



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

**The worldwide web has opened up to internet users so much information, it is hard to believe that for all us former apprentice greenkeepers, we struggled to access any information from our bosses not so many years ago!**

We certainly learned the skills, as that seemed to happen as a natural part of the day to day running of the golf course maintenance programme and I am sure that still is key to a Course Managers role as he/she wants a multi-skilled team around them.

How things have changed in the way all of us can access knowledge!

I know for some, the internet is still not their preferred method to gain knowledge but hopefully the GTC can cater for all with its target to make as much best practice information available.

During a recent review of the visits to the GTC website, we noted the interest from countries worldwide and the interest resulted in requests for career information from many golf developing countries which we know has resulted in international students attending British colleges to health and safety charts and guidance and our training manual with learning materials proving most popular of all.

It is hard to believe that the training manual is now over 20 years old and following regular updates has become the recognised recording document of staff skills.

The GTC is currently working with the IOG to develop a Groundsman version of the manual and this will be available shortly.

The knowledge the greenkeepers and groundsman require to maintain and supervise their various sports surfaces have been captured within learning materials and unlike yesteryear are available in the following formats, hardcopy, CD ROM and PDF.

As with the training manual, the learning materials are regularly reviewed with the most recent

updates included covering all aspects of the sustainable golf course programme.

The GTC endeavours to use all sector specialists to write the relevant chapters within the materials and you can access these from any corner of the world.

The latest addition to the learning opportunities tools is an on-line programme featuring the Maintain the Health of Sports Turf unit from the Level 2 learning materials.

This is proving popular as a modern method of learning and arguably adds an element of fun to taking in the knowledge as well as having a series of on-line tests.

The GTC network of approved training Centres and colleges all have access to the GTC's manual and learning materials and will be given the option of multiple licences for students to access the new on-line learning option.

The manual, learning materials and Health & Safety guidance booklet and wall chart are available to all readers from the open all hours website shop at:

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

Or if you prefer hardcopies or CD ROM versions contact the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640

The GTC prides itself on promoting best practice and sharing information and the accessibility to knowledge has never been better within the sports turf sector.

The GTC website includes all the information and links both to our supporters websites and other organisations where best practice information can be found.

We are aware that many Course Managers now have access to the internet within their maintenance facility and the GTC has the "tools" to help allow trainers and trainees to so much more information, all of which is used by our Centres and colleges.

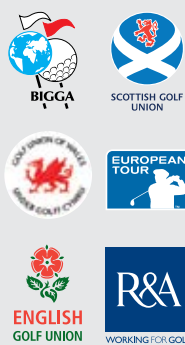
Combine the knowledge and the skills gained on the job and that is a recipe to achieve one of the new Work-based Diplomas or Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

While not wanting to detract

## In Brief

In this month's article David offers to share the GTC's learning materials with all readers including the latest learning option.

The GTC is funded by:

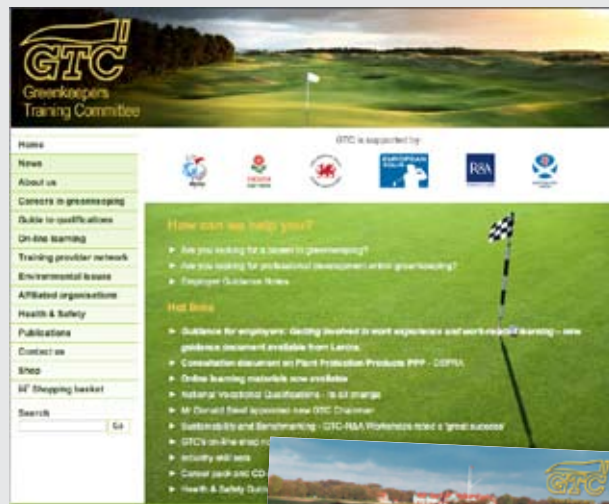


from achieving either work based or college based qualifications the fact is that so much knowledge is now available both from the written word but also from the qualified Course Managers who are keen to share their skills and knowledge.

I believe after years of aiming to establish a structure of qualifications underpinned by education courses delivered in a variety of modes we should leave no stone unturned to inform all interested parties of just what is available.

Internet in the maintenance facility on a golf course!

As an apprentice we were lucky on to have running water and electricity please tell me since the good old days conditions have improved...please?



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