



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

Many of us will once again start the New Year with the best intentions to get fit, diet and generally feel better about our lifestyles. However rather than discuss the 1% who will stick with their resolution let us think where we in the 99% can all set a realistic target and move towards it albeit slowly but surely.

The GTC will, as its target, be keeping employers aware of the options and various opportunities to invest in staff development and in particular their responsibilities in this area.

One key area to highlight employer legislative responsibilities is health and safety, albeit the one subject that is mocked by the media, but surely nobody can question the safety of staff and customers which has to be every employers top priority?

The following statement should really focus the mind of all employers:

“Recent accident investigations have revealed a significant weakness in employer engagement and a failure to develop an effective safety culture; in one case this resulted in enforcement action being served requiring golf club directors to attend a one day safety awareness course.

Safety culture starts at the top and cascades throughout the organisation by example and good communication. Developing a positive safety culture has considerable benefits and costs nothing!”

At a recent HSE arranged workshop in Durham every golf club in the County except one had a representative in attendance, and an apology was received from that club, all the delegates thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Greenkeepers and golf club officials working together has to be the future and this will become the model the GTC looks to promote through the Home Unions and BIGGA.

Counties and/or Regions of the

Home Unions working with the Sections and Regions of BIGGA organising short courses can only be good for the industry.

Clearly other subject areas from all aspects of greenkeeper maintenance and management not just health and safety will be addressed and promoted through the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Whether the training is part of a formal qualification offered through a Centre or College or a half or one day workshop offered by a Quality Assured Training Provider it has to be good for the individual and the business.

The GTC has a clear remit to maintain the Occupational Standards for greenkeeping and while we will continue to ensure there are relevant Government accredited qualifications one area we are keen to see develop are short courses for greenkeepers and employers.

I often hear, “where does a newly elected Green Convenor and Chairman of Green get their training from” and we all know of the quips about how this position is the short straw or the job on the committee which nobody wants etc.

Coupled to the Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who tell me that just when their Chairman has completed their “training” they are moved on so here we go again!

Well in nearly every case there is help at hand!

Sector specific Health & Safety Guidance, wall charts, training manuals and training courses are all available.

The range of agronomic subjects and management topics are all covered through a variety of learning methods from books, on-line learning and short courses available to employers and greenkeepers.

We must all work together in these difficult times and all successful businesses highlight staff development as a key factor and the GTC is now looking to

ensure the education and training provision within the sector is at the forefront of employers’ policies and planning during the New Year.

While the GTC knows that there is something available for everybody whether you are an employer or greenkeeper we have to ensure all the options and opportunities are well publicised.

Please check out the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers on the GTC website, contact us direct or come and visit us on Stand C12 at the BTME Exhibition 18- 20 January.

For now please ensure you enjoy the festive season, especially New Years Eve and remember keep that resolution realistic and achievable!!

In Brief

As we move into the festive season David looks forward to a New Year and how employers as well as greenkeepers must have more education and training as their New Year Resolutions and not to give up on it days or weeks into January

The GTC is funded by:

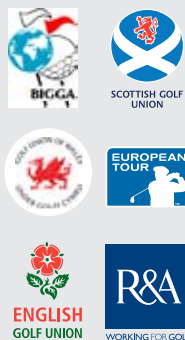


Photo by Nick Gates, Abridge GC, Essex

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