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Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, explains the role of QA Accredited Centres and Training Providers



While there appears to be an ever increasing number of organisations and individuals looking to offer greenkeeper training courses, the GTC continues to promote only those colleges, private companies and individuals who have chosen to become GTC Quality Assured.

The GTC introduced the Quality Assured Scheme in the Autumn of 2010, having introduced a new criteria aimed at ensuring golf club employers and greenkeepers have a level of satisfaction when choosing a GTC accredited Centre or Training Provider.

So what is the difference between a Quality Assured Centre and Training Provider?

Quality Assured Centres offer education and training courses all designed to underpin Government accredited certificates and qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme.

So if it is a formal greenkeeping qualification or apprenticeship you are looking for, look no further than the following Centres. They all have met the GTC's Quality Assured Centre criteria.

England

Bridgwater College, Somerset. Contact: Jake Waites Tel: 07912 555592, Email: waitesj@bridgwater.ac.uk Website: www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Duchy College, Cornwall. Contact: Ron Skinner Tel: 01579 372220, Email: Ronald.skinner@duchy.ac.uk Website: www.duchy.ac.uk

Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. Contact: Mark Harwood-Browne Tel: 01452 702377, Email: Mark.Harwood-Browne@hartpury.ac.uk Website: www.hartpury.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Lancashire. Contact: Stewart Brown Tel: 01995 642305, Email: sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk or Paul McGrail Tel: 07740 819415, Email: pmcgrail@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Newcastle College, Northum-

berland. Contact: Wayne Reid Tel: 0191 2004704, Email: wayne.reid@ncl-coll.ac.uk Website: www.ncl-coll.ac.uk

Oaklands College, Hertfordshire. Contact: Andy Wight Tel: 01727 737735, Email: Andy.Wight@oaklands.ac.uk Website: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Plumpton College, Sussex. Contact: David Blackmur Tel: 01273 890454, Email: david.blackmur@plumpton.ac.uk Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Reaseheath College, Cheshire. Contact: Gareth Phillips Tel: 01270 613236, Email: garethp@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Scotland

Elmwood College, Fife. Contact: Mike Clark Tel: 01334 658800

Email: MClark@elmwood.ac.uk Website: www.elmwood.ac.uk

GOSTA Training, Glasgow. Contact: Lesley Lowrie Tel: 0141 556 3999, Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk Website: www.gostatraining.co.uk

Wales

Bridgend College, Mid-Glamorgan. Contact: John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302691, Email: jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk Website: www.bridgend.ac.uk

Deeside College, Flintshire. Contact: Jenny Pitts Tel: 01244 831531 Ext 6132, Email: pittsj@deeside.ac.uk Website: www.deeside.ac.uk

The above Centres are constantly regulated by the Government Inspectors, Awarding Bodies Verification representatives and also monitored by the GTC against the Quality Assured Criteria.

All of the QA Centres have Sports turf Advisory Panels and if you feel you can assist the staff at these Centres with either feedback or offering to join the Panel please contact them directly. Centre staff also welcome feedback from students and employers as it is a very important aspect of the monitoring of the education and training provision by the Centre itself.



The GTC is funded by:



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

GTC QA Training Providers offer education and training courses, all designed to give added value to the courses and qualifications offered by Quality Assured Centres.

Short courses, seminars, workshops and bespoke training are all available from the following companies and individuals, and the GTC encourages its QA Centres and Training Providers to liaise to ensure the sectors employers, greenkeepers and Course Managers are having their education and training requirements met.

The vast range of subjects involved in maintaining and managing golf courses can be offered by QA Training Providers and Centres:

For up to date information please visit the Quality Assured link on: www.the-gtc.co.uk, www.greenkeepertraining.com or call the GTC.

The GTC, in addition to ensuring the quality of greenkeeping education and training provision is delivered to an agreed criterion, has introduced a series of workshops for golf club employers and volunteers all supported by the Home Unions, EGU, SGU and GUW.

Chairman of Green workshops have proved very successful and following feedback by delegates attending these workshops, the GTC has added workshops on Health & Safety, Communication within the golf club, Renovation and Design.

All of the above Training Providers have specialist knowledge to share and all their training is designed to compliment the formal qualifications for greenkeeping and Course Management as well as helping employers understand and support their Course Manager achieves the aims of the business, hopefully to a Course or Companies Business Plan.

The GTC believes in Continual Professional Development for all and that includes employers, volunteers, as well as greenkeepers and Golf Course Managers, and through the various courses and workshops offered by GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers there is something for everybody.

