



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director, updates the position on formal qualifications**

**Regular readers will be well aware of the support the GTC has given to the Skills Agenda and the various government schemes to ensure employers and students are well catered for by various formal qualifications and courses delivered by GTC Approved Centres.**

The work based and college delivered courses are still being supported by employers even during the ongoing recession with Apprenticeship registrations in our sector still on the increase.

The popularity of the on-line Foundation Degree with Course Managers and Deputies, with very busy work schedules, are still looking at their own Continual Professional Development (CPD) and this is to their credit.

Funding of courses is always a thorny subject and will in the coming months be a political football post election, especially for Higher Education fees.

The GTC's attendance and persistence at the various meetings to lobby for funding to be made available for apprentices of all ages and to be allocated to Units of qualifications is finally starting to filter through to Centres and this again will be an attractive option for employers and greenkeepers.

I know full formal qualifications are not for everybody but if employers and greenkeepers could choose, from what I call a menu of Units, from craft level to management and there are short bite-size courses available with funding support, then there will be no excuse to gather CDP. A win-win for employers, greenkeepers and the Centres plus the fact the government will see their targets of having more people on training programmes increase.

I have for many years complained that the government has been obsessed with students having to complete full qualifications and the colleges and private providers being

inspected and only funded on full qualification achievers...this has to change!

At recent Lantra SSC meetings in England and Scotland various schemes to fund initiatives which are employer led have been discussed and are top of the agenda with the government representatives and we in the land based sector particularly our Centres must be prepared to react by having short courses ready to go and this is not difficult.

Colleges and private providers have to be prepared to use Units as short courses.

From September of this year the revised NVQ's will become the Work Based Diploma in Greenkeeping and the Diploma in Golf Course Supervision.

SVQ's Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping will remain in Scotland and the GTC has been working with City & Guilds - NPTC and SQA, the leading Awarding Bodies for our sector, to have the GTC logo included on certificates from September.

I am pleased to confirm that an agreement has been reached with NPTC and negotiations are advanced with SQA to have the Quality Assured logo on the Work Based Diplomas and SVQ's.

This really is recognition for the GTC and its representative bodies BIGGA, the English, Scottish and Welsh Home Unions, who under the umbrella of the GTC, show how the employer representative bodies and professional body can work together to ensure the standards be can developed and reviewed to suit everybody's requirements.

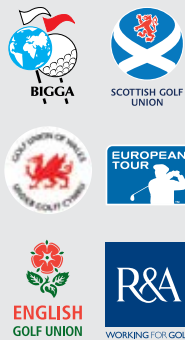
With the GTC's Quality Assured logo on the Work based qualifications we are now looking at working closer with the Awarding Bodies to ensure the qualifications are delivered by Centres to the required standards.

The GTC Quality Assured logo will become the Kite Mark of quality as we invite colleges

## In Brief

This month David explains how, after many years of ensuring greenkeeping has its own set of national occupational standards, finally the industry kite mark will be included on certificates.

The GTC is funded by:



and private providers to register as Approved GTC Centres and Training Providers.

Not only Centres which offer the formal qualifications but training provider companies and individuals who offer training courses to the sector.

If Centres meet the GTC's criteria, one major benefit to them will be to use the GTC's QA logo (including supporters logo) on all of their course literature and website.

So from September we will be promoting the Quality Assured Scheme and we hope that employers and greenkeepers will welcome this initiative by the GTC to maintain quality provision.

The criteria and list of GTC Approved Centres and Training Providers will be available from the GTC and will be maintained on the website:

[www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)



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