



Greenkeepers Training Committee

In a new series, the GTC has invited representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector

As an apprentice greenkeeper in the 60s, David Golding remembers when a visit to STRI was the only real education an apprentice received before the colleges became involved with the more formal qualifications. Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales and Marketing at STRI, explained why they are now so heavily involved

The STRI has been around a long time; we were actually established way back in 1929 (even before David's time!), in association with the UK Golf Unions and The R&A to provide research and advisory services for golf clubs on their golf greens and courses.

This long heritage within the golf industry has also included sharing our knowledge and expertise over the years through training and education, with the aim of passing on best practice throughout the industry and helping clubs achieve the best sports surfaces they can.

By the 1950s, STRI had established a reputation as the leading company in Europe for providing advice and research on new products and techniques for managing sports turf, not just for golf, but for all types of sports surfaces and amenity grass areas.

And as our knowledge grew we established structured training courses for greenkeepers, groundsmen and Chairman of Green and committees.

We believe a lot of our success comes directly from the focus and expertise of the STRI research team, based at our extensive research facilities in Bingley, West Yorkshire. The team are as dedicated now as they were eighty years ago to establish new and better ways of producing high quality sports surfaces across the world.

The knowledge base from STRI's research, along with years of practical experience from our advisory team, is what makes our training so current and valuable for the industry.

The last two decades have seen rapid growth within STRI; we currently have 75 staff, delivering our range of services across an international client base of around 2,100 sports clubs and facilities each year, including 810 golf clubs. STRI

is proud to work alongside FIFA, as their strategic partner for pitch development and management, and UEFA, as their official pitch consultants and The R&A, as their official agronomists.

We are now offering specialist advice and expertise for all natural and artificial sports surfaces across the globe and in 2013 we opened our Australian research centre and office. The knowledge and expertise of our research and advisory teams are now shared through our tailored training courses for all types of turf professionals across the world.

Our courses are structured to give practical and realistic advice on developing and managing sports surfaces and developing an individual's expertise, no matter what level of experience.

We provide different methods of training through workshops, seminars, practical demonstrations and open forum discussions, as well as our annual STRI Research event in Bingley. We are often asked to create bespoke training courses to suit a team's needs and work closely with clubs to make sure the learning we deliver is relevant and useful for their team and individual greenkeepers.

We offer standard and bespoke training across the UK for:

- Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers
- Greenkeeping Staff
- Grounds Staff
- Parks & Grounds Managers
- Chairmen of Green/Green Conveners
- Club Secretaries, Managers & Committee Members
- BASIS & FACTS for Turf Professionals

Each training course is developed and delivered by experienced staff, all with vast experience within the sports turf industry and their specialist fields. Our advisers have

For info on STRI workshops, seminars and training courses contact: Carolyn Beadsmoore: Tel 00 44 (0) 1274 565131 Email: info@stri.co.uk www.stri.co.uk



The GTC is funded by:



comprehensive knowledge on the latest research, techniques and products used to achieve quality sports surfaces and turf.

Each of our courses is reviewed annually and features real-life examples of golf courses that have seen improvements over the last few years.

Our standard courses are structured over four days, with separate modules developed for each subject area, giving individuals the flexibility and choice of selecting the topics and days they are interested in. Our Chairman of Green courses are run as a one-day course, providing an overview of course management and the benefits that can be seen from specific maintenance operations.

Following feedback from sports clubs and clients we now offer regional training courses each year, across the UK and Ireland; this has helped our clients to reduce travel costs and eliminate additional costs for accommodation.

All our training is quality assured by industry bodies and associations, including the GTC, with certificate of achievements presented for each training module. Individual BASIS and CPD credits are also awarded for completing STRI training modules.

Each year we receive very positive feedback on our STRI training, with 100% of individuals saying they would recommend our training to others.

And when we get quotes like the following which we received from a greenkeeper who attended last year's training, it makes us feel very proud to be supporting the industry through our education... "I found the four day course an absolute inspiration.

The content covered everything one would possibly need to know as a greenkeeper. The experts were very engaging."

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