



# Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month the GTC provides an update on the Trailblazer project

## GTC continues its work as a Trailblazer



**As you will have read in last month's Greenkeeper International, Donald Steel reported on the GTC's invitation to No 10 Downing Street with David Croxton, Chair of the Trailblazer Reform Working Group, and Ryan Bezzant, a current apprentice from Ealing Golf Club.**

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, gives us an update on the progress to date.

David said: "Back in March, the GTC was awarded Apprenticeship Trailblazer status by the Government, and since then it has been all systems go!

We have already held our inaugural Trailblazer Reform Working Group meeting at Cold Ashby Golf Club with representatives from Employers, the Professional Bodies, Centres (Colleges), Lantra Sector Skills Council, City & Guilds and Business, Innovation and Skills Dept (BIS).

The next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Workshops have also been held in London, meeting with other Trailblazers.

"I believe the apprenticeship reform will allow the golf sector to develop a quality standard including a high level assessment approach to meet the requirements of golf club employers. Its aim is to develop skilled and knowledgeable apprentices for whom the world could become their oyster.

"As the game of golf continues to grow globally and becomes an Olympic sport in 2016, it is important that golf courses are maintained and managed by highly skilled professionals, and the new apprenticeship will provide for this need.

"We are reviewing and developing the Apprenticeship Standard for a golf greenkeeper. Over the past month, thanks to our colleagues at BIGGA, England Golf and the GCMA, an online survey was carried out to determine what you felt were the skills and knowledge required to become a fully competent golf greenkeeper.

"We had nearly 300 responses from the links posted just on BIGGA and GTC's websites alone. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the survey for taking the time to do so.

This feedback from employers, greenkeepers and industry is essential to ensuring we provide a quality Apprenticeship.

"Analysing all the results will take a little time, but please be assured we will take into consideration all points raised. Apart from the obvious tasks and skills already encompassed in the golf greenkeeping qualification, you have also highlighted skills and knowledge you believe a qualified golf greenkeeper should have."

Here are just some of the key suggestions arising from the survey:

- First aid, fire safety

- Attention to detail at all tasks involved
- Understand and appreciate the living environment
- Effective time management
- Good knowledge of machinery maintenance
- Good communication skills with members, visitors and other members of staff
- Good numeracy and literary skills
- Computer skills

Apart from reviewing the current skills within the Occupational Standards for a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Supervisor, the working group will also be reviewing other skills you would expect a fully competent greenkeeper to be able to carry out.

David added: "As you will all appreciate, greenkeeping requires a very broad range of skills so it's impossible to list every single requirement of the job. But rest assured that when we sit down and review the current standards, we will be further building on the skills and knowledge required to make that greenkeeper a great greenkeeper.

"When the apprentice finishes the programme, they will know how, why and when the range of operations are carried out, and you will have a great golf course as a result."

*For further information on Golf Greenkeeping including the Apprenticeship contact:*

David Golding, GTC Education Director – Email: [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk) Tel: 01347 838640 Mobile: 07831 222659

Or alternatively please visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)



The GTC is funded by:



### Contact Details

David F. Golding  
GTC Education Director  
and Standards Director,  
Greenkeeper Training

01347 838640  
[david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near Alne  
York  
YO61 1UF

[www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)  
[www.greenkeepertraining.com](http://www.greenkeepertraining.com)



You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC