



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

I know the word sustainability has become something of a buzz word but as the GTC moves into a third series of workshops, supported by The R&A, we are looking to share the most up to date information and best practices with invited delegates on all aspects of the sustainable golf club.

The GTC has engaged speakers who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of the sustainable golf course and clubhouse.

Clearly, the GTC has a responsibility to promote best practices to maintain and manage golf courses but there are wider issues that we have to ensure Course Managers are aware of.

The workshops will be hosted at clubs who are all committed to maintaining the courses in a sustainable manner and are willing to share their experiences with delegates:

Auchterarder Golf Club, Perthshire – Monday, June 6; Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire – Tuesday, June 28; Portmore Golf Club, Devon – Thursday, June 30

In previous years the GTC has focused on ensuring that Quality Assured Centre turf staff, including college lecturers, have encouraged best practice throughout the various education and training courses they offer.

This year, the GTC is looking to invite representatives from clubs, including Course Managers, Club Managers, Professionals to attend a workshop, as the agenda will be of interest to all involved in managing a golf course and/or golf club.

Speakers will include representatives from the host club, the Golf Environment Group (GEO), Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG), The R&A, Quality Assured Centres and The GTC.

If you would like to attend one of the workshops please register by contacting Fiona at the GTC: fiona@the-gtc.co.uk or call 01347 838640

Places are strictly limited therefore early registration is recommended.

Quality Assured Centres and Training Provider Workshop

During 2010 the GTC launched its Quality Assured Scheme, inviting colleges and private training providers to join the scheme.

The current list of Approved Centres and Training Providers is available on the GTC website and this is regularly updated.

The scheme is designed to direct employers and learners to those Centres and Training Providers, who have met criteria based on quality.

Not only are Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers permitted to use the GTC QA logo on all their publicity, representatives are also invited to attend an annual workshop hosted by the GTC. This year the event will be held on June 9 and 10, at GTC headquarters, Aldwark Manor.

The GTC is pleased that City & Guilds Land Based Services has agreed to sponsor the workshop and its CEO, Jack Ward, will open proceedings followed by speakers from the Skills Funding Agency including National Apprenticeship Service, Lantra SSC, Health & Safety updates as well as External Verification standardisation.

Technology is becoming an increasingly popular choice for learning and while hard copy portfolios are still favoured by some learners e-portfolios and e-learning is something we all have to consider therefore demonstrations from Learning Assistant and One File software companies are also on the agenda.

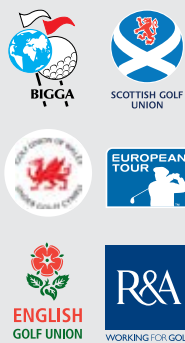
All of the above will assist Centre staff and Training Providers hear from speakers at the heart of funding policies, standard setting bodies and with open forums, give the GTC first hand updates to share with the employers and greenkeepers it represents.

It is also an opportunity for delegates to discuss openly all

In Brief

David explains how the GTC is looking to ensure greenkeeping has embraced all aspects of sustainability through a third series of workshops in association with The R&A and also how a workshop for GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers will focus on ensuring there is "something for everybody" in greenkeeper training provision.

The GTC is funded by:



aspects of greenkeeper training and to ensure that employers and any greenkeepers have access to learning at various levels and through various delivery options.

Finally, I am pleased to report that there has been some progress to report with the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU).

The R&A has awarded additional funds to a Management Group to move forward, the work to date, by the pan-European standards working group.

John Holliday, the GTC's Finance Director, and I have been appointed onto the EGEU Management Board, as has Dean Cleaver, CEO of FEGGA.

It is hoped the European Golf Association (EGA) will also nominate a suitable representative to join the EGEU Board.

The EGEU will have to show continual progress and with colleagues from the working group we must look to encourage, advise and support countries committed to develop and maintain greenkeeping standards.

A website, www.egeu.eu will be maintained as a portal of information and having recently attended the FEGGA conference and International Summit in Iceland, there is a clear interest, from many countries in adopting EGEU standards. Bespoke qualifications, training courses, learning materials and training manual can all be designed to suit a specific country's needs.

The greenkeeping community is an incredible family which stretches beyond Europe, it is world-wide and wherever we travel, the willingness to share knowledge, best practice and form alliances and partnerships is around every corner and this should be encouraged.

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