



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

For many years one of the key aims and roles of the GTC has been to maintain a partnership with selected colleges who have the human and physical resources to deliver greenkeeper education and training courses which lead to nationally recognised qualifications, all of which are Government accredited.

The greenkeeping sector of golf has always stayed within the Government's framework of qualifications, including the very successful apprenticeship scheme.

The Government's funding support, accessed by the colleges over many years, has benefited employers and learners alike and the improvement in the maintenance and management of golf courses is there for all to see.

During the early 90's the transition from classroom delivered qualifications to involving the workplace, the GTC invested heavily in raising the awareness to employers, Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on their responsibility in the delivery of the new vocational qualifications.

Colleges, GTC and private companies have all played their part to develop, maintain and deliver these work based skills and knowledge based qualifications over the years.

The highly trained greenkeepers we are now seeing come through the system, is something the sector, as a whole should be proud of.

Assessor training has helped with the delivery of the work based qualifications but equally the flexibility of some colleges has played its part to form a very strong partnership between golf club employers, greenkeeping students and the colleges.

We must also remember that while the changes were happening on the most popular qualifications, the more "academic" qualifications such as the Higher National Certificates and Diplomas were

also constantly being reviewed and updated to reflect the changes within the industry.

Many regular readers of this column will know the GTC is keen to ensure there are courses and qualifications for everybody working on golf courses, from achieving qualifications without leaving the workplace, to the more traditional part-time delivery methods where the student attends a college for x number of days or weeks.

The apprenticeship is still by far the most popular route that suits the employers and students, not only because in many cases the training is subsidised but the programme reflects the skills and knowledge required to maintain the golf course!

The GTC will continue to work with the various bodies to maintain the occupational standards and various qualifications however it has never been more important that employers look to the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to provide the courses to suit the business and staff development.

Why, I hear you say, should we not use the college down the road?

There are numerous colleges which offer 'sports turf' qualifications, many of which are finding the current economic climate difficult.

The GTC is hearing some very worrying news coming out of very established Further Education Colleges....staff redundancies imminent... some no longer offering greenkeeper training... all worrying times for those involved and a situation the GTC is monitoring very closely.

All of this is why the GTC introduced its Quality Assured Scheme in September of last year.

I should explain at this stage the use of the word Centre as opposed to college.

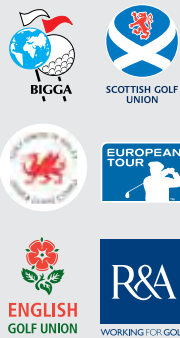
Our Scottish friends will be familiar with a private company based in Glasgow, GOSTA Training, which for many years has served the sector well by delivering

In Brief

David explains the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and why it is important the golf club employers and greenkeepers support Centres and Training Providers who have successfully met the criteria and are therefore GTC Quality Assured.



The GTC is funded by:



the range of vocationally approved qualifications.

They, along with colleges are collectively known by the Awarding Bodies as CENTRES.

It is therefore the reason why the GTC has adopted this title and for all formal qualification programmes including apprenticeships it is these Centres that should be contacted.

Some Centres have been very innovative in the delivery of courses to compliment the range of qualifications with modern technology now an option many greenkeeping students, of all ages, are opting to use.

Eportfolio, on-line learning as well as the more traditional day and block release certainly giving employers and students every opportunity to have well educated, trained and qualified staff.

The new category, Quality Assured Training Providers is open to individuals and private companies who are looking of offer sector specific training courses that align to the occupational standards for greenkeeping and golf course management.

The QA Training Providers have a vital role through workshops, seminars, short courses and I am pleased that the STRI, TORO, Jon Allbutt Associates, Laurence Pithie Turf Master One and Cutting Edge Training have all met the GTC criteria.

While not offering the formal qualifications the QA Training Providers will compliment the work of the QA Centres and Certificates can be achieved in some cases.

In summary, the GTC will continue to maintain the Quality Assured Scheme and through ongoing monitoring of its Centres and Training Providers we sincerely trust the golf clubs and greenkeepers support those who have met the GTC's criteria.

For an up to date list of GTC quality assured centres and training providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk or call the GTC direct on 01347 838640.

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk