



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director, looks at how best the GTC can continue to encourage its network of training providers**

**The GTC is continually seeking to promote our respected Training Manual and Learning Materials and is willing to share its experience and intellectual property with other organisations and countries, many of whom have no formal education, training and qualification structure for greenkeepers.**

While the GTC does not advocate that it has everything perfect we do pride ourselves on having access to subject specialists, all willing to provide us with their expertise to share best practice.

We endeavour to keep the GTC manual and learning materials up to date and in line with current British qualifications which we then promote through the Awarding Bodies for centres, colleges and individual training providers to align their various courses to.

Standard documentation can help promote best practice and I am pleased to inform readers that we are producing a Groundsman version of the Level 2 training manual (black book) in association with the IOG which will in turn help centres and colleges.

The learning materials for Level 2 and Level 3 were written to be applicable for all sports turf students so they will only require minor changes, mainly to align to the new Work Based Diplomas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for greenkeepers and Groundsmen/women.

By using industry experts to develop and review the manuals and learning materials (many who have links to our approved colleges), we believe we have a united sector all "singing from the same hymn sheet" and now with groundsman-ship working closer with the GTC this can only be of benefit to the employers and workers within the sports turf sector.

The GTC has also contributed to the standards developed by the pan-European working group, which more and more golf developing countries are looking to adopt and many require support

documentation to speed up the process of educating and training greenkeepers.

The pan-European working group has received development funding support from the R&A and EGA and a full report has been submitted recommending the formation of a European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU).

Once agreed the GTC will hopefully have a major role to assist greenkeeping Associations and Federations to establish an education structure based on best practice to assist golf course maintenance and management standards.

The establishment of a European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is also designed to introduce a greenkeeping passport scheme which will help employers and greenkeepers in each participating countries view the various qualifications against agreed European standards at three levels, greenkeeper, supervisor and manager.

Visit the EGEU website [www.egeu.eu](http://www.egeu.eu) to access the standards and progress of the initiative to help spread the message of best practice.

British employers and greenkeepers will recognise the standards, which is recognition of the work many individuals and organisations, too many to mention, have had in establishing National Occupational Standards (NOS) for greenkeeping in Britain.

It is from these standards that each country can then develop qualifications whether they are work based or centre (college) based.

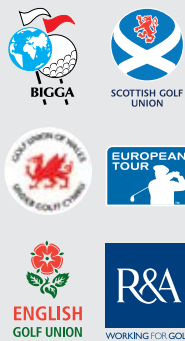
Back to more "local" issues and the GTC's ongoing support to promote the Sustainable Golf Course programme through a special project with the R&A.

A second series of workshops will be held this summer through Britain where Course Managers share their experiences in all aspects of the Sustainable programme with delegates from the turf centres and colleges and this year representatives from BIGGA, GCMA and the PGA will be invited.

## In Brief

This month, David looks at how best the GTC can continue to encourage its network of training providers to share best practice with all greenkeepers while at the same time assist golf developing countries and individuals looking to access standards and greenkeeping information.

The GTC is funded by:



There has been an ongoing debate relating to sward exchange programmes however there are also other aspects of the programme which need addressing, eg water harvesting, woodland management and while the greenkeeping world of golf are constantly discussing these important issues the GTC firmly believes there are other organisations who need to be made aware of what the game is trying to promote hence the widening of invitations for this years events.

There are clearly a growing number of excellent case studies from courses who have progressed on one or more aspects of the Sustainable programme and these will also be made available to view through the website.

The aim of the GTC, in association with its representative bodies and the R&A, is to ensure today's and tomorrow's greenkeepers and Course Managers have access to all best practice information from all sources and in particular the staff employed at the approved centres.

These individuals are crucial to the promotion of the Sustainable programme and whilst the GTC can produce learning materials it is the Course Manager and the students "lecturer" who have the role to discuss all aspects of the programme.

The difficult job is getting the message through to the golfer that we all need to be more aware of the environment and how best we address the increasing number of issues which relate to maintaining and managing a course in a sustainable manner.

This is why we are inviting individuals from key organisations within golf to assist with spreading the word of why it makes sense to adopt a sensible, realistic and practical programme to maintaining the courses.

Maybe nothing new to many Course Managers however there are more directives coming to our attention and we have to adopt them or better still be already working within the various guidelines or in some cases legislative regulations.

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