

New manual contains all the facts

Good things, we are taught from an early age, are worth waiting for. Thus it is with genuine pride and pleasure that at last, at long last, the announcement can be made: *The Greenkeepers Training Committee Training Manual is ready!*

This long overdue publication is the result of a great deal of mid-night oil burning, coupled with expert knowledge and opinion, by representatives from the English Golf Union; National Association of Golf Club Secretaries; The Royal & Ancient; The PGA European Tour; Scottish Golf Union; Welsh Golfing Union; Golfing Union of Ireland; Sports Turf Research Institute and, of course, BIGGA. It will be available from GTC headquarters, c/o BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, from September 1st and costs £14.

What exactly is the GTC Training Manual? It is a manual which has been developed in response to requests to update the Trainees Log Book (The Pink Book) which hitherto was issued by the GTC.

Since the Log Book was first introduced there have been numerous developments in education, training and indeed in the game of golf itself. The time was overdue to update and further develop the Log Book and, in effect, it has been reconstructed and added to in such a way that it now bears little resemblance to the old Pink Book.

In the Training Manual the reader will find all that is necessary to achieve competence in every aspect of the greenkeeping craft. All the essential tasks and knowledge required by a golf greenkeeper are listed in such a detailed way that guidance is provided to both trainee and trainer on how every task should be tackled. Reading it will not make you an instant expert, but it will identify every task necessary and create targets to achieve.

Of even greater importance, the manual provides a record of training and an assessment or achievement record. The manual ties together the educational elements with practical (assessment) elements so that greater understanding and co-operation between golf Club and approved colleges is established. The importance of this is apparent in that development of NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) and SVQs (Scottish Vocational Qualifications) are considered throughout the development of the manual and NVQs and SVQs have been incorporated fully into the text, enabling greenkeepers to obtain a nationally recognised qualification.

Courses tailored to suit manual

Approved colleges have embraced the essentials contained within the manual and are tailoring their courses to suit the manual.

How, one may ask, is the student assessed? Many assessments are work-based although in some instances these will be 'simulated' at approved colleges which provided formal instruction. Assessors will be those who are designated and trained under arrangements approved by the industry. Of great importance for our profession, course managers and head greenkeepers can themselves undergo further training to become assessors, an important move.

Who then should obtain copies of the Training Manual? Obviously, all students will find the contents invaluable, as will green chairmen, course convenors and secretaries, since it will greatly increase their awareness of the many complexities in managing a golf course which, as we all know, is far more than just cutting grass. Equally important, course managers and head greenkeepers will find much of interest, both in their understanding of their work and in guiding future generations toward greater skills and extended knowledge. Certainly the GTC anticipates a huge interest and will be surprised if the publication and use of the Training Manual does not produce a new crop of both assessors and skilled greenkeepers.

The Training Manual is produced in a way that enables updated material, naturally evolving in the light of increased knowledge, to be added. Plans are also afoot for a further detailed sections to be published, embracing supervisory and management skills.

Application forms are available from BIGGA HQ on the new GTC hotline, which is 03473 640. If you have any queries, David Golding will be happy to answer them.

A GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE publication

IT'S HERE!

THE GREENKEEPERS
TRAINING COMMITTEE
TRAINING
MANUAL

£14
inc. delivery

LEARN HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL GREENKEEPER

The new GTC Training Manual is designed to support students embarking on a career in greenkeeping. It comes in personal organiser format, with a gold blocked cover and contains 120 pages.

With the backing of the golf industry, the Manual includes all the craft level skills necessary to achieve the **Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping**. It fully complements National Vocational Qualification/ Scottish Vocational Qualification.

This comprehensive Manual is endorsed by: ♦ British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association ♦ English Golf Union ♦ Golfing Union of Ireland ♦ Scottish Golf Union ♦ Welsh Golfing Union ♦ Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association ♦ National Association of Golf Club Secretaries ♦ PGA European Tour ♦ The Royal and Ancient Golf Club ♦ Sports Turf Research Institute.

For more information on Greenkeeper
Training, call David Golding on 03473 640

Contact the Greenkeepers Training
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Application Form, or telephone 03473 640