Recruitment



Greenkeepers & Assistant Greenkeepers Throughout the Netherlands

Greenkeepers and assistant Greenkeepers for various assignments throughout the Netherlands, up to 4 month contract. Accommodation is included in this contract. Must have minimum of two years experience. Be conversant with modern green keeping methods. Be skilled in the use of tractors, mowers and other golf course equipment. Possess all current spraying certificates i.e: PA1 PA2 PA6 NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Assistant green keepers and season workers do not need all qualifications. Experience required in similar working environment is preferable. Travel assistance if needed. Own transport essential

Please send your CV indicating availability and your motivation to work away from home to: denise.haines@roevin.co.uk or call Denise on 0161 233 1564

Please mention BIGGA in your application for these roles



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JOHN DEERE

Winchester Garden Machinery has a position available for a highly motivated sales person within our Golf & Turf and Commercial grounds care department. Technical knowledge and experience in demonstrating turf equipment would be an advantage. The position is based at our Winchester location and the sales person will primarily cover the Hampshire and West Sussex area.

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Contact Robin Nettle with a CV and cover letter.

By Email: robin.nettle@wgmtd.co.uk

By Post: WGM Ltd, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5DL



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A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club,
114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU



South Staffs Golf Club Head Greenkeeper



South Staffs Golf Club is a private members golf club founded in 1892. The Club is an 18 hole Harry Vardon designed parkland course set in 160 acres maintained to the highest of standards and is regarded as one of the finest challenges in the Midlands. We are seeking a Head Greenkeeper to manage daily operations and provide effective service in all aspects of golf course management for the benefit of the membership. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic and experienced, displaying a genuine commitment to excellence and will:

- Be responsible for all aspects of course management and development.
- Have an eye for detail and how to present an excellently maintained course.
- Hold a recognised industry qualification or show some progress in achievement
- Ability to lead, motivate and develop a greenkeeping team
- Knowledge of all areas of turf grass science and golf course maintenance

- Knowledge of Health & Safety legislation, ability to carry out risk assessments and complete relevant associated paperwork
- Some computer literacy would be useful with the ability to manage to budget
- Ability to work with and provide written reports to the Greens Committee.

This is a 'hands-on' position with applicants demonstrating leadership and communication skills with a proven track record of high standard course presentation

An generous remuneration package is available for the right candidate coupled with attractive accommodation

Please forward your application by email with your C.V. including current salary and benefits to Club Manager Sue Lebeau; by 16th April 2012

suelebeau@southstaffsgc.co.uk
www.southstaffordshiregolfclub.co.uk

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FOOTBALL CLUB MECHANIC

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club's thriving Grounds Maintenance Department require a Mechanic to be responsible for the full maintenance of a fleet of brand new, predominantly Jacobsen, equipment at our new state of the art training ground in Enfield (due to be finished June 2012).

The successful applicant will be required to maintain a large fleet of professional groundcare machinery to the highest standard and must have sound knowledge of grinding equipment, with a high standard of mower setup.

This position requires a person who has had previous experience in a similar environment with a full driver's licence. The successful applicants should be happy to work as part of a team but also be able to work on their own initiative with good communication skills and an ability to keep up-to-date records. A flexible approach is very important.

All applicants should supply a full CV stating current salary to:

Mrs A Vetere, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, Bill Nicholson Way,
748 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 0AP
ann.vetere@tottenhamhotspur.com

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FOOTBALL CLUB IRRIGATION ENGINEER

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club's thriving Grounds Maintenance Department require an Irrigation Engineer to be responsible for the operation and upkeep of its brand new irrigation system installed at our new state of the art training ground in Enfield (due to be finished June 2012).

This position requires a person who has had previous experience in a sportsturf and landscape environment with a full driver's licence. The successful applicants should be happy to work as part of a team but also be able to work on their own initiative with good communication skills and an ability to keep up-to-date records. A flexible approach is very important.

All applicants should supply a full CV stating current salary to:

Mrs A Vetere, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club
Bill Nicholson Way, 748 High Road, Tottenham, London, N17 0AP
ann.vetere@tottenhamhotspur.com

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HESSLE GOLF CLUB

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Hessle Golf Club is a private members golf club founded in 1898. The Club is an 18 hole rural parkland course set in 127 acres with extensive practise area including a driving range.

For further course information please visit our website:
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The successful candidate will be highly motivated and widely experienced displaying a genuine commitment to excellence and will:

- * be responsible for all aspects of course management and development.
- * hold a recognised industry qualification and have knowledge of modern machinery/maintenance
- * be computer literate with the ability to formulate and manage budgets, also providing written reports to the Club Committee.
- * possess a full knowledge of and ability to implement Health & Safety Legislation.

This is a 'hands-on' position with applicant demonstrating proven leadership, staff management and communication skills with a proven track record of high standard course presentation.

