

# GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)



All the latest news from your Section, in your new-look notes pages...



# Around the green



Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



- CENTRAL**  
Gordon Moir  
Gordon.moir@standrews.org.uk
- AYRSHIRE**  
Jim Paton  
jimp54@btinternet.com
- EAST**  
Scott Corrigan  
scottcorrigan4@aol.com
- NORTH**  
Dale Robertson & Robert Patterson  
daleturnberry@btinternet.com / grassman351@aol.com
- WEST**  
Stuart Taylor  
stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

## Events Coming Up

### Central

Our seminar at Auchterarder Golf Club is on 10 December. At the time of writing 20 of the 50 available spaces have already been booked and registration only opened 3 days ago so that's a good sign.

Our thanks to Auchterarder GC for the use of their facilities and to the speakers who have given of their time to support us.

The 2014 golf outings are confirmed as Kinghorn GC on Tuesday 29 April and Dunfermline GC on Tuesday 9 September.

### East

Social night booked for Friday 13 December at The Comedy Club, The Stand in Edinburgh, doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 9pm, cost of entry £12.

If you are interested in coming along to a great night and having a few laughs then please contact Jamie Martin (jamie.martin77@sky.com or 07852 954254) to book your place.

## News

### Central

Richard Jenkinson of gWest was elected onto the Section Committee at the AGM where Bob Meikle is beginning his second year as Chairman.

For those wishing to claim CPD credits for attending the AGM

and Lynn Jopling's presentation on the same day, you need to do this yourself online via the new system.

There are at least two Section members who have received R&A Scholarships that I am aware of, Robert McDowell and Stephen Robertson, well done to them. There may well be others. Congratulations also to Craig Boath from Carnoustie who was nominated to receive the Scottish patrons award from the Section.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

### Ayrshire

Sad news from the Ayrshire Section. We are sorry to hear of the passing of several of our friends. Firstly Tom Parker, formerly at West Kilbride Golf Club, and Douglas McKinnie, also formerly of West Kilbride Golf Club. Also Andy Wills, lorry driver at Nairn Brown, and Colin Sutherland, former greenkeeper Largs Routenburn Golf Club. The entire section would like to pass on our condolences to all the families and friends concerned.

There were no changes to the make up of the Committee at our AGM. Euan Grant is still looking at educational opportunities for the future, please contact him for more details.

### East

Our recent Section AGM took place at Ravelston GC on 5 November with a low turnout on the day again, please guys can you make the effort to come along and join in with your section so we can improve along the way.

The day went well with the AGM being carried out, following this we had an educational talk from Jamie Lees from Everriss on 'Nutritional Values under the Current Financial Climate'.

We then enjoyed a light lunch prior to 9 holes of Stableford golf for the 'Jimmy Neilson Trophy', the trophy winner on the day was Alan Campbell (Edinburgh Leisure) with 18 points.

The new improved CPD scheme has been launched, with all members now being enrolled on the scheme, and individuals can now track their own progress and claim credits for education events attended through the new website link for the CPD Scheme that can be found at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk).

Excellent changes and much better for all involved, well done Bigga and chuffed to say the East Section thanks to Phil Butler are the first section to use this facility, without any hiccups I may add.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### East

Thanks go to Everriss for the Lunch provided at the AGM, your support is much appreciated by the section indeed.

## Welcome New Members

Amanda Dorans Assistant Greenkeeper Dundonald Links Golf Club; Andrew Wentworth Assistant Greenkeeper West Kilbride Golf Club; Gary Hamilton Student; Sean Harkness Greenkeeper Renaissance Club; Andrew Peattie Affiliate Member; Michael Skinner Assistant Greenkeeper Boat of Garten Golf Club.

