



THAT'S TEAMWORK

In this month's article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, gives readers the latest example of what he believes has been one of golf's greatest partnerships

We often hear about the value of teamwork and partnerships and this must surely be the message for the future of golf?

Those of you connected with the various aspects of golf will be able to recall the great partnerships and teams, which have resulted in success at the very top of the sport?

Professional Golfer and Caddie, Ryder Cup Captains and their teams - how often have we shed a tear of emotion when success has come after a period of dedication to practice or simply a great bonding of like-minded people with just one aim, to be the best, winners!

We all love to be winners whether it is at work, enjoying our hobbies or maybe just a "friendly" game of golf on the kids Playstation or Xbox!

The GTC, I believe has a great team driving our sector forward in terms of giving our golf clubs and greenkeepers the opportunity to be winners.

Our Board has representation from the English, Scottish and Welsh Golf Unions, BIGGA, the R&A and the PGA European Tour and it is their funding support that allows Fiona and I, as the full time staff, to develop the team further in partnership with a tremendous network of associates.

I must say the GTC Technical Committee and our small number of Liaison Officers have helped to ensure all the aims and objectives agreed by our Board identified in a Business Plan are carried out.

However, it does not stop there! The GTC has many, what I call 'friends' of the GTC, who are all totally 110% behind greenkeeper training.

Those individuals, too many to mention by name, in their own way contribute so much to ensure we can continue to support employers and greenkeepers when the call comes into the office or nowadays the email!

Those many organisations and training providers who really deliver the education and training in greenkeeping must continue to lead through having a team committed to be the best.

We have discussed, at recent GTC meetings, the various issues currently facing golf here in Britain and we must all promote the ethos of partnership and teamwork, no more so than when the club or course appears to have problems.

The GTC firmly believes the lessons learned by those successful companies, who not only survived the last recession but also thrived, were those businesses that resisted the temptation to cut or even stop staff training and actually invested in staff development.

We don't want to talk about recessions in golf but through staff development sessions, teamwork develops and at the clubs where this already happens by bringing all the various "departments" together, a better understanding of each others roles and responsibilities proves to be of great benefit to everybody involved and inevitably the business succeeds.

I know many Course Managers who have benefited from the employer led training sessions and they not only gained a greater knowledge of the golf club from the employers perspective but also held their own development and bonding sessions within the greenkeeping team.

The GTC has since 1993 operated independently from offices within the grounds of Aldwark Manor near York and while this has given a clear indication of how the GTC is an employer and employee independent body, there has recently been a proposal for use to share resources by moving into BIGGA House.

I am pleased to inform readers that the Boards of BIGGA and the GTC have approved this move and while both organisations will operate totally independently of each other, it does make sense to work closely together when both bodies only want the same goals.

I truly believe the move, due to take place in early May, will be seen as a very positive initiative and one that strengthens an already strong partnership.

The education and training of greenkeepers, to provide golf club employers with the standards they require is what we are all about.

Contact David direct: david@the-gtc.co.uk or tel: 01347 838640.

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