Please forward your application by email with your C.V. including current salary and benefits to Paul Haddon at:
manager@hesslegolfclub.co.uk by the 1st May 2012

Hessle Golf Club, Westfield Road, Raywell, Cottingham,
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All applicants must have a minimum of five years' experience installing, servicing and/or maintaining Toro irrigation products; and the ability to communicate and demonstrate the technical features of upgrades and new releases to consultants, contractors and end-users, including via seminars and presentations.

To be successful, applicants must be able to work on their own initiative and manage their own workload.

The right candidate will attract a generous remuneration package that includes entry to the company's pension scheme after six months, as well as a company vehicle and expenses.

If you have the qualities we are looking for, please apply with CV to **Robert Jackson** at the address below, or email rjackson@lely.com

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C	A	8	6	3	4	2	7	B	9	1	5
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2	7	3	5	9	1	8	4	6
8	4	1	7	2	6	9	3	5

Daily SuDoku: Fri 30-Mar-2012 very hard



On the Soapbox

A stage on which people within the industry can express their viewpoint

Felling Trees

It always amazes me how many times I see “dubious” felling on a golf course and when asked usually the management are unaware that permission is required if you fell more than five cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter (two cubic metres if you sell it).

So what is five cubic metres of timber?

A tree in the eyes of the law is determined by its diameter at 1.3 metres from the ground - if the diameter is above eight centimetres then it is classed as a tree.

Penalties can be severe for illegal felling and apply to all parties involved; on conviction a fine of up to £2500 or twice the value of the trees whichever is higher may be imposed and generally a restocking order will be issued. (The fine could potentially be per tree)

Further restrictions may also apply if you have a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the site. These are made by the Local Planning Authority (normally the local council). TPO's prevent the felling, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree without permission from the planning authority.

A similar situation occurs if you are within a conservation area where again you would have to apply to the local authority for permission for any work on a tree.

In reality the best way to gain permission is through a felling licence which is obtained from the Forestry Commission (FC) and can last up to five years. However, as there have been so many cases of illegal felling on golf courses the FC are now reluctant to issue a licence without some sort of plan.

It is therefore best to seek professional advice before applying for a licence as sustainability, timber volume and the impact on the environment and landscape are all considered by the FC when assessing applications.

Also, an experienced forester will know what is required for an application (mapping and measuring areas, timber volume and percentage thinning, etc) and perhaps more importantly what will make the FC reluctant to grant a licence!

The other advantage of professional advice is that you will have a plan to work to enabling the club to cost the work

effectively and undertake the management of their trees and woodland efficiently.

Felling trees can be a sensitive issue with club members for whom sometimes logic goes out of the window.

Therefore, any substantive evidence is a help in convincing the membership that tree management is an essential part of the agronomic management of the course.

The misconception that trees and woodlands will look after themselves still abounds, however there is a huge difference between conservation and preservation and many golf clubs have a vocal minority who want to preserve everything.

They don't realise that they are not actually preserving what they find so dear, because it is ever changing, it is a living entity which will evolve and change naturally if left unmanaged.

Heathland, is a transitory ecosystem which will revert to woodland if left unmanaged, it is therefore essential to manage both the woodland and heath if the status quo is to be maintained.

Woodland will normally regenerate at

As well as creating landscape and wildlife interest. However care has to be taken as to their effect on the agronomy, strategy and landscape of the golf course.

They form a strong three dimensional hazard which can easily destroy the intended strategy of a hole.

Trees are a dynamic entity, increasing in size over time, often encroaching into the line of play.

They can reduce air and light penetration to the grass sward pre-disposing it to disease and can cause uneven wear on tees as players naturally favour the un-impeded line of play.

It is therefore essential to have a planned holistic approach to the management of the trees and woodlands on the course.

All clubs which have trees and woodland should have a management programme which assesses the arboreal landscape taking into account the appropriateness of trees in relation to their location.

Further information is available from the FC website

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-6cdfkus

A living entity which will evolve and change naturally if left unmanaged

its edges but with modern day pressures this is often impossible and the woodland therefore requires intervention in order to redress the balance if it is to remain sustainable.

However, where it adjoins heather it will cast seed into the heath and will regenerate vigorously especially in the case of birch and oak.

We have been managing the woodlands of Britain since before the Roman invasion and what is often perceived as natural woodland is actually highly managed woodland; an under-storey of bluebells for instance requires light to the woodland floor and a lack of aggressive shade casting ground flora such as bramble or bracken. Management is therefore required if the ecosystem is to be maintained.

Trees provide many benefits whether it is individuals, small woodlands or large forests. They provide many tangible benefits such as screening, shelter, noise reduction and seclusion.



John Nicholson

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