Well, we are into another year and hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive activities and getting ready for another season on the course... or are you stuck in the shed painting things for the umpteen time because of the weather? There's not a great deal happening with regards to Section activities at the moment but it won't be long before we are back into the swing of things.

Everyone should have received notice of the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery's new premises at Inverkeithing next month and the visit to Stewart's top dressing plant and premises at Dalkeith in March. As both these companies are making their facilities available to us on those days please give them and YOUR Section some support. If you wish you are welcome to bring along a member of your club committee and it will give them an insight into a side of the golf course which they probably give little thought to.

Another date for your diary is the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed during the week there. It would appear that a certain Andy O'Hara has gained nationwide fame (or is it notoriety?) regarding his exploits in the sporting world as everywhere he goes he is asked if he is THE Andy O'Hara whose name keeps appearing in the magazine! Well this may be the last you will hear of him (for a while anyway) as he has vowed to get revenge on me for making him the topic of conversation across the country, but if you wish to join the Andy O'Hara Fan Club he can be contacted c/o Leven Links, Fife!

Well, that's all folks! See you next month unless I happen to meet up with a certain Section member before then.

John Crawford

North

The Section AGM was held at Macdonald GC, Ellon preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match. The weather was good and 25 members contested a close fought match with Chairman Hugh Mclatchie's team triumphing by 3 matches to 2 with one match halved. Thanks to John Geddes and his staff for the great condition of the course and the bar and catering staff for fulfilling our inner needs. Thanks also to Alex Cruickshank, of Daval Products, for presenting a trophy to the winning team at BTME this month. Patron Winner Bradley Wood, Westhill, was unable to take up the offer of a trip to BTME so John Morton, Alford, will take his place.

We had to cancel the Section dinner due to a poor response and lost our deposit. Next year's outings are Fortrose and Rosemarkie in May and Alford in September, more details to follow.

We are also planning a bus trip to the Stewart's turf farm, anyone interested get in touch with Dougal now. There are still some library books missing, anyone who can help find them please get in touch.

We are planning a conference for November this year, anyone with ideas for speakers please let me know as soon as possible. This is your chance to choose the programme that you would like to see on the day.

Congratulations to Andrew Macrae, who moves from Royal Dornoch to be Head Greenkeeper at nearby Golspie where he hails from.

The final four winners in our 200 Club were as follows: September £30 - Gordon Mackie, Edzell; October £30 - Michael Clar, Kingswells; November £30 - Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer; December £100 - Alex Cruickshank, Ayr. The 200 Club was a great success again with all tickets sold so lets keep the trend going this year to raise funds for the Section.

Finally, I hope to see as many Section members as possible at BTME this month as well as all old friends for what promises to be another great week. One of the highlights must surely be David MacIndoe's talk during the Seminar programme. I can hardly wait. See you all at Harrogate.

Iain Macleod

West

A Happy New Year to all West Section members – may we have as good a season as last year. For my sins (of which there are plenty) I now take over the reins as Chairman of your Section. I hope everything runs smoothly. I would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of John Scott for their help last year and to John we would like to say a big thank you for your efforts during the year. A lot of John's time was spent on the phone smoothing things over and getting people to commit themselves in different ways. Well done John we wish you well.

Now I have your attention – where are all the members, are you speechless or just not interested with what is going on. We as a committee try to organise events to satisfy a need but the reaction are less than enthusiastic. Feedback would be appreciated for suggestions, comments, complaints or even just a good argument then contact me at 0141 942 5554. Last year I received not a single call about individual personal points of interest, thank god for trade members. Well, now I've said my piece.

A report on events recently – the Gentleman's night was a success from all accounts with some 35 people from our Section in attendance being entertained by two very pleasant young ladies. Derek Wilson, from the Ayrshire Section, has to be thanked for his efforts, glad the night went well. Our apologies to those who didn't get enough of the finger food – we will endeavour to rectify the savagery in future.

Now for the Annual Dinner at the Admiral Bar. On the night a poor turn out was in evidence but other than the short delays the evening was successful. The comedian, Mike Cash, spoke fast and furiously – if you turned your head the punchline was gone – we thank him for his one liners. The meal was well presented – home style cooking and very enjoyable. Thanks to the main organisers for the night. Brian Hillian and Sandy Bulloch for their efforts. Thanks also to the sponsors of raffle prizes, this was much appreciated helping towards the funds for the evening and for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Next year a change could be in the offing, suggestions are welcome.
Sheffield

Happy New Year to you all!

On November 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC followed by our Annual General Meeting.

Our thanks go to Robert Laycock, Turf Consultant, for giving us a very interesting lecture on grass tissue analysis which was enjoyed by all our members present.

After the lecture we were introduced to our new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell, who gave a short speech on what he hopes to achieve for the Northern Region. Then we held our AGM which was attended by quite a lot of our members but not everyone was in attendance with 44 competitors among them.

It was passed that the committee stayed the same, apart from Steve Hurd who stood down. I would like to thank Steve on behalf of the Section for all the work he did on the committee. It was proposed and passed that David Chappell be elected to the committee. The committee is as follows:

President – Ken Arnold, Chairman – Neil Maltby, Treasurer/Vice Chairman – David Milbourne, Secretary – Ron Ullathorne, Competition Secretary – Barry Heaney, Committee Members – Steve Currie, Jeremy Duffield, David Chappell and John Lax.

Thanks also to Amenity Turf supplies for providing the raffle prizes, thanks Steve.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve who recently played in the Kubota Challenge and won both of his games but unfortunately the greenkeepers came 3rd, well done Paul.

On November 24 we held our Christmas competition at Rotherham GC and our thanks go to Rotherham for giving us courtesy of their course. It was a very cloudy day but fortunately it stayed dry and was enjoyed by everyone who played. Our thanks go to David Chappell and his staff for the excellent condition of the course in such wet weather - well done Dave! Our thanks also go to the Steward and his staff for providing an excellent Christmas dinner which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks also to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylors for being the main sponsor of the competition and providing some excellent prizes. Thanks also to the other trade members who provided prizes including Gem, Purdys, Atkins, Henton and Chatteris and Amenity Turf Supplies. Some good golf was played and congratulations go to Colin Hopper who with 22 pts won the competition, well done Colin! The results were: -


The winner of the trade prize was Peter Fell, well done Peter.

The day was rounded off with a lovely meal and speeches. I wish you all a happy New Year and any news, please ring me on 0114 254 5142.

Bert Cross

North Wales

Well this month has been very quiet, yet again. We must all be very content in our work and lives and nothing must have happened in the whole of the Section as again no one has phoned with any information.

The Christmas competition and AGM was held on December 3 at Northop Park Country for inviting us, Ian and his team for the presentation of the course, after what had been atrocious weather conditions in the lead up to the event, and the Captain for presenting the prizes.

The AGM was attended by 33 members as well as Doug Bell, our Regional Administrator. I took the Chair in my role as acting Chairman and spoke about the events of the past 12 months. We have a situation in our Section where our golf and educational events are very well supported compared to most other Sections considering our membership is relatively small, but we didn’t get one single entry for the Section’s annual turnover and with increased market competition eventually led Brian and Freda to decide that enough was enough and ceased trading in October 1997. We greenkeepers have a lot to do as we stand on the brink of a new millennium, we are always willing to support us and give us technical information about equipment before purchase and after. Our sincere thanks goes to Brian and Freda for not only supporting us, but also giving us the opportunity to learn and improve our level of service.

I wish you all a happy New Year and any news, please ring me on 01051 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

B Skeen, Horticultural Machinery Ltd, has gone out of business. Brian and Freda have been main agents and distributors for grass machinery companies for 30 years and have built up the biggest and most modern business in the North East. A major new development some years ago was followed by local authorities having to go out to contractors for tenders and these contractors took over business from Brian and Freda.

Brian and Freda for not only supporting us, but also giving us the opportunity to learn and improve our level of service. Brian and Freda for not only supporting us, but also giving us the opportunity to learn and improve our level of service.

I wish you all a happy New Year and any news, please ring me on 01051 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Midland Region

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

I would like to start by wishing everyone all the best for the New Year and trust all of you had an enjoyable Christmas. We can now look ahead to the annual trip to Harrogate and BTME and the usual high quality of the show and hospitality.
There are some final winners of 97 which I need to mention and congratulate them on their achievements, these are as follows:- Ritefeed single's winner is Rob Shaw who beat Paul Loffman in the final at Little Aston. Rugby Taylor double's winner's are Steve Wood and Mike Hughes, who beat Nigel Couchman and Rob Shaw in the final at Woburn. The Gross Cup was won by Tony Cheese and the Nett Cup was won by Martin Jones.

As this report has been written in November I have no details of new committee members and of the tournaments for 98 so I will keep you informed on these matters and indeed any other matters of interest in future reports and again I would appreciate any news or stories which you have which I can put into this report, my home number is 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members – Ronald Wheeler, Benn Chamberlain, Malcolm Mitchell, Stephen Bernhard, Simon Hardman, Lee Mole, Matthew Turner, Nicholas Clarke and Jason Moleworth.

Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

This year's AGM was held at Greetham Valley, in Rutland, on Bonfire night. Although only 25 greenkeepers were present the meeting was one of our longest at 57 minutes. I would like to thank our retiring Chairman, Tim Allard, for his two years in office and also welcome our new Chairman, Dave Leatherland. The Vice Chairman is now Gavin Robson and Richard Barker and myself remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The Section also welcomes Kevin Davis and Steven Heap to the committee and would like to thank our retiring committee members Pete Partnow and Paul Tatlow for all their work.

Before the AGM the day started with a Texas Scramble format golf competition. No fireworks appeared with the scores although every score was just below par, the results were as follows:- 1. S. Goode, G. Robson, P. Fell, 64.4; 2. A. Bindley, D. Leatherland, T. Allard, 64.8; 3. K. Davis, G. Arnold, A. Mellow, 64.8. Our gratitude is owed once again to Vitax Ltd for providing again an excellent prize table. Thanks also should be extended to Greetham Valley for courtesy of their fine golf course which was in super condition. Also thanks to the steward and stewardess for a great meal.

Next year's AGM will be held at Lutterworth GC, on November 13, at 4.30 pm.

This year's Regional Seminar, held at The Saints Rugby Club, Northampton, was very well supported with over 80 delegates attending an excellent day. I would like to thank all the companies for their support to the seminar and to thank our Regional Administrator for all his great work on the day.

My two years as Regional Chairman have now elapsed and this position will go to the Vice Chairman, David Walden, at the Region's next meeting. I have had two really enjoyable years in this role, firstly being involved in the appointment of our Regional Administrator, judging greenkeepers and their courses for the 1996 Miracle award and representing the Region in the 1997 Kubota Golf Challenge at the Belfry. I would like to wish David well in his role as Chairman.

Antony Bindley

BB & O

The last golfing event of the season was held at Richings Park GC back in November. Although the weather was miserable the day was enjoyed by all with some very good scores posted. There were 13 golf clubs represented in teams of three but unfortunately the prizes were shared by only two clubs, Burnham and Beaconsfield:- 1. N. Storey, J. Brooks & D. Manning, 83 pts; 2. B. Payne, B. Payne (jun) & D. Schillaci, 79 pts; 3. C. Lillitou, M. Skelton & B. Paterson, 79 pts. Nearest the Pin – B. Payne; Longest Drive – M. Skelton.

Thanks to GEM Products for providing the wonderful prizes and thanks to Bernie for his contributions once again. Many thanks to Richings Park for their hospitality on the day – the food was first class!

Congratulations to Phil Russell and his team for providing a superb test of golf, all who played were very complimentary.

The AGM was supposed to follow the golf but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It is planned to send out a Chairman's report in the coming weeks with a balance of our account to date. In the meantime if anybody has any comments please put pen to paper to phone me on 01491 578147.

I would like to thank all on the committee for their continued support this past year, all of whom have given up their valuable time to attend various meetings.

Finally we would like to spread the golf days around the Section so if you fancy hosting one of these prestigious events then please let me know as soon as possible.

Lindsay T Anderson

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 268056

Sussex

Well, Christmas is over and the lucky ones are looking forward to a week in Harrogate, which if it is anything like last year, it will be a week to remember.

The AGM was held at Haywards Heath GC again on Wednesday, November 19. A total of 29 members attended which is an improvement on last year but still low considering there are 190 members. As stated in the last write up there are a few changes to the committee. Regretably, Chris Allen has decided to step down as Vice Chairman due to ill health. Raymond Day has also asked to be replaced after six years as Secretary. Stefan Antolik has vacated the position of minute/match secretary.

Members voted in are Jon Hill as Vice Chairman, Stefan Antolik as Secretary and Neil Cleverley as Match Secretary. There have been other members voted on to the committee and I will let you know their names next time. I can pass on our thanks to committee members past and present for all their efforts and hard work. Special thanks to Sue Antonik for all the work and support she has given to Stefan and the Section over the past years.

There were some interesting discussions during the meeting including ideas for different types of social events to include non-golfing members of the Section, plus a possible open forum on education to be attended by representatives of local colleges. You will be notified of these when they are arranged. Hopefully we can attract some new faces to these events.

During the meeting Daniel Negus, of Wellington GC, informed us of the tragic death of Ben Deacon in a road accident. Ben, who was only 21, had worked at Singing Hills and Hassocks. Can I pass on our sympathy to Ben’s family and friends, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

By the time you read this article, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton will have been held. The results will be printed next month. The two best eclectic scores for the season, qualifying for free
entry to the competition are Jon Hill and Chris Reed.

If there are any Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers not at the AGM who are interested in gaining their D32/33 Assessor Training Award they can get more information by ringing 01323 763817.

The Spring meeting will be held at the Dyke GC and Silinfold Park GC will host the Summer meeting. We still need a venue for the Autumn meeting. If you can help us with this or have anything you want included in this column, please contact me on 01403 751567 (home) or 0589 531630 (mobile). Colin Cathie

Essex

The Essex Section held their golf day and AGM on December 3, at Orsett GC. Thanks to Carl for the course and the golf club for allowing us to play - after snow the day before the course was in good condition. Thanks to Banks Amenity for the prizes for the day. Richard Price won first prize on a countback from Andy Sheehan, both having 39 points, but every player won a prize including:- Guest Prize - John Taylor; Trade Prize - Edward Clarkson; Longest Drive - Richard Pride; Nearest the Pin - Lee Adams; Booby Prize (1 point!) - Andrew Wharton. Thanks to the trade who donated raffle prizes namely Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop Amenity, Tuckwells, Parker Hart, Grass Roots Trading, Edward Clarkson, Bourne Amenity, CMW and the Greenkeeping Supply Company. After the golf and prize giving we had a splendid dinner thanks to the caterers.

The AGM started at 6 pm. It was a very well organised affair and thanks go to the Chairman. A new committee was formed which is:- President - David Wells, Vice President - Andy Sheehan, Chairman - Carl Crocher, Secretary - Martin Forrester, Treasurer - Richard Pride, Education Officer - Reg Hooker, Handicap Secretary - Mick Fance, Scribe - David Wells, Committee members - John Selwood and Steve Cox.

With a healthy bank balance we should have a good year. The golf days for next year are:- April - Burnham-on-Crouch GC; June 2 - Channels GC; August 7 - Thorpe Hall GC; August 26 - Stoke-by-Nayland GC (with East Anglian Section); October 7 - Maylands GC; December - Orsett GC and AGM. Our four major winners for last year were Richard Pride, Chris Ward, Andy Sheehan and Andy Toomes. The Golfer of the Year was John Selwood - well played you lot!

Just a few words about education in the Essex Section. Writtle College held its second meeting of the Sports turf and Greenkeeping Industrial Advisory Panel on December 1 1997. The set up of the Panel has given vital feedback to Writtle College from us, the industry, on how we would like to see education progress. Topics for discussion included improvements to increase the success of the NVQ Level Two and the new HNC Sports Turf Science which can include NVQ 3 Sports Turf Maintenance.

For those who are looking to widen and increase their knowledge in grass science the HNC is ideal. You can join at any time as it is broken up into modules. For more details phone Stewart Brown, at Writtle College, on 01245 420705.

The education dates for 1998 are Tuesday February 3, Tuesday March 27 and Wednesday November 4, all at Writtle College in the main building, room L60 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There is also a one day supervisory course with Frank Newberry (limited to 12 places) on Tuesday March 10 at Stock Brook Manor GC.

That's about all for 1997. Hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Wells

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive. We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

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Comment From Walter Woods
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Around the Green

this year's Kubota competition at The Belfry. He expressed his disappointment that no summer meetings took place and with the input of the Section Committee.

The Chairman moved on to the Section Administrator and recommended to members present that they should vote R. Whyman back into office. The Chairman informed members that R. Whyman is without doubt the finest Section Administrator and is held in high esteem by HQ. The Chairman then turned to the sad part of the report for him as he informed members present that he had resigned from his position on the Regional Board and as Chairman of Section due to the dispute which the Secretary had mentioned in his report. It had been a great honour for him to hold these positions within BIGGA. He wished BIGGA and the Region one of the most stable Regions within BIGGA. If we do not give Westurf our full support things could change quite rapidly.

Unfortunately after the up-side there has got to be a down-side. I am referring to Westurf. Our support of Westurf is not as good as it should be. Westurf is the one event of the year that keeps our Region one of the most stable Regions within BIGGA. If we do not give Westurf our full support our course could not have been as successful as it has. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the ‘Turkey Trot’ and AGM. I will give a full report of the proceedings in the February report.

The Belfry. He expressed his disappointment that no summer meetings this year were held due to the poor weather. He thought that the winter meetings were very well attended and the winter meetings were a great success. The financial year of £116.16. The approval of the balance sheet was proposed by A. Parker and seconded by C. Gadsby and approved by those present.

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The Secretary felt that the balance sheet was self explanatory and invited any questions from members present, there were none. The approval of the balance sheet was proposed by A. Parker and seconded by C. Gadsby and approved by those present.

The Secretary continued his report by informing members that he had resigned as Chairman of the Region with effect from November 11 1997. He also informed members present that he did not wish to hold any political position within BIGGA for the foreseeable future, if the membership present wished he would like to continue to administer the Section affairs. He continued by thanking Section Chairman, Bill Mitchell, for his support over those difficult months and for his shoulder to cry on and to the many members who have supported him.

The Secretary felt that the Association must continue to go forward to achieve its main aim, which is education for all greenkeepers from Course Manager to trainee. This can only help greenkeeping to continue to become more professional and he pleaded with members present not to allow our Association to become just a golfing society as we would quickly lose our credibility.

The Secretary welcomed the Region's Administrator to the meeting. He explained that Paula had taken on the difficult task of continuing the excellent work Gordon and Marion Child had achieved over the last ten years but was glad to say that Paula has continued the good work and with her part-time appointment Paula has had more time to visit golf clubs to meet members at their place of work. He hoped Paula would receive the support that members had shown to Gordon and Marion.

The Chairman opened his report by congratulating T. Pipe on representing the Section in the future and hoped that his successor will gain the same satisfaction. The Chairman then turned to the sad part of the report for him as he informed members present that he had resigned from his position on the Regional Board and as Chairman of Section due to the dispute which the Secretary had mentioned in his report. It had been a great honour for him to hold these positions within BIGGA. He wished BIGGA and the Region one of the most stable Regions within BIGGA. If we do not give Westurf our full support things could change quite rapidly. Some of you are saying it's the wrong time of year, others it's too far to travel. The travelling part is no problem – a coach can be arranged. The time of year - whether this can be changed or not I don't know. A lot of things have to be taken into consideration.

There are a lot of other events that have to be considered when a date for Westurf is being made. If you have any constructive ideas please let one of your committee members know. The whole object of the exercise is to get as many people to Westurf as possible. By more of you attending it is hoped to attract more members of the trade. We would also like you to bring along members of your committees, secretaries, managers and golf club owners. Please make a note in red in your diaries for Westurf on April 29 at Long Ashton. On Wednesday, February 4, at 7pm we are holding our Quiz Night at Bramshaw GC. It was quite successful last year. Having said that we would like to see a few more faces there as there are quite a lot of new members in the Section. What better time to meet everybody! It should be a good evening so bring along your wives, girlfriends etc. if you can. Produce a team from your golf club, great. If you come on your own, don't worry, we will soon fix you up. You don't have to be mastermind – it's just a good night out. The way to put your minds at rest the questions will not be on greenkeeping.

