



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

**The GTC is aware that many of the readers of this column are often the greenkeepers who, with the odd exception, are convinced that there is no substitute for having an educated, trained and preferably qualified greenstaff to maintain and manage the golf course. However...**

For many years greenkeepers, mainly through their own Association, have asked for better support from the Home Unions and other golfing organisations including the R&A, GCMA, PGA and PGA European Tour to help spread the word to the golfer on the important role and work of the Course Manager and his/her greenkeeping team contribution to the game of golf.

In recent years we have seen real progress and the GTC Board with its representative bodies, the Home Unions and BIGGA are determined to make every effort to "educate the golfer".

We now have annual seminars and workshops hosted by the Home Unions on behalf of the clubs they represent and more often than not include some aspect of greenkeeper education on the programme.

The GTC has representatives from the Unions on both its Board and Technical Committee and this has assisted tremendously in "spreading the word" and in addition to the seminars and workshops the GTC has now been offered the opportunity to write articles in the Home Unions widely distributed newsletters.

The English Golf Union has proposed that six articles be written by leading Course Managers to explain, "A Year in the Life of a Golf Course" which is hopefully just the start of an ongoing campaign to inform golfers of the work that is carried out to all areas of the golf course at various times of the year.

The Scottish and Welsh Home Unions are also considering including similar articles in their

publications, which is excellent news for greenkeepers.

All three British Home Unions have Golf Services Committees, which are very active in promoting all aspects of greenkeeper training.

A couple of examples of their ongoing support to promote greenkeeper training are the Welsh Golf Union's grant to its affiliated clubs registering a trainee at a GTC approved Centre and the Scottish Golf Union's development of Case Studies showing best practices aligned to the Sustainable golf course programme.

There is now some excellent information available on the websites of all the representative bodies on the GTC - visit [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) and click on the respective logos.

We also should acknowledge the support, through a special project, The R&A has given to the GTC primarily to promote the Sustainable golf course and Benchmarking to our Centre turf staff but this years series of workshops also included representatives from the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA).

Never has it been more important that all golfing bodies work together to not only promote greenkeeper training to maintain good sustainable playing surfaces but also to assist the many golf clubs who are struggling in the economic climate.

The ongoing reports from the Home Unions that many private clubs memberships are still in decline and the nomad golfers are increasing has led the GTC to appeal to golf clubs to consider donating a green fee to the work of the GTC on behalf of the casual player enjoying their facilities.

The letter to clubs from GTC Chairman, Donald Steel, can be viewed on the GTC website and any reader who feels they or their employers can assist the GTC,

## In Brief

David explains how there is real progress in raising the awareness to the "golfer" that many of the day to day routine maintenance programmes being carried out by the greenkeepers are not designed to annoy the golfer but in fact are all aimed at improving the playing surfaces for as many days of the year as possible.

The GTC is funded by:



please feel free to download the letter and form.

All contributions will assist the GTC to continue its vital work for the game.

The most recent initiative from the GTC is the launch of its Quality Assured Scheme.

One of the most important roles of the GTC is to direct both employers and greenkeeper students to those Centres and Training Providers who offer qualifications and courses in accordance with the National Standards for greenkeeping.

I make no apology in asking readers once again to look out for the GTC's Quality Assured logo on literature and websites of those Centres and Providers who have met the criteria - see below.

For further information on any matters relating to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications contact the GTC direct: Tel 01347 838640 or email: [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)



For the most up to date list of Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers visit the GTC website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

There are many Centres, colleges and training providers up and down the country who offer turf courses and qualifications; however the GTC will continue to promote only those who have gained the QA assured status.

## Contact Details

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