

Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, GTC Education Director, invites you to register on a new website

Last month I updated you all on the work I have been carrying out as the Standards Director to the European Greenkeepers Education Unit (EGEU). This month, I invite you to register on a new website which is designed to become the information portal to give greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers and employers the most up to date advice and guidance on education, training and qualifications within the sector.

As the GTC looks to continue its role to ensure British Golf Clubs and all greenkeepers have a range of qualifications available to employers and greenkeepers there has been an increase in enquiries from outside of Britain from countries relatively new to the game of golf and with little or no greenkeeper education system available.

There is no doubt that in recent years the "game of golf" has woken up to the fact that the golf course is without doubt any clubs greatest asset.

From the prestigious resort courses to your nine hole course the focus on the quality of the playing surfaces always is the number priority of the golfer.

Some will argue that it is the whole experience of the visit to the golf club is how members and visitors judge the facility however while I know many of today's Course Managers know what is meant by this expression but no matter how good the off course facilities may be if the course is, for whatever reason, not up to standard the golfer feels disappointed.

So often I have heard golfers complain about their golf but have enjoyed their day due to the course environment they have just experienced.

This always leads back to the knowledge, skills and competence of the Course Manager, Head Greenkeeper and his or her employer.

The GTC, and now the EGEU, has and will continue to develop and maintain a Quality Assured

Scheme which will allow greenkeepers, Course Managers and employers to access workshops, training courses and for greenkeepers qualifications which will help those clubs looking to provide a quality golf course.

Employers should have access to advice and guidance to ensure their staff have the knowledge and skills to maintain and manage the golf course and employers also need to understand what their Course Manager is proposing when the maintenance policy and budget is under review.

Greenkeepertraining.com has been launched to showcase those Centres including colleges and Training Providers who, having met a criteria, offer quality courses and workshops not only in Britain but as I mentioned earlier much further afield.

The British greenkeeper education, training and qualifications system is held in very high regard abroad as I witnessed first hand at the FEGGA Conference held in Prague.

Some 19 Greenkeeping Associations were represented in Prague and there was a tremendous camaraderie among delegates which again is mirrored on a global basis as it is often the same issues same problems that face both greenkeepers and golf club employers.

It was certainly a privilege to make a presentation on behalf of the EGEU and to share what I called the British Model for greenkeeper education and admit to delegates there have been many barriers and frustrations along the way in establishing a creditable structure supported by the employers.

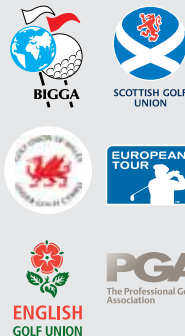
Some Greenkeeping Associations are in exactly the same position many of us can remember pre BIGGA when there was little or no interest let alone funding support from any other golfing organisations.

How things changed in Britain from 1987!

The R&A and the Home Unions in Britain together with the PGA and PGA European Tour have certainly



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played a major role in supporting greenkeeper training in Britain and I am pleased to say still do.

We will be looking to these organisations and other key golfing bodies to support the EGEU. It is all designed to assist golf developing countries who are looking to establish sustainable greenkeeper education systems.

We will be encouraging countries to ensure the Greenkeeping Association and Golf Federation work together and engage with other professional bodies such as any Golf Course Owners Association, PGA or Golf Club Managers Association operating in the country.

Today there are more and more organisations within golf all having a special role to play within the game and we must all work together hopefully avoiding duplicating roles but complimenting each others work.

The GTC is looking to work closely with the EGEU and all the organisations and companies who offer quality training for greenkeepers and golf club employers especially those looking to become part of the Quality Assured Scheme and be featured on the greenkeepertraining.com website.



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