3. Golf course
4. Clubhouse
5. Kitchen
6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

Within each of these areas, users can access the following downloadable documents:
• Risk Profile (available in word and excel formats)
• Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
• Hazards - information and weblinks

For further information contact:
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01347 833800
www.bigga.org.uk
GCMA
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South Wales

The section has sponsored Greg Williams to attend BTME, don’t forget to book your place.

Our recent tour of the Millennium Stadium was very informative. A big thanks to Craig Campbell for giving us an insight of the complex.

A huge thank you to Peter Holmstrom for his support and correspondence on Around The Green, well done mate.

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Access via the Members Area of www.bigga.org.uk, in Member Resources
This month Jake Waite from Bridgwater College explains his education vision and discusses the question “What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?”

What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?

I would propose that the lines are becoming increasingly blurred. You live and die on the quality of your greens’ used to be the mantra but with the development of the game and the increasing complexities Bridged in contrastfully managing a golf course, is it still enough just to deliver consistently high quality surfaces? It would be nice to be able to say ‘yes’ to this but is that still really the answer?

I am not suggesting for a minute that the hard earned knowledge and ability that goes into preparing your golf course is in any way redundant but how often have you found yourself thinking ‘I used to be a greenkeeper, now I’m an Administrator/Communications expert/Finance and Human Resources manager as well!’ With this being the case, how can you ensure that you still have the skills to meet the challenge?

For those entering our industry as apprentices, for assistants with specialist short-courses, workshops and seminars.

As one of the GTC’s quality assured training centres, here at Bridgwater College’s Cannington Centre our primary focus is to ensure that all these groups receive the training they require. We still feel that the Work Based L2 and L3 Diplomas (formerly known as NVQs) offer the best solution both for the student and the employer, offering as they do a combination of real on-job experience and underpinning knowledge delivered in the classroom environment.

However, for those who have achieved a more senior level and for those ready to make a step up, the available routes are sometimes less obvious.

There are excellent options for further and higher levels of study and these programmes have helped drive the standards within our industry to higher and higher levels, but in the increasingly pressured working environments which managers and supervisors find themselves in, the time commitment involved can prove to be a significant obstacle.

So, how can we address this training shortfall without having to use up too much of this precious commodity?

An excellent means of continuing your professional and personal development is to carry out a SWOT analysis of current abilities and then target events and short courses that meet the shortfalls you have identified. This may be by approaching your local college, through BIGGA’s excellentGreenkeeper training, or by approaching courses at BTME, through regional seminars and workshops or GTC events.

The workshop model in particular provides an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, discuss techniques and share best practice with your peers in an interactive environment.

Earlier this year we ran the first in a series of workshops entitled “Smarter Greenkeeping”. Guest speakers at the first session were Laurence Pittie from Turf Master One training and Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and former BIGGA Chairman.

The first workshop covered all aspects of bunker renovation and maintenance, using various case studies as examples and their personal experience which spans over 70 years in the business.

The second workshop focused on how greenkeepers can be more influential in the workplace and how presentations for capital expenditure can be made more effectively.

We have worked closely with Laurence in developing future topics for the series.

Our upcoming events are:

- 12 December 2013Greenkeepers’inar
- 13 February 2014Planning & Budgeting
- 13 March 2014Managing with less

In addition to Laurence’s input, we will also look to incorporate both other GTC Quality Assured Training Providers and some of the local talent! Here in the south west of the country we are blessed in having some of the most experienced and knowledgeable minds in the industry (we are after all in Jim Arthur’s parish). It is a tribute to the industry in which we work in that these busy people are so willing to give their time to share their experience and best practice.

For course enquiries contact Helen Goodland, Goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk or Tel: 07753 311160

To register on workshops contact Jane Wagner, Commercial Manager, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Bridgwater College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LA. WAGNERJ@bridgwater.ac.uk Tel 01278 655065 Mobile 07917 475641

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The GTC is funded by: [Logos]
This month Jake Waite from Bridgwater College explains his education vision and discusses the question “What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?”

During BTME 2013 the GTC invited its Quality Assured Centre sports turf representatives to meet with Quality Assured Training Providers. This was designed to encourage sharing of human and physical resources between Centres and Providers.

The event proved very successful and David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, is continually hearing excellent examples of its QA Training Providers being invited to QA Centres both to share specialist subject knowledge and in some situations equipment and machinery.

David explained: “Many companies and their knowledgeable staff would love to support and contribute more but until the introduction of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme in 2010 it was impossible for companies to support the many colleges and private companies offering sports turf courses and qualifications.

“However, now with a limited number of QA Centres - two in Scotland, two in Wales and six in England - it is now far easier to develop a strong Centre – Training Provider partnership.

“QA Centres offer the formal government accredited qualifications however they are also best placed to compliment these courses with specialist short-courses, workshops and seminars.”

David invited Jake Waite, Sports Turf Trainer/Assessor at GTC’s Quality Assured Centre, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre to explain his Centre’s vision on how best to provide both formal and informal education and training courses, workshops and seminars to best suit employers and sports turf students needs with input from QA Training Providers and guest presenters. Here are Jake’s views.

What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?

I would propose that the lines are becoming increasingly blurred. You live and die on the quality of your greens’ used to be the maxim but with the development of the game and the increasing complexities Brided in carefully managing a golf course, is it still even just to deliver consistently high quality surfaces? It would be nice to be able to say ‘yes’ to this but is that still really the answer?

I am not suggesting for a minute that the hard earned knowledge and ability that goes into presenting your golf course is in any way redundant but how often have you found yourself thinking I used to be a head greenkeeper, now I’m an Administrator/Communications expert/Finance and Human Resources manager as well! With this being the case, how can you ensure that you still have the skills to meet the challenge?

For those entering our industry as apprentices, for assistants with a background in sports turf, finding themselves in, the time commitment involved can prove to be a significant obstacle.

So, how can we address this training shortfall without having to use up too much of this precious commodity?

An excellent means of continuing your professional and personal development is to carry out a SWOT analysis of current abilities and then target events and short courses that meet the shortfalls you have identified. This may be by approaching your local college, through BIGGA’s excellent Continue to Learn programme at BTME, through regional seminars and workshops or GTC events.

The workshop model in particular provide an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, discuss techniques and share best practice with your peers in an interactive environment.

Earlier this year we ran the first in a series of workshops entitled “Bigger Greenkeeping”. Guest speakers at the first session were Laurence Pitie from Turf Master One training and Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and former BIGGA Chairman.

The first workshop covered all aspects of bunker renovation and maintenance, using various case studies as examples and their personal experience which spans over 70 years in the business.

The second workshop focused on how greenkeepers can be more influential in the workplace and how presentations for capital expenditure can be made more effectively.

We have worked closely with Laurence, in developing future topics for the series.

Our upcoming events are:

- 12 December 2013 Greens Performance
- 13 February 2014 Planning & Budgeting
- 13 March 2014 Managing with less

In addition to Laurence’s input, we will also look to incorporate both other GTC Quality Assured Training Providers and some of the local talent! Here in the south west of the country we are blessed in having some of the most experienced and knowledgeable minds in the industry (we are after all in Jim Arthur’s parish). It is a tribute to the industry in which we work in that these busy people are so willing to give their time to share their experience and best practice.

For course enquiries contact Helen Goodland: Goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk or Tel: 07753 311660

To register on workshops contact Jane Wagner, Commercial Manager, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Bridgwater College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LA. WAGNERJ@bridgwater.ac.uk Tel 01278 655065 Mobile 07917 475641
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