

Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, GTC Education Director, encourages you to attend Harrogate Week 2012

Following on from recent Chairman of Green workshops, I encourage all Course Managers and Greenkeepers to make their plans to attend Harrogate Week 2012 and to bring along their employers.

Once again the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate Week 2012 has something for everybody, and for many involved in golf course maintenance and management, it is the one event where they can truly bring themselves up to speed with everything, ranging from education, to what is new in technology, machinery and product development.

The GTC, in recent months, has been encouraged by the support for greenkeeper education and training it has received for hosting four EMPLOYER focused workshops around the country.

Whilst originally only scheduled as a pilot programme of three Chairman of Green workshops, ably delivered by Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, to assist the Chairman of Green understand the role of the employer, the role of the Course Manager and all aspects of golf course maintenance more dates and venues have now been added.

The GTC, with tremendous support from English Golf Union staff and volunteers from their Golf Services Committee, believe we have broken new ground in improving the relationship between the Course Manager and their employer.

We know there was some concern from certain greenkeepers regarding workshops for Chairman of Green, however, I can only report on the feedback from delegates and their Course Managers which has by far exceeded our expectations in terms of how beneficial the events have been to their relationship back at the club.

Not only are we hoping to add dates and venues for Chairman of Green and Green Convenors in Scotland and Wales but also add workshops aimed at the employers and their Course Managers in

other key areas such as Health & Safety and Communications using GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.

From the very first workshop we had requests for Secretary/Managers and Course Managers to attend and in some cases three representatives from one club have attended.

All credit goes to Laurence for tailoring the workshops to ensure there is something for all and no topic is "out of bounds".

Please visit the GTC website to view the latest workshops, dates, venues and subjects.

I won't embarrass the Course Managers or their Chairman of Green or Secretary- Managers who have benefited from the workshops but I am sure you will see them promoting their improved relationship and appreciation of each others responsibilities in the turf and golf press very soon.

All designed to help bring about a better maintained and managed golf course.

The stories over lunch at the workshops have been enlightening to say the least but I must share one with you:

David Golding to Chairman of Green: "Have you enjoyed the morning session?"

Chairman of Green: "Brilliant, I didn't know there was so much involved in greenkeeping, it has given me so much information already, I will be now able to support our Head Greenkeeper better at future Green meetings"

David: "How long have you been a Chairman of Green?"

Chairman of Green: "Well, I had played golf at my club for years and years and decided to give it a rest this year. I didn't renew my membership.

However one sunny day in April I was walking the dog alongside the course and from the patio of the clubhouse I was beckoned over by my old pals and six pints later, here I am, back playing golf and as a Chairman of Green!!"

At last, my years of suspicion had been confirmed in one chance,



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honest, brief chat over a lunch!

For so many the Chairman of Green position at a golf club, is the one nobody wants and so often it is a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It is now time to give these willing or often unwilling volunteers the support, education and training they surely deserve and for one person it totally changed his perception of the work required to maintain good quality playing surfaces and the wider environment.

I know this might be an exceptional story but for many years the constant changing of Chairman of Green has been a big problem to Course Managers

STOP PRESS

Chairman of Green - Secretary Manager Workshop to be held during Harrogate Week
DATE: THURSDAY 26th JANUARY 2012
VENUE: OAKDALE GOLF CLUB, HARROGATE (CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE)

CONTACT THE GTC FOR FURTHER DETAILS

and one highlighted in the R&A's discussion document circulated to all British golf clubs back in 1989.

Course Managers have nothing to fear from these employer focused workshops and I sincerely hope this initiative, long overdue you might suggest, is just the start of a partnership which will see more employers side by side with their Course Managers at events like Harrogate Week.

The GTC's Quality Assured Training Providers and Centres are all looking to provide workshops and courses to help clubs have skilled and knowledgeable greenstaff and now knowledgeable employers who together with a good communication structure can provide an excellent golfing experience at their club.

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