

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,
with a monthly update



This month David Golding - GTC's Education Director - explains how a call to a GTC Quality Assured Centre can free up funding for training

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult for the GTC to monitor the Government's strategy for education and training.

But through our involvement with the Lantra Sector Skills Council we ensure the sector has an accredited set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) from which a range of qualifications for greenkeeping are developed. The Governments for England, Scotland and Wales all have different funding strategies and the priority groups can change with little or no warning.

We do endeavour to ensure the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship including the content of the work-based qualifications remain the same throughout Britain however funding support and cost for training courses through the GTC Quality Assured Centres can vary depending on their delivery method.

There seem to be accidental barriers created by the various Government funding agencies which prevent employers and potential apprentices from accessing the help that is repeatedly advertised relating to apprenticeships.

I strongly suggest looking at the GTC Quality Assured Centres and seek their advice on recruiting an apprentice, there is up to £1,500 of funding available plus tremendous support for the apprentices' education and training programme.

I have written many articles on the advantage of the Greenkeeper Apprentice Scheme and since my apprenticeship back in 1966 the scheme has developed and become much more detailed.

The current structure gives the employer and the apprentice a multi-skilled, knowledgeable individual well capable of maintaining a golf course and a tremendous platform to progress through a

career path to the very top of the profession.

I often call on today's top Course Managers to attend Career Fairs at schools and colleges as they are obviously the right people to promote the profession of greenkeeping to youngsters looking for a career which can take you anywhere in the world.

Sadly many careers advisors have no idea on what is involved in golf greenkeeping and course management but given the opportunity to attend events in schools your assistance as a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper would be appreciated to spread the word.

Taster days at golf clubs would also be good. Health and Safety restricting the use of equipment and machines would have to be strictly adhered to but this all helps promote greenkeeping.

Often a new apprentice greenkeeper can be found within the Junior Section at a golf club. But it often takes a short presentation by the Course Manager so the juniors actually appreciate there is a career available in golf other than becoming the next Rory McIlroy!

The Golf Foundation, PGA and Golf Unions are all looking to promote the greenkeeping profession through their roles in promoting careers in golf which will all help. The Apprentice Scheme is available for all ages however please check with your chosen Centre for the most up to date information on funding support.

As a general rule across Britain the 16-19 year old group are the Government's priority for funding support but age is no barrier to becoming a greenkeeper.

The GTC and BIGGA regularly receive enquiries from people looking to change career and these are often keen golfers looking to work in a healthier environment.

There is a structured career path

National
Apprenticeship
Week 11-15 March
2013
visit [www.
apprenticeships.
org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

The GTC is funded by:



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for school leavers, career changes and the Apprenticeship Scheme is the perfect pathway to join a profession which offers global opportunities.

From the apprentice scheme there are seminars, workshops, other further education courses and access onto Higher Education Courses and qualifications all helping to get to the very top of Golf Course and Club Management. For further information on apprenticeships contact one of the GTC's Quality Assured Centres:

- England:
Bridgwater College: Tel: 07912 555592 Contact: Jake Waites
Duchy College: Tel: 01579 372220 Contact: Ron Skinner
Myerscough College: Tel: 01995 642193 Contact: Lee Price
Oaklands College: Tel: 01727 737735 Contact: Andy Wight
Plumpton College: Tel: 01273 890454 Contact: David Blackmur
Reaseheath College: Tel: 01270 613236 Contact: Gareth Phillips
Scotland: GOSTA Training: Tel: 0141 556 3999, Contact: Lesley Lowrie
Elmwood College: Tel: 01334 658 800 Contact: Mike Clark
Wales: Deeside College: Tel: 01244 831531 Ext 6132, Contact: Jenny Pitts, Pencoed College: Tel: 01656 302691, Contact: John Sullivan

Finally a great supporter of the GTC and the Greenkeeping Association Mr Alan Gamble has sadly passed away at the age of 83.

Alan is probably best remembered for his time as Head Greenkeeper at Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate and the tremendous support he gave to establish a greenkeeper training system as a volunteer on the BIGGA and GTC during the 60's, 70's and 80's.

His son Richard is Head Greenkeeper here at Aldwark Manor and our thoughts are with Alan's wife and all of his family.