



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David Golding updates us on the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and how more employer-focused workshops are being planned

The GTC's Quality Assured Scheme includes Centres and Training Providers. In simple terms the Centres offer a range of Government accredited qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme and the Training Providers offer training courses, workshops and seminars of a less formal nature.

Currently there are 10 GTC Quality Assured Centres; 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 6 in England:

GOSTA Training and SRUC Elmwood Campus in Scotland; Deeside and Pencoed Colleges in Wales; and Cannington, Duchy, Myerscough, Oaklands, Reaseheath and Plump-ton Colleges in England.

All the latest information on qualifications, training courses and costs can be viewed on the GTC website – see Quality Assured Centres link. The Apprenticeship Scheme is still attracting excellent registration numbers throughout the country and with incentives for employers it is well worth checking with your preferred Centre.

Many of the GTC Training Providers are working with QA Centres to assist with the delivery of courses and provide modern resources for the college based qualifications.

In another initiative to bring the 11 QA Training Providers and Centres closer, autumn workshops are being planned using the Centres as venues. The GTC, with the ongoing support of the British Home Unions and BIGGA, has now hosted over 20 employer-focused workshops all aimed at improving communications within the club.

We were aware of concerns from some greenkeepers when we launched the Chairman of Green workshops and the fear the GTC were "training Chair of Green in golf course maintenance". But by using Laurence Pithie, a former Golf

Courses Manager, to give delegates an overview of all aspects of golf course maintenance, we know it was certainly pitched at the right level as the feedback has been excellent.

Laurence operates as TurfMaster One, is a regular contributor to GI and is a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider together with ten other companies and individuals.

The STRI has for many years been involved in training both through workshops and seminars and they also host bespoke employer-focused workshops as well as their traditional greenkeeping courses.

Just to digress for a moment, my apprenticeship involved three years working at Buxton & High Peak Golf Club. At the end I attended Bingley for a five-day mind-blowing educational course! Happy days...

The STRI, Turf Master One and all the other Quality Assured Training Providers are all available to you the greenkeeper or to your employer with workshops, training courses and in some cases bespoke courses held at your club. Toro/Lely, Ransomes Jacobsen/Cutting Edge and Bernhard & Co all offer excellent machinery maintenance training courses and their current dates and venues are all available on our website.

Frank Newberry is offering bespoke training courses and free initial consultation, with no obligation, to clubs on improving communication within the club.

Health & Safety is a key element of golf club management and staff welfare together with employer responsibilities.

The latest QA training company to join, mylearnadfriend (MLF) are offering online learning and a certification scheme. Britrisk Safety incorporating Jon Allbutt Associates offer on the job training courses as well as H&S advice and guidance.



The GTC is funded by:



Symbio are committed to educate more and more greenkeepers in a "what happens below the surface" series of presentations which all relate to "brining life to your soil".

Symbio also continue to offer their services to QA Centres and attendance at seminars and workshops.

The maintenance and management of woodland, heathland and SSI's can be very controversial and without proper training can be detrimental if not carried out to an agreed plan. John Nicholson has many years of experience in woodland management as have the STRI so help is on hand in these very specialist areas.

Swan Golf Designs have hosted course design and renovation workshops during Harrogate and now are involved in presentations to employers as well as greenkeepers.

It is the GTC's intentions to develop workshops using several QA Training Providers aimed at employers and Course Managers and England Golf have very kindly agreed to subsidise the events.

BIGGA will continue to focus on providing greenkeeping workshops and seminars whilst the GTC will continue to engage with more employers through England Golf, Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Union of Wales.

The GTC Quality Assured Scheme is not a selection of "colleges and companies joining an exclusive club for a subscription fee", far from it. Individuals, companies and colleges can all apply to join the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme whether they offer formal qualifications or are involved in informal training and education for greenkeepers.

The role of the GTC is to ensure the courses, workshops and seminars, available through the QA Centres and Training Providers, all promote the very best practices and principles in golf course maintenance and management which golf club employers and greenkeepers can all benefit from.

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