On November 6 we went on our visit to The London GC which was quite an experience. The coach started off from Bournemouth, travelled through the Section and then on to the notorious M25. Then it was on to Sevenoaks in Kent and our first introduction was the security at the gate, not the place where you drive in and pay your green fee. The coach then made its way along the road through the golf courses, the International and the Heritage, both long courses. There are 179 bunkers on the International and 79 on the Heritage. They are all steeply mounded and call for a lot of Flymo work. We were met by Steve Jones, the Course Superintendent, who gave us an introductory chat while we had our coffee. This included a brief history of the courses and introduction of his staff of 29 in the winter and increasing to 40 in the summer. We then had a tour of the greenkeeping complex and when I say greenkeeping complex that's what I mean. A far cry from the greenkeepers sheds that we all know so well. The machinery complex was so vast that they could play basketball in there! We then moved on to the mechanics workshop and store where there was all the up-to-date equipment plus two apprentices. Next was the irrigation mechanics workshop and store. Then we saw the irri-
North End

Our first joint section meeting held at Greenmount College went extremely well last month. We had an excellent turnout of 107 attending the Fine Turf Management seminar sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf. We had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to Robin Blackford, Technical Support Manager, Hayter speaking on Safe Mowing Practices, Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush GC and North East Section Chairman speaking on Pests, Problems and Diseases, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer speaking on Reasons for Education and David Garland, Director of Operations at the PGA European Tour speaking about Life on the Tour and also having a look at some of the rulings that he and his colleagues have been involved with. I must say that everyone found this most informative and entertaining. I would like to thank on behalf of both BIGGA Sections in Northern Ireland all the speakers for giving their time to speak to us and making the day an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank Pat Murphy, BIGGA's Chairman and Janet Adamson, Membership Officer for helping us to organise our first ever Seminar. Finally I would like to thank John Lindsay for sponsoring the event helping to make it such a success.

At the Seminar, Greenmount College took the opportunity to award the NVQ Level 1 and 2 Supervisory Management certificates which were presented by Pat Murphy. This has been the first time that Greenmount College has run this course. Students study one day a week on day release for two years. "It was a demanding course and required the student to input a lot of his own time, but it was very enjoyable to do. All of us built up a good rapport with each other and made lasting friendships. The college lecturers are dedicated to the students and were prepared to do anything to help" said Emmorn Farrell, E Farrell

RANSOMES, SISIS, TORO, JACOBSEN, HOLLAND, KUBOTA, ISEKI, MASSEY FERGUSON DENNIS, LONG-EQUIP, BLEC & HAYTER/BEAVER.

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LARGE SELECTION OF MACHINES BY:

FOR AROUND THE GREEN

November saw the South West greenkeepers visit Shirlehampton GC in Bristol for our Autumn tournament and AGM. Shirlehampton is a delightful course that has cleverly been shoe horned into a very small area. It especially suited my form of golf as I found I could drive with my usual military precision (ie left, right, left, right) and could not only find my ball but actually find myself on another fairway with a shot onto a distant green. We then selected the outing to put to the golf course and in the case of Cameron, how to take a rubbish tip and build a golf course.

Marc Haring

NORTHERN IRELAND

North East

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North East

Our first joint section meeting held at Greenmount College went extremely well last month. We had an excellent turnout of 107 attending the Fine Turf Management seminar sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf. We had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to Robin Blackford, Technical Support Manager, Hayter speaking on Safe Mowing Practices, Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush GC and North East Section Chairman speaking on Pests, Problems and Diseases, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer speaking on Reasons for Education and David Garland, Director of Operations at the PGA European Tour speaking about Life on the Tour and also having a look at some of the rulings that he and his colleagues have been involved with. I must say that everyone found this most informative and entertaining. I would like to thank on behalf of both BIGGA Sections in Northern Ireland all the speakers for giving their time to speak to us and making the day an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank Pat Murphy, BIGGA's Chairman and Janet Adamson, Membership Officer for helping us to organise our first ever Seminar. Finally I would like to thank John Lindsay for sponsoring the event helping to make it such a success.

At the Seminar, Greenmount College took the opportunity to award the NVQ Level 1 and 2 Supervisory Management certificates which were presented by Pat Murphy. This has been the first time that Greenmount College has run this course. Students study one day a week on day release for two years. "It was a demanding course and required the student to input a lot of his own time, but it was very enjoyable to do. All of us built up a good rapport with each other and made lasting friendships. The college lecturers are dedicated to the students and were prepared to do anything to help" said Emmorn Farrell, E Farrell

RANSOMES, SISIS, TORO, JACOBSEN, HOLLAND, KUBOTA, ISEKI, MASSEY FERGUSON DENNIS, LONG-EQUIP, BLEC & HAYTER/BEAVER.