



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

Early indications are that Apprenticeships will remain although the new Government has yet to confirm where funding support, if any, will be focused to benefit employers and learners.

The GTC has ensured the Apprenticeships at both Levels 2 and 3 include the skills and knowledge required by employers and whilst these frameworks are available for all ages, when it comes to funding support, it is the young 16-19 age group, where priority funding is guaranteed.

I am sure we all agree that funding should be made available to ensure youngsters either receive support through their employers registering them as an apprentice with a Centre, or on a full-time college based course/qualification such as a National Certificate when they are unable to gain employment.

However, what about the over 19's and the mature career changes who would love to follow the apprenticeship pathway? If funding support is not available to employers they might unfairly be discriminated against!

The GTC will continue to raise this matter and Centre staff have to be prepared to react as and when new initiatives are announced.

Ideally we would see funding made available to support apprentices of all ages and funding for short courses using the Units from within the various qualifications.

Regular readers of this page will know the GTC, through consultation, maintains the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the greenkeeping sector from which vocational, apprenticeships and centre based qualifications are developed.

We sincerely hope that the Government continues to support employer led organisations like the GTC who, despite the bureaucracy and numerous hours of meetings, work within the "system" therefore the employers we represent should be supported accordingly.

There are far too many apprentice success stories to list in this article but it is still as important today as it was when I first became an apprentice in the mid-sixties. Not that I am claiming to be one of the success stories!

Let us hope that within all the promised funding cuts, training doesn't receive any and our employers continue to invest in their staff of all ages.

Not only has the GTC continually lobbied for support funding for all formal qualifications but has also encouraged the take up of Continual Professional Development (CPD) by greenkeepers and employers for short courses which must be the next target.

These short courses could easily be funded if the government instructed its funding bodies to allow Centres, including colleges to offer courses using Units grouped together, which can give the learner a certificate of achievement.

In my opinion there has been far too much emphasis on full qualifications and this has been to the detriment of many greenkeepers looking to progress their skills and knowledge in association with their employers.

The GTC, in partnership with the new Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers must be prepared to deliver short courses, as these underpin all of the formal qualifications and National Occupational Standards.

If we could just get the Government to recognise the demand and popularity for short courses and at least put some funding towards this area of training, I am sure we will see the Centres move fairly quickly.

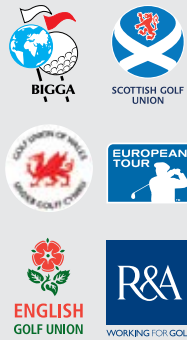
Whether we call it CPD or progression, learners will soon get used to this and the GTC will put its weight behind this matter at every opportunity.

At a very recent meeting I heard that "progression" would become a government buzzword for learners. If it does I have to assume this is just what the GTC has been lobbying for since N/SVQ's were

In Brief

This month, as the new coalition Government sorts out its priority for funding, one thing is clear as David explains how we all need to work together to ensure golf clubs continue to benefit from the structure opportunities already in place for greenkeeper training.

The GTC is funded by:



introduced in the early nineties.

Employers for their part, through their Course Managers should keep up to speed with the various courses and qualifications, as there is no substitute for having a well trained workforce.

Finally, as from the 31st August there will be a new look to the GTC Approved Training Provider section on the website.

As part of its ongoing commitment to quality the GTC has written to all of its current approved providers with a revised criteria and an invitation to join the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme.

Colleges and Private Companies meeting the criteria and offering the formal qualifications will, in future, be promoted to employers and learners as GTC APPROVED CENTRES.

A new criteria and category for individuals and organisations will be GTC APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDERS.

Watch out for the GTC Quality Assured Scheme logo from September, as it will be the kite mark by which education and training will be measured in the future.



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