# Northern

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**NORTH EAST**  
Glen Baxter  
glen.baxter@  
rigbytaylor.com

**NORTH WEST**  
Chris Sheehan  
jsheehan@  
blueyonder.co.uk

**CLEVELAND**  
Ian Pemberton  
ianpemberton60@  
yahoo.co.uk

**NORTHERN**  
Andy Slingsby  
andy.slingsby98@  
googlemail.com

**SHEFFIELD**  
Neil Peters  
neilpeters66@  
gmail.com

**NORTH WALES**  
Pete Maybury  
petemayb66@  
aol.com

## Events Coming Up

### North East

We have organised a course walk at Ramside golf club to look at the new holes this will take place on 11 December check Facebook and Twitter pages for details.

## News

### North Wales

The Christmas tournament and section AGM took place at Royal Liverpool on 25 November however the December magazine goes to print too early to have a write up in this month and news from the AGM.

We are also gauging interest in running a coach to BTME on 22 January.

Our section is now trying text message alerts and if your mobile is registered with BIGGA you should have already received an opt out message, we hope you find this new service helpful.

### Northern

Myself, Dave Collins and Simon Rothwell had the pleasure of representing the section in the Whitemoss sponsored inter-section competition at the lovely Lymm Golf Club.

Great day had by all but unfortunately we could not retain the trophy we won last year. 3rd place was a pretty good effort but we were beaten by a very fine performance from the boys from Sheffield.

Well done chaps. Special mention to Sandra for the organisation of the day.

### North East

Huge congratulations to David Thompson of Hexham GC who has been awarded an R&A scholarship

News from Wayne Reid at Intraining, part of Newcastle College Group. They offer both level 2 and level 3 Work-based Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

They work with many Golf Clubs around the North East.

For further details contact Wayne Reid on 07725150834 or email at wayne.reid@intraining.co.uk.

## Sheffield

All the committee would like to thank all the members for attending golf days and seminars over the last year. The Sheffield section would like to thank all the sponsors for doing this years events and also the golf clubs for letting us use their courses Bondhay, Dore & Totley, Hillsborough and also Worksop for the Christmas golf day. We hope you all have a nice Christmas and a good new year.

All the Sheffield Section are sorry to hear of the passing of Stewart Clayton, Managing Director of Greensman and long-term member of BIGGA. He was well-known to many in the Section and we would all like to pass our condolences to his family and friends at this sad time.

## Movers and shakers

### North Wales

On 1 October Oswestry GC promoted their Deputy Head Greenkeeper Gary Barnfield to Head Greenkeeper and also in October Gary completed 25 years service at Oswestry.

## Northern

Congratulations to John Osborne on his appointment at Baildon Golf Club.

## Welcome New Members

Stephen Virtue Greenkeeper Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat; Paul Smith Head Greenkeeper Glossop & District Golf Club; Paul Kennedy Assistant Greenkeeper Heaton Moor Golf Club; Aaron Gandy Assistant Greenkeeper Turton Golf Club; Vincent Iveson Greenkeeper Hurlston Hall Golf & Country Club; John Eckersall Assistant Greenkeeper Turton Golf Club; Graham Capewell Affiliate Heswall Golf Club; Tom Deighton Student Askham Bryan College; William Goldstone Greenkeeper Moor Allerton Golf Club; David Goldstone Affiliate Tower Sport Ltd t/a Amenity Sales; Connor Foster Greenkeeper Barnsley Golf Club; Richard Peate Assistant Greenkeeper Oswestry Golf Club; Harry Kemp Greenkeeper Eastham Lodge Golf Club.

# Your notes

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we've refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month

## Midland

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**BB&O - The Stick**  
bboscribe@gmail.com or Matt Nutter  
bbosecretary@gmail.com



**MID ANGLIA**  
Darren Mugford  
d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com;



**MIDLAND**  
Sean McDade  
sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk;



**EAST OF ENGLAND**  
Steve Beverly  
steveimingham@aol.com



**EAST MIDLAND**  
Greg Skinner  
greg.skinner92@btinternet.com

## Events Coming Up

### Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the annual pilgrimage to BTME. Hoping to see many from the section attending as is always good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

### East of England

Our Christmas Texas scramble invitation will be held this year at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on Friday December 13. Please contact Bruce Hicks for details and to book places.

