

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



As we approach the season of goodwill and enter a New Year, maybe it is an appropriate time to not just catch up with and family friends, but, also a time to consider your own personal development and how you could improve all aspects of your life?

Easier said than done you might say, during difficult times for many golf clubs and in the middle of winter but some people I know, do take stock of their situation as a New Year approaches.

One thing that January always brings for our sector is the opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new, during the Harrogate Week exhibition and Continue to Learn programme.

During the day there is so much going on with workshops and seminars available seemingly around every corner and the range of latest equipment, machinery, advice and materials for every visitor to see first hand.

In the evening the socialising starts in abundance and this is where the counselling and support network really shows its true colours and what a fantastic camaraderie there is within greenkeeping and groundsmanship.

So many wise words available from the more mature greenkeepers present, all of them always willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the next generation.

Many of the younger Course Managers are now presenting at seminars and workshops throughout the year and they have much to be proud of, as golf course standards are not only weekly in the spotlight of TV coverage but at every site where golf is played.

I am amazed at the talent now within the industry and as BIGGA celebrates its 25-year anniversary we must continue to promote all which is good about the profession and ensure the game has well trained and educated greenkeepers for many years to come.

On this occasion I think we can take a break from talking about

the formal education and training opportunities available through courses leading to qualifications and focus on the various informal routes to gain new knowledge and experience to improve your lifestyle.

The Greenkeeping Associations from 1912 have always been the main support network for greenkeepers on a local, regional and national level but in recent years with the advent of the Internet there is an incredible source for knowledge and arguably more important peer group help and guidance accessible 24/7.

The various websites and bulletin boards are an ongoing resource to share and assist with other greenkeeping problems.

During 2011 the GTC has hosted a series of workshops specifically aimed at assisting golf club employers understand more about the role of the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and what is involved in maintaining and managing a golf course to the highest standard possible given the budget and resources available.

More employer focused workshops are planned for the New Year covering such subjects as Health & Safety, Improving Communication within the Golf Club and more dates for the now tried and tested Chairman of Green – Secretary Manager workshops, will be announced shortly.

What is pleasing for the GTC is that the intended aim of these workshops, to improve the relationship between the employer and employee, has without doubt been achieved.

To see Chairmen of Green, Secretary Managers and Course Managers together at workshops where the open debate sessions are so beneficial for all delegates is very rewarding for the GTC.

So whether it is reading magazines, searching the relevant websites, attending seminars and/or workshops, attending Harrogate Week please remember you are part of an industry where there is a tremendous amount of support available.



Short courses provided by GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers are also an opportunity for you to improve your personal development and I sincerely hope you visit the GTC website to keep you up to date on all matters greenkeeping?

The updated website has live links to all our supporting bodies who also have so much information to share.

Finally, if during your reflective moments during the festive season you feel the GTC can do more to assist you and or your golf club by way of greenkeeper education and training please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of the GTC Board of Directors, Fiona and myself may I wish you and yours a very peaceful, relaxing Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!

See you on the GTC stand during Harrogate Week maybe?



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwick Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk

