

# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month, David reviews the most recent GTC's "employer" focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort

**During 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three "Chairman of Green" workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the maintenance and management programmes, based on best practices that a club should be looking to implement.**

Expertly delivered by Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, the workshops certainly proved to me that the GTC had started to seriously address a problem which I am sure many clubs could learn from.

From the very first workshop it was evident that some clubs wanted their Chair of Green and/or Secretary and Course Manager to attend.

Whilst Laurence had prepared his workshop to be aimed at the "employer", he has, some 10 workshops later, expertly managed to tailor the day to ensure that it not only hugely benefits the employer but arguably also, the vitally important relationship between the employer and the Course Manager.

The workshop content is based on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union's Practical Guide for Green Conveners, which can be downloaded from: [http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green\\_Convener\\_2008.pdf](http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green_Convener_2008.pdf)

The GTC are planning more of these workshops with the Golf Union of Wales due to confirm two venues and England Golf has

fully committed to endorsing and promoting more events in the autumn.

The delegate feedback has been excellent from the workshops and this has encouraged the GTC to host more workshops, still an employer focus but introducing new subjects.

One important aspect of golf club and course management is ensuring the employer and Senior Managers have up to date information on Health & Safety legislation.

During May the GTC engaged two of its Quality Assured Training Providers to deliver a Health & Safety workshop at The Mere Golf & Spa Resort in Cheshire, with Jon Allbutt and Ian Sumpster, Toro's European Training Manager as the trainers.

Gwynn Davies, the host Course Manager and Cheshire Turf Machinery, the local Toro dealers, were in attendance and provided the facility and support to a very successful workshop.

More Health & Safety workshops are being planned also for the autumn.

Design and Renovation workshops have been delivered by Swan Golf Designs as part of the Continue to Learn programme during Harrogate Week, aimed at Course Managers and Deputies but again keeping on the employer focused "education" workshops, William and Howard Swan (SGD) in association with the GTC recently hosted a Design and Renovation workshop at Ripon City Golf Club.

Once again there were several excellent examples of employer - Course Manager "partnerships" in attendance.



There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietor together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers.

It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefitted from seeing their "employer" attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the importance of understanding each other's roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

The GTC, following delegate feedback from its workshops, has also considered how best it can provide advice and guidance to golf clubs when the communication system appears to be not convivial to running a successful business.

A "communication triangle" workshop to be delivered by GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Frank Newberry, the professional management trainer has been developed to ensure the employer and senior managers are all working together and communicating effectively with their members/visitors/customers.

GTC Workshop dates and venues are all available on the GTC website or by contacting the GTC direct.



The GTC is funded by:



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