



EXPERTS DELIVER

In this article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, looks at how the approved network of training providers, often colleges, rely heavily on industry experts to deliver the various programmes relating to sports turf qualifications and asks 'can you help?'

At the recent GTC Training Providers seminar held during Harrogate Week, it was very noticeable that compared with only a few years ago there was a strong representation from former and current Course Managers, who now work either full or part time for a provider.



With a high percentage of student greenkeepers registered on vocational qualifications, the more enlightened providers have engaged industry experts to support the team entrusted to deliver the skill-based programmes.

This is very encouraging, as I know that we are one sector who truly understand that for vocational training and qualifications to work properly, there has to be a partnership approach.

While Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and Deputies are actively becoming more formally involved in staff skills development by becoming qualified trainers and assessors, there still needs to be a "link" between the golf course and the training provider/centre.

This "link" role, which is often the key to the success or failure of the vocational system and where more and more industry based people are being recruited, is a very good move.

I have reported many times before that when the learner's "boss" is a qualified trainer and or assessor, he/she makes progress far quicker than a

learner - who has to rely on the provider to arrange all aspects of the training programme.

At this point I have to state that many of the already established training provider link/guidance officers, find it increasingly frustrating when Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers do not support their trainees, relying far too much on the provider to "get them qualified".

Please set aside some time during your working week to review staff training and their progress. **I would also request that when appointments are made by your chosen centre contact with both you and the learner are available.** Vocational qualifications *have* to be a partnership otherwise the learner suffers, the golf club suffers and the centre then struggles to achieve their retention and achievement targets.

We all have to care about the quality of greenkeeper training provision, so I hope more and more industry experts become involved in the delivery of the various turf programmes.

Equally the training providers must not try to by-pass qualified trainers and assessors, by using their own assessors by way of short-cutting the system often using a range of excuses for not allowing qualified assessors to sign-off their own staff!

The engagement of greenkeepers or former greenkeepers as link/liason/guidance officers then allows the more college based staff to deliver the more academic type qualifications such as the HNC/D – B.Sc – M.Sc.

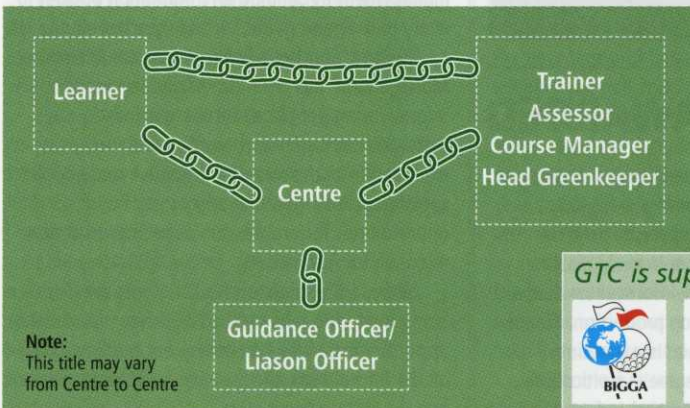
The turf sector is a very specialist area and therefore we have to ensure those colleges and universities offering higher education courses in sports turf can engage experts in their particular field often employed part-time.

Former turf students often look to share their knowledge either through becoming lecturers, Course Managers, Agronomists, specialist advisors or more often than not a combination of one or more of these important positions within the turf sector.

Let us then look to use all this expertise and establish a partnership second to none, which will provide a well-trained workforce and knowledgeable Course Managers.

I am in regular contact with all the GTC approved training providers and if you feel you have something to offer your local provider either contact them direct or if you prefer to discuss the type of roles which might be available, please contact me.

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