

OPEN ALL HOURS



Within this month's article, David Golding, informs readers that the GTC website shop is now open 24/7

One of the GTC's main aims is to make learning available to all and tremendous progress has been made in recent years in partnership with our colleagues in the colleges and private provider Centres.

Whether you are looking at the apprenticeship or formal vocational or academic qualifications, these are all available through a variety of delivery options.

The Centres offer the traditional option of attendance at their college or training establishment or more recently learning on the job has become increasingly popular for some employers and students.

We at the GTC know that through our Approved Centre and Provider network we can ensure there will be a course and if required a qualification for you!

How confident does that sound?

Flexibility is the key and having attended numerous meetings to develop qualifications and apprenticeships, never before have our Centres and Providers responded so positively to our drive to make the delivery of the various programmes more accessible to meet both the employers and students needs.

The GTC appreciates that not every employer or student wants or needs full qualifications and this is where FINALLY the Government has accepted that if they want more people in training they need to put funding into small, or bite size, learning as well as just full qualifications.

You will see this starting to happen with such schemes as Train to Gain www.traintogain.gov.uk and initiatives in Scotland such as the ILA where £250 per individual can be accessed towards training costs, see www.ilascotland.org.uk - Note: Conditions will apply.

Apprenticeships and all nationally accredited qualifications receive Government financial support to encourage employers and students to "invest" in training and this is so important especially during these difficult economic times.

The GTC is currently involved in the review of the apprenticeship framework and NVQ's as well as accreditation panels for the National

Certificate in Greenkeeping in Scotland and a new top-up B.Sc in Golf Course Management, all work aimed at ensuring our sector has something for everybody!

So what about the 24/7 GTC Shop?

The traditional method of acquiring the knowledge associated with maintaining and managing golf courses has been, until recently, attending college. Well as previously mentioned our Centres have developed so many different learning opportunities from day-release courses to distance learning and now courses and qualifications on-line which incidentally is proving an incredible success in terms of student numbers.

The knowledge, based on best practices has been captured in two sets of learning materials to be used with students registered on N/SVQ Levels 2 and 3 but they have become more widely used by greenkeepers, lecturers and Guidance Officers as they cover such a wide range of subject areas.

These learning materials are available to everybody in various formats from the GTC website www.the-gtc.co.uk

Also available in the GTC shop are the revised Health & Safety Guidance notes together with the essential H&S wall chart which every maintenance facility should have on the wall.

The wall chart is the quick reference on machinery and staff competencies which the enforcement officers look for as an early indicator on record keeping.

A link is also available via the website to the BIGGA-GCMA Safety Management System which is the "tool" to record the more detailed information on staff, equipment and risk assessments required to be kept by employers plus staff responsibilities.

Finally, the highly acclaimed Training Manual which includes the standards of N/SVQ Level 2

GTC is supported by:



Sports Turf and the Awarding Body approved document is to increase in price from May 1.

Previously the Training Manual was available for £25. The new price will be £50 and will include a copy of the Level 2 CD Rom learning materials, which are sold separately for £30. Overall a saving of £5 on the two items.

The GTC Approved Centres using the Training Manual suggested combining the two items and the cost will be incorporated into registration costs (if applicable) for students.

Please have a look at the GTC website and as we take in-house the Content Management of our own website, you will finally see the facility of an e-alerts service aimed at keeping those registered updated with all the information relating to greenkeeper education and training as we receive and develop it.

Finally: Thank you to all those qualified assessors who returned our questionnaire. A summary and recommendations report will follow next month.

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