## News

### Mid Anglia

BIGGA Mid Anglia Section would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### East of England

At the AGM the committee and all positions remained the same. The section reported a slight loss but that was mainly down to a donation to the Midland region and seminar expenses.

A seminar is planned for Newark in the Spring and work is underway to fill the fixture list. A possible away day is also being planned. Thanks went to everyone for their continued support.

## Midland

The Section AGM followed the golf at North Warwickshire. Your committee for the next 12 months are: President – John Hammond, Chairman – Ed Stant, Secretary – Andy Smith, Competitions & Deputy Chairman – Rhys Thomas, Treasurer – Steve Thompson, Committee – N. Tyler, K. Pugh, K. Williams.

Love me or loathe me, I am the product of my Father. He has just had a "one night lie in". Good night you old berk.

## Movers and Shakers

### East Midland

The only personnel change I am aware of at the time of is that after almost five years at Forest Hill Golf Club, I shall be moving on to take up the position of Course Manager at Gainsborough Golf Club. This represents a very exciting opportunity for me in terms of my career and the challenge that my appointment there represents. My predecessor, John Evison, spent almost twenty years in the role before retiring earlier this year and I shall endeavour to keep up the high standards that he set.

## Results

### Midland

Our Autumn Tournament was held at North Warwickshire Golf Club on 16 October with 21 competitors. Despite the weather restricting the day to 9 holes, the course was presented beautifully by Course Manager John Ganley and his team.

The results of the day were: 1 Clint Woodall 22pts, 2 Ed Stant 18, 3 Alex Brougham 16. As always many thanks to North Warwickshire for allowing us the use of the course for the day, especially the Captain Martin Higginson who was a charming host.

### East Midland

Lutterworth Golf Club on 31 October saw Carl Chamberlain (Rigby Taylor), Asa English and Derek Foster return a nett score of 61 to beat Matt Gilks (Farols), Nigel Colley and James Burberry with a 62 into the silver medal position. The podium was completed by James Moore (Farols), Derek McJannett and Greg Skinner with a score of 62.8. Longest Drives were won by James Burberry and Andy Lane (Countrywide) with Nearest The Pins won by Andy Marsh and Nick Ashman (John Deere). John Barr, Course Manager, and his team presented the course to a very high standard and did so after a substantial amount of rainfall over the previous few days.

AGM news: Carl Chamberlain of Rigby Taylor stepped down after several years of representing the trade on the East Midlands Committee and Matt Gilks of Farols was voted on. I would like to thank Carl, on behalf of the section, for all of his efforts and support that he has shown the section committee over the last few years. In addition Nigel White was also voted on to with part of his remit to help our RA, Sandra Raper, develop membership numbers within the section. Other than this all other committee members and officers were voted back on with no change to their roles.

### East of England

Spalding Golf Club 16th October - a rather poor turnout for the section AGM and golf day. 1 Rob Welford, 2 Bruce Hicks, 3 Rob Bemment (including an eagle 2 at the 10th!), 4 Russ Moody. Trade Gary Cooper.

Well done to Graeme Macdonald, Rob Bemment and Rob Welford for winning the Midland Region inter section trophy for the fourth time in five years. A superb 107 points tally including an impressive 40 point total from Graeme helped secure the win by a large margin. Well done again.

## Sponsors

### Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncrop Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

### Midland

Many thanks to Campey Turf Care Systems, the prize sponsor for the Autumn Tournament at North Warwickshire. Their continued support is most appreciated. Also thanks to Whitemoss Eco, Sherriff Amenity and Countrywide for their nearest the pin donations. Finally thanks as always to Farols' Matt Gilkes and Kev Pugh for the drinks and snacks on the 1st tee.

Now we come to our ever faithful sponsors of our Section's fine calendar. I would like to apologise to Countrywide for not mentioning them last month, but you can still contact Andy Lane, Turf & Amenity Specialist on 07774 416429 or Email: [alane@countrywidefarmers.co.uk](mailto:alane@countrywidefarmers.co.uk).

This month's sponsor is Rigby Taylor and our old friend Tony 'Stilton' Cheese, he can be contacted on: 07778 665506 or email [t.cheese@rigdytaylor.com](mailto:t.cheese@rigdytaylor.com), please consider them for your fertiliser and chemical requirements.

### East Midland

Our thanks go to Farols for their generous sponsorship of the AGM competition and the quality prizes they supplied. In addition to this Mark Chamberlain of Tacit kindly organised the Longest Drives And Nearest The Pin prizes.

As ever, all trade representatives, either current or retired are always thanked for their support of our section events. This is either by their direct sponsorship, their presence or prizes donated at events. Thank you.

### East of England

Many thanks to all at Spalding Golf Club for their hospitality. Also to Steve Clarke and his staff for providing an excellent course despite the horrendous weather conditions limiting us to only 13 holes. This did however allow Steve Hopkins to get away in time for his M People concert! Thanks also go to Nigel Lovatt from Toro and Chris Sellars of Chris Sellars Groundcare for sponsoring the day and their continued support of the section.

Thanks again to White Moss Eco for sponsoring the inter section trophy. Thanks to all at Ashridge Golf Club for the course and hospitality afterwards.

## Welcome New Members

Richard McKay Affiliate Tacit; Ryan Upton Assistant Greenkeeper Rutland Water Golf Course; Garrett Edwards-Carter Assistant Greenkeeper Kirtlington Golf Club; James Bonser Greenkeeper Woburn Golf & Country Club; James Evans Greenkeeper Woburn Golf & Country Club; Joshua Martin Greenkeeper Woburn Golf & Country Club; Jack Lacy Greenkeeper Woburn Golf & Country Club.

# South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



**SURREY**  
Mark Day  
[mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk](mailto:mark.day@tacitgolf.co.uk)



**KENT**  
Rob Holland  
[premiergolf2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:premiergolf2012@hotmail.co.uk)



**SUSSEX**  
Chris Humphrey  
[chris@collier-turfcare.co.uk](mailto:chris@collier-turfcare.co.uk)



**EAST ANGLIA**  
Mick Lathrope  
[li.lathrope@ntlworld.com](mailto:li.lathrope@ntlworld.com)



**ESSEX**  
Arnold Phipps-Jones  
[essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)



**LONDON**  
John Wells  
[j.wells1@sky.com](mailto:j.wells1@sky.com)

## Events Coming Up

**London** - The Xmas tournament is on Thursday 12 December at Verulam Golf Club and is followed by the AGM. To those that can't make I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the London Committee and wish that you can make it to Harrogate as it's a great place to learn more and keep up to date in this fast moving industry. And meet for a drink after a day's work!

- Talking of learning, we can now confirm speakers for the London section education day on Tuesday 18 February at Oaklands College Welwyn Garden City. We have Murray Long - Sunningdale, Jon Lockyear - Roehampton (previously STRI), Stuart Yarwood MG - Lymm Golf Club, Rob Phillips - Sandy Lodge.

## News

**East Anglia** - Did not make Bury St Edmunds unfortunately, but understand that the course was in excellent condition, thanks to Steve Millard and his men, and the food was great.

## Results

**East Anglia** - Handicap 0 - 9 Nick Brewster 37, James Burton 34 (CB), Handicap 10 - 18 Nick Chase 43, Nick Howes 36, Handicap 19 - 28 Craig Cameron 35, Martin Brightwell - 30. Longest Drive 0-18 Adrian Hollins, 19-28 Nick Ashman. Nearest The Pin Andrew Howarth. Paul Craske, George Butters. Trade & Guest John Bishop 36, Brian Allan 34. Normal squit will resume as soon as possible.

## Thanks to Sponsors

**East Anglia** - Main sponsors were Tomlinson groundcare. Other sponsors were Aitkens, Everris, Symbio, Earnest Doe and Toro - if I have missed any out I apologise as information is limited.

## Welcome New Members

Tom Searle Affiliate Britrisk Safety Ltd; Colin Chapman Affiliate Coombe Hill Golf Club; Matthew Simmons Assistant Greenkeeper Westerham Golf Club; Robert Curry Course Manager Hockley Golf Club; Ross Mackie Greenkeeper Sundridge Park Golf Club; Grant Burger Course Manager Rustington Golf Club; Mark Townley Assistant Greenkeeper Rustington Golf Club.

## South West & South Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



**SOUTH WEST –**  
Jaey Goodchild  
j.goodchild@  
bowood.org



**SOUTH COAST –**  
Tony Gadd  
greenkeeper  
bosgc@gmail.com



**DEVON &  
CORNWALL**  
George Pitts  
gpitts@  
yelvertongolf.co.uk



**SOUTH WALES**  
Andrew Hatcher  
andrewhatcher1@  
msn.com

## Events Coming Up

### South Wales

Friday 13 December we head to Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, let's hope it's not unlucky.

### South West

A final reminder about our Section Christmas Tournament on 19 December, please note that this event will be held at Cotswold Hills Golf Club. Bacon rolls from 9.30, tee times from 10. Many thanks to Wayne Vincent for his assistance in organising this event.

### South Coast

South Coast Turkey Trot, Weybrook Park GC 10 December, if you haven't yet booked contact Tony on greenkeeper@gmail.com.

## News

### South Wales

The section has sponsored Greg Williams to attend BTME, don't forget to book your place.

Our recent tour of the Millennium Stadium was very informative. A big thanks to Craig Campbell for giving us an insight of the complex.

A huge thank you to Peter Holmstrom for his support and correspondence on Around The Green, well done mate.

A warm welcome to Tracey Harvey our new Regional Administrator.

### South Coast

Half day seminar and section AGM was well attended with 44. Mark Hunt from Headland gave us a great presentation, many thanks Mark for your time. This format will be repeated next year to gain a good cross section of members views.

Welcome to Jamie Acton on joining the section committee. The committee nominated Joe Cooper for the sponsored place to BTME, well done Joe for your hard work and ongoing support.

### South West

Our education coordinator Paul Worster has been very busy organising training sessions for excavator training, please contact Paul (paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) should you wish to reserve a place on these popular courses. Additionally we are seeking interest in abrasive wheel certification training, again please contact Paul for details.

Once again the section will be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Please contact any of the committee members to express your interest in this fantastic opportunity.

Finally, we are in the process of updating our contact details for all South West section members, it would be huge help if all section members were to drop me a quick email to confirm your name and email address.

## Results

### South Wales

Results from Machynys Peninsula GC: 1 Rhys Mcdonagh 32, 2 Jamie Probert 31, 3 Big D 30. Longest Drive Ian Kinley. Nearest the pin Rhys Mcdonagh & Ian Kinley. Thanks to Marcus Weaver and his staff for the fantastic presentation of the course and holding our autumn tournament & AGM.

## Thanks to Sponsors

### South Coast

Sponsors for the half day seminar and AGM were Countrywide, many thanks to them.

### South West

Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

## Welcome New Members

Gavin Rogerson Assistant Greenkeeper Kendleshire Golf Club;  
Seamus Moriarty Deputy Head Greenkeeper Basingstoke Golf Club;  
Eduardo Vargas Greenkeeper Celtic Manor Resort South Wales;  
Thomas Frampton Assistant Greenkeeper Morlais Castle Golf Club.  
International: Goran Hansson Affiliate Swedish Golf Federation.

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6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

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- Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
- Hazards - information and weblinks

For further information contact:



# Membership Benefit



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Access via the Members Area of [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), in Member Resources



# 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

This month Jake Waites from Bridgwater College explains his education vision and discusses the question “What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?”

**During BTME 2013 the GTC invited its Quality Assured Centre sports turf representatives to meet with Quality Assured Training Providers. This was designed to encourage sharing of human and physical resources between Centres and Providers.**

The event proved very successful and David Golding, GTC's Education Director, is continually hearing excellent examples of its QA Training Providers being invited to QA Centres both to share specialist subject knowledge and in some situations equipment and machinery.

David explained: “Many companies and their knowledgeable staff would love to support and contribute more but until the introduction of the GTC Quality Assured Scheme in 2010 it was impossible for companies to support the many colleges and private companies offering sports turf courses and qualifications.

“However, now with a limited number of QA Centres - two in Scotland, two in Wales and six in England - it is now far easier to develop a strong Centre – Training Provider partnership.

“QA Centres offer the formal government accredited qualifications however they are also best placed to compliment these courses with specialist short-courses, workshops and seminars.”

David invited Jake Waites, Sports Turf Trainer/Assessor at GTC's Quality Assured Centre, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre to explain his Centre's vision on how best to provide both formal and informal education and training courses, workshops and seminars to best suit employers and sports turf students needs with input from QA Training Providers and guest presenters. Here are Jake's views.

## What makes a great Head Greenkeeper?

I would propose that the lines are becoming increasingly blurred. You live and die on the quality of your greens' used to be the maxim but with the development of the game and the increasing complexities involved in successfully managing a golf course, is it still enough just to deliver consistently high quality surfaces? It would be nice to be able to say 'yes' to this but is that still really the answer?

I am not suggesting for a minute that the hard earned knowledge and ability that goes into presenting your golf course is in any way redundant but how often have you found yourself thinking 'I used to be a greenkeeper, now I'm an Administrator/Communications expert/Finance and Human Resources manager as well!' With this being the case, how can you ensure that you still have the skills to meet the challenge?

For those entering our industry as apprentices, for assistants with a level of previous experience who are looking to build on it and for those who have aspirations to be the next generation of Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers, the training paths remain familiar and well travelled.

As one of the GTC's quality assured training centres, here at Bridgwater College's Cannington Centre our primary focus is to ensure that all these groups receive the training they require. We still feel that the Work Based L2 and L3 Diplomas (formerly known as NVQ's) offer the best solution both for the student and the employer, offering as they do a combination of real on-job experience and underpinning knowledge delivered in the classroom or workplace.

However, for those who have achieved a more senior level and for



The GTC is funded by:



those ready to make a step up, the available routes are sometimes less obvious.

There are excellent options for further and higher levels of study and these programmes have helped drive the standards within our industry to higher and higher levels, but in the increasingly pressurised working environments which managers and supervisors find themselves in, the time commitment involved can prove to be a significant obstacle.

So, how can we address this training shortfall without having to use up too much of this precious commodity?

An excellent means of continuing your professional and personal development is to carry out a SWOT analysis of current abilities and then target events and short courses that meet the shortfalls





you have identified. This may be by approaching your local college, through BIGGA's excellent Continue to Learn programme at BTME, through regional seminars and workshops or GTC events.

The workshop model in particular provides an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, discuss techniques and share best practice with your peers in an interactive environment.

Earlier this year we ran the first in a series of workshops entitled "Smarter Greenkeeping". Guest speakers at the first session were Laurence Pithie from Turf Master One training and Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and former BIGGA Chairman.

The first workshop covered all aspects of bunker renovation and maintenance, using various case

studies as examples and their personal experience which spans over 70 years in the business.

The second workshop focused on how greenkeepers can be more influential in the workplace and how presentations for capital expenditure can be made more effectively.

We have worked closely with Laurence in developing future topics for the series.

Our upcoming events are:

12 December 2013

**Greens Performance**

13 February 2014

**Planning & Budgeting**

13 March 2014

**Managing with less**

In addition to Laurence's input, we will also look to incorporate both other GTC Quality Assured Train-

ing Providers and some of the local talent! Here in the south west of the country we are blessed in having some of the most experienced and knowledgeable minds in the industry (we are after all in Jim Arthur's parish). It is a tribute to the industry in which we work in that these busy people are so willing to give their time to share their experience and best practice.

**For course enquiries contact Helen Goodland: Goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk or Tel: 07753 311160**

**To register on workshops contact Jane Wagner, Commercial Manager, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Bridgwater College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS.**

**WAGNERJ@bridgwater.ac.uk  
Tel 01278 655065  
Mobile 07917 475641**

#### Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director  
and European Greenkeeping  
Education Unit Standards  
Director

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk  
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Photo courtesy of Ridding Park  
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