



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, explains the role of QA Accredited Centres and Training Providers



While there appears to be an ever increasing number of organisations and individuals looking to offer greenkeeper training courses, the GTC continues to promote only those colleges, private companies and individuals who have chosen to become GTC Quality Assured.

The GTC introduced the Quality Assured Scheme in the Autumn of 2010, having introduced a new criteria aimed at ensuring golf club employers and greenkeepers have a level of satisfaction when choosing a GTC accredited Centre or Training Provider.

So what is the difference between a Quality Assured Centre and Training Provider?

Quality Assured Centres offer education and training courses all designed to underpin Government accredited certificates and qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme.

So if it is a formal greenkeeping qualification or apprenticeship you are looking for, look no further than the following Centres. They all have met the GTC's Quality Assured Centre criteria.

England

Bridgwater College, Somerset. Contact: Jake Waites Tel: 07912 555592, Email: waitesj@bridgwater.ac.uk Website: www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Duchy College, Cornwall. Contact: Ron Skinner Tel: 01579 372220, Email: Ronald.skinner@duchy.ac.uk Website: www.duchy.ac.uk

Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. Contact: Mark Harwood-Browne Tel: 01452 702377, Email: Mark.Harwood-Browne@hartpury.ac.uk Website: www.hartpury.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Lancashire. Contact: Stewart Brown Tel: 01995 642305, Email: sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk or Paul McGrail Tel: 07740 819415, Email: pmcgrail@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Newcastle College, Northum-

berland. Contact: Wayne Reid Tel: 0191 2004704, Email: wayne.reid@ncl-coll.ac.uk Website: www.ncl-coll.ac.uk

Oaklands College, Hertfordshire. Contact: Andy Wight Tel: 01727 737735, Email: Andy.Wight@oaklands.ac.uk Website: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Plumpton College, Sussex. Contact: David Blackmur Tel: 01273 890454, Email: david.blackmur@plumpton.ac.uk Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Reaseheath College, Cheshire. Contact: Gareth Phillips Tel: 01270 613236, Email: garethp@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Scotland

Elmwood College, Fife. Contact: Mike Clark Tel: 01334 658800

Email: MClark@elmwood.ac.uk Website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

GOSTA Training, Glasgow. Contact: Lesley Lowrie Tel: 0141 556 3999, Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk Website: www.gostatraining.co.uk

Wales

Bridgend College, Mid-Glamorgan. Contact: John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302691, Email: jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk Website: www.bridgend.ac.uk

Deeside College, Flintshire. Contact: Jenny Pitts Tel: 01244 831531 Ext 6132, Email: pittsj@deeside.ac.uk Website: www.deeside.ac.uk

The above Centres are constantly regulated by the Government Inspectors, Awarding Bodies Verification representatives and also monitored by the GTC against the Quality Assured Criteria.

All of the QA Centres have Sports turf Advisory Panels and if you feel you can assist the staff at these Centres with either feedback or offering to join the Panel please contact them directly. Centre staff also welcome feedback from students and employers as it is a very important aspect of the monitoring of the education and training provision by the Centre itself.



The GTC is funded by:



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GTC QA Training Providers offer education and training courses, all designed to give added value to the courses and qualifications offered by Quality Assured Centres.

Short courses, seminars, workshops and bespoke training are all available from the following companies and individuals, and the GTC encourages its QA Centres and Training Providers to liaise to ensure the sectors employers, greenkeepers and Course Managers are having their education and training requirements met.

The vast range of subjects involved in maintaining and managing golf courses can be offered by QA Training Providers and Centres:

For up to date information please visit the Quality Assured link on: www.the-gtc.co.uk, www.greenkeepertraining.com or call the GTC.

The GTC, in addition to ensuring the quality of greenkeeping education and training provision is delivered to an agreed criterion, has introduced a series of workshops for golf club employers and volunteers all supported by the Home Unions, EGU, SGU and GUW.

Chairman of Green workshops have proved very successful and following feedback by delegates attending these workshops, the GTC has added workshops on Health & Safety, Communication within the golf club, Renovation and Design.

All of the above Training Providers have specialist knowledge to share and all their training is designed to compliment the formal qualifications for greenkeeping and Course Management as well as helping employers understand and support their Course Manager achieves the aims of the business, hopefully to a Course or Companies Business Plan.

The GTC believes in Continual Professional Development for all and that includes employers, volunteers, as well as greenkeepers and Golf Course Managers, and through the various courses and workshops offered by GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers there is something for everybody.