



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

The 2010 series of workshops were designed to meet the main aim of the special project: to engage all turf staff working within the GTC's Approved Centres and colleges to not only help them understand and promote through the various training courses all aspects of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme but also to see best practice first hand at venues throughout Britain.

This second series of workshops was hosted at the following venues:

Kingsknowe Golf Club,
Edinburgh
Course Manager, Stevie Dixon

Enville Golf Club,
near Stourbridge
Course Manager, Jonathan Wood

Easingwold Golf Club,
near York
Course Manager, Andre Erlah

Minchinhampton Golf Club,
near Stroud
Course Manager, Paul Worster

Tyrrells Wood Golf Club,
near Leatherhead
Course Manager, Billy McMillan

Lymm Golf Club,
near Warrington
Course Manager, Stuart Yarwood

The courtesy and support from the Directors, Committees and Course Managers at the above clubs is much appreciated by the GTC and The R&A.

It should also be noted that, as with last years venues, all clubs are willing to share their experiences with others. Contact details available from the GTC.

A reminder of the 2009 venues:

**Glencorse GC,
Wilmslow GC,
Gog Magog GC,
Cleveland GC,**

**Kings Hill GC,
Burnham & Berrow GC
and Temple GC.**

Following the 2009 workshops it was agreed to extend invitations to widen the delegates beyond turf Centre staff. The PGA and GCMA were invited to identify representatives who could attend and in turn distribute the message to their members.

Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being integrated into future seminars and education programmes for their members.

In recent years "sustainability" has become a word that many industries have adopted but few people really understand what it means or how it can be applied within their particular working environment.

With the support of the turf staff at the GTC Approved Centres and the information and learning materials produced by the various organisations, including those associated with the GTC, we are starting to make real progress to promote best practice for the future maintenance and management of British golf courses.

From the outset of the promotion of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme the GTC has always promoted the need for a united approach at any golf club before embarking on the programme and, in particular, the basic requirement of a Course Policy Document.

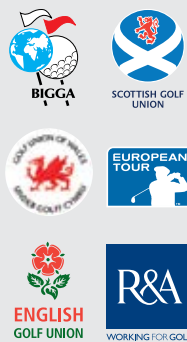
This message seems quite old now and while it has been adopted by many clubs it appears there are still some who manage the course without such a policy. This clearly has implications as committees change or when the Course Manager moves on.

I know all of the Course Managers at the workshop venues above have stories to share when the agreed policy at their club has been questioned, to the point where even

In Brief

David reviews the 2010 series of Sustainable Golf Course Programme series of workshops hosted by the GTC in association with The R&A.

The GTC is funded by:



the temptation to abandon the programme has been close to being approved by owners and committees.

The pressure to stick to the policy not only falls on the Course Manager but also the management team at the clubs and equally their employers.

During all of the GTC workshops the issue of communication to the golfer was highlighted and despite the GTC ensuring all aspects of the sustainable programme being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

In an effort to help share the sustainable message the GTC had the workshop at Lymm Golf Club filmed and with the kind permission of the speakers on the day we invite you to view one or more of 11 films on the GTC website.

Another development during recent years has been the ongoing capture of best practice case studies at various golf clubs and as these become available we will ensure these can be accessed through our website www.the-gtc.co.uk

It is with the support from The R&A and the Home Unions that case studies are being written up and there is clear evidence that this source of information, together with visits to the clubs to see the work often still in progress, is an excellent method of promoting the various aspects of the sustainable programme.

The GTC, in supporting the sustainable programme, also promotes the fact that there has to be a sense of realism when embarking on any aspect of the programme, that there is no quick fix and the road can be very rocky at times for both the Greenkeeping team and the people empowered to manage the club.

The sustainable programme is not just about encouraging and maintaining the more suitable and sustainable grasses....it encompasses all the facets of playing and economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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