



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

How does the GTC intend to engage more employers, in what, for many, is a natural ongoing process, staff investment and development?

Maybe for readers, it would be timely to remind you of who is represented around the table of the GTC and why there is a GTC, when there is BIGGA.

BIGGA clearly represents the greenkeepers and the Home Unions, EGU, SGU and GUW collectively represent over 2300 British golf club employers.

With a representative from the four bodies above plus Donald Steel, as the independent Chairman, and John Holliday as its Finance Director, it is a relatively small Board and one which is committed to promote greenkeeper training at every opportunity.

The GTC also has financial support for its work from the PGA European Tour and a special project grant from The R&A.

A closer relationship with organisations including FEGGA, CMAE, PGA and the GCMA has to be good for the game and this partnership will strengthen as the Home Unions look to establish Golf Education Groups.

The meetings I attend to discuss greenkeeping qualifications and apprenticeships are all driven by employers and employment needs.

To represent a sector where we have the employers and employees involved in the development and review of qualifications as well as promoting the various courses, workshops and seminars, is such an advantage when seeking approval from the accreditation and awarding bodies.

I don't intend to bore you with detail of how even those of us working in education get totally perplexed as policies seem to change from week to week!

The GTC believes it is still right to work within the Governments education policies for qualifications as funding support, albeit reducing, has been of great benefit too employers and greenkeeping students for many years.

Given that BIGGA will continue to promote greenkeeper education through its flagship award Master Greenkeeper, National and Regional Conferences, workshops and seminars, the GTC will develop and promote its new network of Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

One of the major roles of the GTC, having developed the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for greenkeeping, is to direct employers and greenkeeping students to Centres including colleges and Training Providers who offer formal and informal courses for our sector.

Quality has to be the benchmark we all aspire to, hence the launch of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme.

It would be a sheer waste of everybody's efforts if having developed a range of qualifications (standards) only for the delivery of these is of poor quality.

It is a challenge for the GTC to maintain the Assured Scheme but with BIGGA and the Home Unions totally committed to the scheme we will be promoting those Centres and Training Providers at every opportunity.

It is the Home Unions, through their Golf Services Committees, who are now making great strides in educating the golfer on the important work Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and the greenkeeping staff carry out.

Articles written by Master Greenkeepers are now appearing in the newsletters of the Unions and County Unions will also be better informed of the options for greenkeeper training which can then be shared with the clubs within their county.

We can promise you that there will be an increase in promotional materials and information to both employers and greenkeepers explaining just what is available.

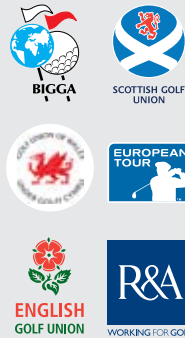
The GTC website will be maintained to give all the latest information on standards, qualifications, apprenticeship schemes, courses and the Quality Assured Scheme.

www.the-gtc.co.uk

In Brief

David looks forward to the New Year and how the GTC will be looking to promote staff education and training to employers as an ideal tonic during the winter months and at a time when many golf club businesses are still reeling within what appears to be a never-ending recession.

The GTC is funded by:



One important area of training the GTC is keen to promote more during the New Year is that of short courses or "bite-size learning" to use a slice of education jargon.

Qualifications will be delivered by the QA Centres but we see an increasing role for the QA Training Providers, who offer short courses and workshops aligned to the National Occupational Standards (NOS).

A menu of bite size learning options will be prepared, from which employers and greenkeepers will be able to choose the course or workshop to meet their needs.

Some well respected names and companies have already met the GTC's QA Criteria including Jon Allbutt Associates, Laurence Pithe MG Turf Master One and the STRI. We trust more will come on board shortly as the QA Training Providers will compliment the work of the QA Centres.

In summary, refer to the GTC website for all the latest information on qualifications and opportunities to learn through Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Call the GTC on 01347 838640, email david@the-gtc.co.uk or is it really 12 months since many of us made the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate?

Please come and speak to us on stand C12



I understand we will see a reduced number of exhibitors from last year in attendance at this years event but at least it appears the education programme, including a new conference has exceeded all projected registration numbers.... education, education, education!

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