

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David looks at the education and training ladder for greenkeepers with a particular emphasis on career progression once you have joined the greenkeeping profession

Stepping onto the first rung of a ladder for the first time can be a hairy moment and often it is with uncertainty as to how high you will eventually climb the ladder, but when it comes to a greenkeeping career, the GTC can help you climb the ladder to the very top!

The golf club employers in Britain have, for many years, been very well served by the tried and tested Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme which has produced many of today's top Course Managers, and long may it continue.

Government funding has and continues to help many employers opt to employ an apprentice and with the valued input from the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, progress with the chosen GTC Quality Assured Centre, can be rapid.

The Apprenticeship includes the Level 2 Work based Diploma in England and Wales, SVQ Level 2 in Scotland together with some additional qualifications to benefit the apprentice and progress onto WBD/SVQ Level 3, which often is the natural progression route.

The Government is forever changing its funding priorities, but 16-19 year olds always qualify for some funding support, however some QA Centres have introduced some level of employer contribution, as subsidies continue to be reduced for all ages.

The GTC firmly believes that many employers will invest in training if the courses and certificates/qualifications meet both their needs and those of the learner.

At this point, we have to highlight that more and more enquiries to the GTC, on becoming a greenkeeper, are from the more mature person

and many feel they are too old to become an apprentice greenkeeper. The Apprentice Framework is there to be used for all ages; it is the funding support which varies between age groups.

Some employers offer placements for volunteers and again education and training to become a greenkeeper can commence on day 1 of "employment".

The GTC's Level 2 Training Manual and CD-Rom of knowledge is the best "tool" any apprentice can use in association with their chosen Quality Assured Centre to have their skills and knowledge assessed and recorded.

For those not able to gain any sort of work on a golf course there are courses such as the National Certificate in Greenkeeping offered by several Centres.

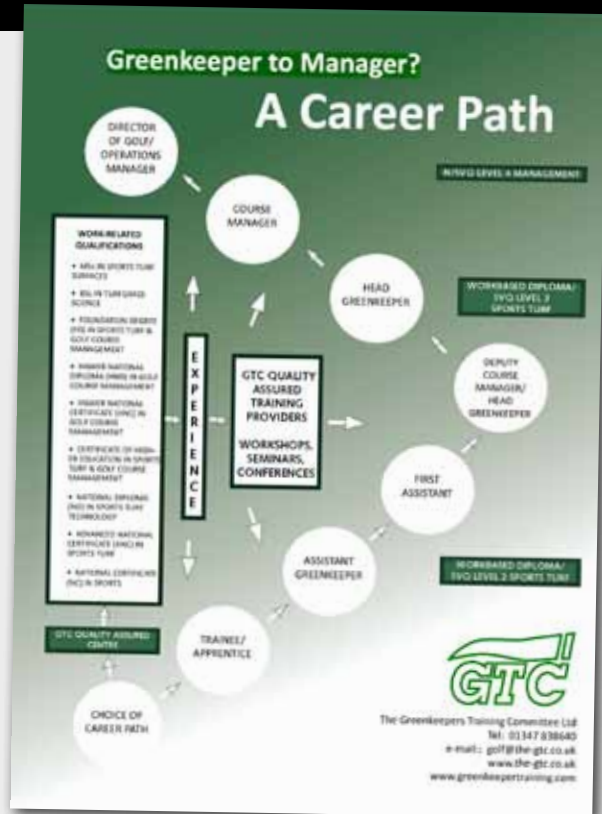
This qualification very much compliments the Level 2 Work Based Diploma/SVQ as there is both the knowledge and practical elements included with either experience gained at the college's golf course or work experience organised for the learner on a golf course.

Progression from Level 2 to Level 3 can be smooth IF the employer allows their learner to gain the required experience on the job but often the learner struggles if they are not allowed to become involved in Supervisory duties.

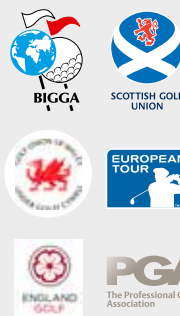
However, this is not always possible if the learner is say 17 or 18 years of age.

This is when a training plan agreed between the employer, learner and Centre should allow for progression up the career ladder.

The same progression "stumble" on the career ladder can occur from Level 3 to Level 4/5 but it should



The GTC is funded by:



never be two steps forward one step back!

Whether progression is through a formal course leading to a qualification offered by a QA Centre or a more informal education and training programme, GTC and its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers are there to help.

Short courses, seminars and workshops are excellent and are often hosted locally by BIGGA's Regions and Sections not forgetting as well as the Continue to Learn programme in Harrogate every January.

It doesn't have to be the work based route to get you to the top rung of the ladder but experience and the practical skills, as you climb the ladder, are crucial.

Higher Education has become more and more popular as colleges make the qualifications more accessible.

When it comes to formal qualifications this sector has all bases covered, from the work based apprenticeship to a Degree and everything in between!

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



You can follow the GTC on Twitter @TheOfficialGTC