

# GTC News



The GTC's Education Director, David Golding, looks at the education programme at Harrogate Week 2006 and states why the representative bodies are united in their objectives to ensure staff development.

Having been involved in the development of the early turf exhibitions in Harrogate and now seeing how the Show has evolved I can only encourage readers from all sectors of the golf course and clubhouse to attend. In fairness to the trade, they have listened to Course Managers regarding what they would like in terms of equipment development and more often than not, within a very short space of time, low and behold a machine appears.

Whether it is a machine to perform quicker or aerate deeper there is a fantastic range available to assist greenkeepers to maintain the course to the standards their employers request. A visit to Harrogate just to keep yourself up to speed with what is available in the equipment and materials field is in itself the reason why employers should endorse your request to attend this major event.

I very often hear Greenkeepers say "my club won't let me go to BTME," I don't think that is often the case. I feel that if the employer was made aware of the benefits to the club and attended the Exhibition themselves this would be very beneficial for both parties. All this before I explain why we at the GTC feel golf club employers as well as greenkeepers should attend.

The education programme for 2006 really has been prepared to attract Chairman of Green and Secretary/Managers with the English Golf Union, The Association of Golf Club Secretaries and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews all involved in Seminars. It is very refreshing to see both the employer and employee bodies of golf working together as we at the GTC have pioneered this for some years, through the development of qualifications, which are geared to employers' needs and attractive to the greenkeepers themselves as they are relevant to their job.

The Wednesday seminar 'Working Together in Golf Club Management' has a little of everything for the Chairman of Green and Secretary Manager. While Thursday's 'Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course' presented jointly by the R&A and BIGGA is followed on Friday morning by an Open discussion.

There are some very topical subjects on the agenda and some excellent speakers will give delegates some real food for thought. There will also be the opportunity for those of us in a position to ensure greenkeeper education and training in the future addresses current and future requirements of the employers.

All together the GTC is pleased to sponsor the event at which there really is a sense of all the various bodies within golf pulling together to ensure golf courses and clubs are managed in a profession manner, which in turn gives pleasure to the golfer. Greenkeeper education, as ever, is very well covered and with workshops and seminars covering a vast range of subjects there must be something there for you.



**EXHIBITION 24 - 26 January 2006**  
**EDUCATION 22 - 27 January 2006**

The GTC has, in association with Plan-it Training, its own workshops with three options. For those assessors who achieved the D32-D33 award but feel they need an updating session this will be held on the Monday.

If you are responsible for the training and assessment of staff as a Course

Manager or Deputy and have not achieved the assessor award (A1) then a two day workshop is available on the Sunday and Monday. For assessors who wish to achieve the Coaching Award (L12) then a one day workshop will be held on the Monday.

All these courses are funded by the GTC with support from the European Social Fund. As all of these workshops are limited to the number of delegates early application is recommended.

For further information on these seminars visit the dedicated website [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

*If you wish to discuss the coach and assessor training course please do not hesitate to contact the GTC on 01347 838640 or email David on [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk).*

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