



EARNING AND LEARNING!

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks at the learning opportunities open to greenkeepers

We have all heard of the expression, "best of both worlds" but at long last I can report that greenkeepers have just that when it comes to learning.

Several of our Approved Training Providers offer the option of full-time courses at the Higher Education (HE) of the qualification such as the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Scotland, the Foundation Degree in the rest of Britain and the Masters Degree at Cranfield University.

The full-time courses do cater for a small percentage of British turf students and an increasing number of overseas enquiries regarding turf courses are being recorded by our colleges and University.

The most rewarding part of my job in recent years has been the acceptance by our providers to become more flexible in their delivery of education and qualifications and also the awareness by the greenkeepers, that to progress in their career there has to be a commitment to continual professional development (CPD). I am sorry to mention buzz terms such as CPD but all industries are encouraging employers to "buy into" training of their staff due to the duty of care to employees.

The majority of turf qualifications can be achieved "on the job" supported by your chosen training provider/Centre. The GTC has invited all of its Approved Training Providers to Aldwark Manor on June 25 and 26 to discuss all the issues facing turf education and training.

The main aim from the GTC's point of view is to ensure ALL our providers are teaching turf students on the apprenticeship and N/SVQ Levels 2 & 3 courses to the standards within both the qualification and the learning materials.

The providers have all copies of the learning materials and they are to be used as handouts either through hard copies or CD format. You can also access these for use at the course which may well be the answer for those greenkeepers who prefer to learn either with the support of their Course Manager or in the quiet of their own front room.

There are no longer barriers to learning! Skills of course are taught "on the job" however it is the knowledge that the GTC is making available to everybody wishing to learn about turf. Excellent courses are available through our provider network and organisations such as BIGGA, STRI, BTLIA, IOG and independent providers but what we must continue to develop is access to learning! Part time, full time, online or on the job, what is your preference?

All of the above providers are there to listen to the employers, Course Managers and turf students. We at the GTC have developed the qualifications, training manual and learning materials in partnership with leading sector specialists for you. Please take advantage of these, as they are readily available.

If you have special learning needs, our providers have the resources to help you, just ask either us or contact your local provider direct.

The turf sector is very fortunate in having a community which is willing to work together for the benefit of the sport. Golf is a great example of this, the Home Unions, BIGGA, R&A all meet as the GTC and through improved communication, seminars, websites will all share best practices which in turn will contribute to educate the golfer on course maintenance matters. We all must continue to learn and I feel we have travelled a long way since the days of attending a college as the only way to become educated about turf.

Yes, it still is an option but if actually attending college is a problem our network of providers have tremendous opportunities through various methods of learning and one thing is for certain, you can learn while you earn!

David can be contacted by email david@the-gtc.co.uk or call him on 01347 838640



Prices: Level 2 & 3 CD-Roms @ £30.00 each; Level 2 & 3 printed papers including CD-Rom @ £120.00 each.

Prices quoted are inclusive of postage and packing for those purchasing within the UK. Prices may vary for countries outside the UK. Please check on application.

An order form is available to download from the website on: www.the-gtc.co.uk or by contacting the GTC direct on: 01347 838640.

GTC is supported by:

