complement the success of tests already confirming that anchoring divots ensures rapid regrowth of the turf.

With the escalating costs of fairway maintenance and irrigation installation, it is sensible to preserve mature divot turf by anchoring, especially during the winter period.

Originally intended as an aid for greenkeepers it is apparent that Divot Anchors should be used primarily by the golfers themselves who habitually take substantial divots.

Newart has now made available a "Locker Room Dispenser" to hold divot anchors which also advises on the reasons for their use and anchoring instructions.

Players can now anchor their own turf and any other substantial displaced divots they encounter during their round.

The member has then made a meaningful input into maintaining the quality and appearance of his Club's fairways and Tees. The Locker Room Dispenser is offered free with very initial order use and anchoring instructions.

For further information: Tel: 0181 445 1603.

Efficient competitively priced and tamper-proof - that's the specification for the latest addition to the Maddalena range of water meters.

Manufactured on a completely automated production line - the first of its kind in Europe - the new ONE TRP Single Jet Water Meter meets a long felt demand in providing a unit which combines the price and easy installation advantages of a simple submersed meter with the long life reliability, accuracy and tamper-proof characteristics of a sealed unit.

As a result, the Maddalena ONE TRP is suitable for a huge range of secondary metering applications in domestic and commercial properties, on farms, mobile home sites, marinas and in public sector buildings such as hospitals and schools - wherever there is a need to keep an accurate check on water consumption in the sure knowledge that the meter is impervious to tampering by means of magnets etc.

The Maddalena ONE TRP meter is a single jet inferential type designed for direct reading of cold water consumption by means of numbered drums. The drums are housed in a sealed capsule filled with a special liquid and governed by a device which maintains equal pressure both inside and outside the retaining capsule. An anti fogging system ensures a clear reading of the consumption indicated in all conditions and the ONE TRP meter can be safely used with any kind of water even if particularly hard scaling or muddy.

The meter features a brass alloy construction for body and cap with a protective plate glass viewing panel above the sealed capsule which houses the numbered drum indicators. The unit cannot be influenced by external magnetic fields.

Four sizes are available from 1/2 inch (13mm) to 1 1/4 inch (30mm) for working pressures up to 16 bar. Special versions of the meter are available for hot water applications up to 90°C and/or for data transmission by telemetry.

The new Maddalena ONE TRP range offers hydraulic performance according to Class B EEC 75.33.

For further information: Tel: 0181 941 7177.

British Seed Houses has launched its new range of "Regional Environmental Mixtures", in addition to the extensive range of "Grade A" amenity mixtures.

Regional Environmental Mixtures are wild flora mixtures whose make-up is based on the National Vegetation Classification Survey (NVC).

It is the very first time that wild flora mixtures have been produced and presented to the market in this way and the new range combines the benefits of quality, performance, flexibility and ease of use. The mixtures are simplified versions of plant communities growing within the UK.

As well as simplifying the specification process, another important advantage of the range is that it provides reassurance that the chosen mixture is ecologically correct for the identified geographical area. This is because, in addition to soil type, the make-up of each mixture takes into account other influencing factors such as rainfall, altitude and aspect, which also play a major role in wild flora establishment.

The Regional Environmental Mixture range is formulated using wild flower seed stocks derived only from UK native origin. Seeds are produced and harvested in single species so that quality in terms of trueness to type, germination and purity can be carefully monitored.

Allen Power Equipment Ltd has diversified by adding a new product range to its portfolio, which is designed to sell-out in all seasons - Thunder Karts. Already well known for its garden/estate machinery and outdoors power equipment, Allen saw the Karts as a natural extension to its product range. They are ideally suited to both their national network of dealers (who have been providing the Karts since October 1996) and the existing customer base.

Golf Clubs wishing to increase the range of facilities and 'attractions' they can offer their members may well feel Thunder Karts provide the ideal solution.

The Thunder Karts from America (where they have been produced for 20 years) were chosen because of their top quality manufacture. Three models are available, SLXL700, XL700 and Thunderette, all powered by Briggs & Stratton engines.

Important safety features, which are incorporated into the design of all models, include a unique throttle override system (which ensures that when the brakes are applied this immediately overrides the throttle) and a safety flag. The XL models also include seat belts and a safety cage, for added protection.

Lance Bassett, Sales Director at Allen reported that "As the weather pattern in the UK is continually changing from year to year, we felt Allen needed a range of products that was not connected with grass cutting. "Thunder Karts provide the ideal answer as dealers are already well conversant with the tried and tested Briggs & Stratton engine used to power the Karts. In the US sales increased by 30% last year and we are sure Thunder Karts will have equal appeal in the UK."

Aimed at the teenage market, the SLXL700 and XL700, are both double-seat, single wheel pull versions, with band brakes and automatic chain adjuster on the 41" chain. The SLXL700's overall size is 72" x 40" (front and rear cleat tyres 5.30x6) and XL700 is 66" x 40" (ATV Tyres 45/70x6" front and rear).

The third Kart is the single seat Thunderette (based on Corvette) with fibre glass body on the standard Thunder Kart chassis.

The rsp of the Karts starts at £999.95 (including VAT) and further details can be obtained: Tel: 01235 813936.
SCOTTISH
REGION
Elliott Small
Tel: 01255/731445
Ayrshire

The Section AGM was held in the Parkstone Hotel at the beginning of December and it proved to be an interesting meeting.

There were some changes on the committee this year. The Chairman is Ian McNab and two new members were elected they are Jimmy Johnstone, of The Turnberry Hotel Golf Course, and Brian Finlayson, a past Chairman, who is returning to the Committee. A full list will be published in the next magazine.

After the AGM Robert Bruce and Bob McKay presented a quiz which was well received although some of the questions would not have got lost in Mainstream. It was great fun and the one liners were good, but don't give up your day job Robert.

The results were as follows:

Third equal: The Snowmen and The Sick Notes; Second: The Gaffers; First: The Dunderheids

Names of team members are withheld to save embarrassment or vanity. The company then headed off into the night to sample the delights of the Prestwick Ayrshire Club.

The snowy weather meant that Steven Knaggs and the Chairman could not get home that night and ended staying with Bob McKay in Prestwick. That's one they owe you Bob. The Breakfast Club will have to improve though.

The AGM passed off smoothly and the Section AGM was held in the Parkstone Hotel Golf Course, and Brian Finlayson, a past Chairman, who is returning to the Committee. A full list will be published in the next magazine.

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Congratulations to John and Susan on the birth of their daughter, Chloe. John is a member of the greenkeeping team at Glasgow Gailes and Robert Bruce will like to pass on to the staff there the message to keep reading the magazine.

Jim Paton

West of Scotland

May I wish everybody a happy new year and best wishes, hopefully you all had an enjoyable time and aren't suffering too much from the new year Booze blues.

A few things to mention, firstly, on a very sad note, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Section and parents alike to extend our heart felt sorrow to Campbell Wallace at Wishaw GC. The bereavement of any member of our section is a very saddening time, even more so when a young person is involved. The section can only express their sorrow at the untimely death of your son.

A Wildlife talk is arranged for January 28, at Finneston and I am sure all members would be welcomed.

New members to the section are Dennis Tweddell, Scott McKitrick, Kirkhill GC, we look forward to seeing them at future events.

A diary of events is being prepared and should keep members informed.

A small match (trial) will be arranged for January – North of River against West of River. Anybody interested please contact Gary Burns, at Lenzie GC. Brian Hill, at Drumpellier GC, or myself to let us arrange numbers.

BTME is approaching and unfortunately I cannot attend, but comments would be appreciated if you can pass them on.

Finally the annual dinner at the Admiral Bar on November 29. The turnout on the evening was poor but the majority attending seemed in high spirits. The comedian was slightly late but proved worth the wait. I would like to extend the Section's thanks to John Tainy and Kenny Hunter for the work they put into organise the event.

A report on the AGM and football will follow in next month's issue. Once again if anybody has an interesting fact please contact me on 0141 942 5554. It only takes a phone call.

Stuart Taylor

North

A sad note to begin this report with the tragic death of young Strathpeffer greenkeeper Gary MacIveren towards the end of last year. Our sympathies go to his family, friends and workmates at this time.

The Section AGM took place at Cullen GC. A small number of hardy souls participated in the Chairman verses Vice-Chairman golf match in the morning over this lovely cliff side course. Martin Dodds and his staff had the course in fine condition especially as only recently it had been completely flooded. Martin had the photographs on display.

The Vice Chairman's team, led by Hughie MacIatchie, emerged victorious by 3-2.

The AGM passed off smoothly with Hughie MacIatchie taking over as Chairman from Andy Wilson, and myself becoming Vice Chairman. Dougal Duguid remains as Secretary with Sam Morrison taking on the Treasurer's job. Our two St Andrews committee men, the Gordon's Moir and Mckie stepped down and were replaced by Stephen Sullivan, Craigiehill and John Geddes, Ellon.

Gordon Moir has been a long time server on the North Committee, serving as Secretary for several years and, more recently, Treasurer – indeed he has served Section, Region and on the Board of Management, so he has earned a break from officiadam, although his input will be sorely missed.

Gordon Mckie has also done his bit for the Section over the years and we must thank them both and look forward to seeing them at future outings with their feet up, so to speak.

Incidentally, I hope Gordon Mckie has recovered now from his recent operation and will be fit to make use of his prize of a couple of days at BTME in Harrogate. Gordon maintains the Section record for winning in the magazine's BTME competition.

Congratulations to Stewart McBain, Hazlehead, who came second in the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Awards at Aldwark Manor in December. Stewart has worked very hard in turning Hazlehead into one of the top public courses in Scotland so this is just reward for his endeavours. Well done. I believe old friend, Huw Morgan, came third. So well done Huw, you can buy the first round at Harrogate.

The final four draw's for the Section's 200 Club were made at Cullen with the following lucky people winning: September, £30, Steven Frost, Aberdeen; October, £30, Bryan Beaton, Aberdeen; November, £40, Mark Ross, Elgin and December, £100, George Asher, Kemnay.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who bought tickets and supported the Section last year and hope you will all do so again this year as the 200 Club is our only real fund raiser.

See you all at Harrogate!

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN
REGION
Bob Lipton
Tel: 01782 750538

North East

The start of November brought chaos to the region with winds of over 90 miles per hour. Matfen Hall was one of the casualties losing an oak tree which was over 200 years old on the 13th hole. Also the 6th and 7th holes were hit with large branches breaking off – see the picture on Page 4 of this magazine.

Sleaty Hall has been chosen again for the European Tour in 1997. Hopefully we will see some big names this time and perhaps more greenkeepers giving a helping hand when needed.

The annual match against The East of Scotland was recently played at Matfen Hall the Cup was retained once again by the home side winning by 4-2 our thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring both the prizes and meals, also to John Harrison, Director of Golf, for courtesy for the course.

January brings the BTME again no doubt someone will be providing a coach so keep in touch with your local reps.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

As you may already know Phil Davies, of Mommersteeg, due to work commitments, is standing down as our Vice President. Phil requested the following message be read at the AGM and for those that were not at the AGM I include it here:

"At the AGM in 1995 I was extremely honoured to be nominated as Vice President and it is with a great deal of regret that I must step down from that appointment. My new role and duties with Mommersteeg make it difficult to be present at Committee meetings and Section functions, this coupled with..."
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Just send your details with a cheque for £19.95 made payable to BIGGA, to Job Shop, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF.
Around the Green

supporting BIGGA under the Golden Key circle does not allow time to support the Section in full.

I would like to thank the Committee and members for the support over the many years I have been involved. It is my intention to remain a Section member and been involved. It is my intention to remain a Section member and provide assistance wherever possible.

My very best wishes for the future.”

I am sure that I speak for all the members when we wish Phil the very best for his future and thank him for his services to the Section.

On Wednesday, January 22, 1997, the Section will once again be providing coach transport to the BTME at Harrogate. The coach will leave Llandudno at 7am, stop at Abergele GC at 7:25, Welsh College of Horticulture at 7:45am and finally opposite the Little Chef at the 2 Mills traffic lights at approx 8am. The coach which will leave Harrogate at the end of the AGM is free for members and £10 for non members. However, members who reserve seats and subsequently cancel them on or after January 13 may be charged a £10 cancellation fee. Please reserve your seats by contacting me before January 13. Remember to pre-book your entrance to the show before January 13 or take your chances in the queues.

On February 26, 1997 the Welsh College of Horticulture will be hosting an Organics Seminar given by Rigby Taylor. Originally this seminar was aimed at golf courses and greenkeepers within Wales. Rigby Taylor have asked that any members of the North Wales Section, who did not receive an invitation, are cordially invited to attend.

There will be four speakers on the following topics:

10am Chris Peal, Agronomist, Soil conditioners, seaweed mineral supplements and organic turf dressing;
11am Andrew Law, Martin Bros, New Organic turf top dressings;
12 noon Buffet Lunch; 1.30pm Dr. Neil Baldwin, Service Chemists, Wetting agents, dry patch, fairy ring and associated problems.
2.30pm Andy Cawley, Dow, Weed Control and organics;
3.30pm, Questions and answers;
4pm Close.

Please contact Rigby Taylor on Freephone 0800 424 919 and tell them whether you will attend morning, afternoon or both, this will ensure that there will be adequate eatings and seatings.

Also at the Welsh College of Horticulture on March 27 ’97 at 12 noon. Boughton Loam will be giving their “Little and Large Show” on grasses, top dressings and root zones. I understand, from people who have already attended these talks, that it is a most informative and interesting two hours. Please contact me by the end of January so we know how many will be attending.

It is proposed that in June ’97 the section we will organise another trip to Holland. The trip will take in a visit to the Gem quarries at Wroot, the Mommersteeg facilities at Vlijmen, a golf course and also a turf producer. There would be a one night stay in Amsterdam followed by a free morning before returning. Typically the trip would start at 10am on Thursday, returning to Northop at 12 noon on Sunday. In order that we can judge the requirement please contact me if you are interested in going.

We were sorry to hear the sad news that one of our members Francis Jones died suddenly on Thursday, November 14.

Please ring me on 0151 336 6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

Cleveland

Darren Crang, assistant greenkeeper at Darlington GC was married in September.

Philip Laws, 19, apprentice, also at Darlington GC, is training at Hanghall College Durham.

Head Greenkeeper Paul Moore, Darlington GC, has a problem with tree roots getting to close to some greens bunkers. He has to root prune these. He and his staff have completed some red laid core paths which his members are happy with.

Recent wintry weather is slowing the grass growth and giving us a chance to finally clean up fallen leaves which had blown into ditches and hedge rows.

Winter greens do come in useful on heavy land in wet frosty weather conditions.

Bishop Auckland Head Greenkeeper, David Crocher and staff, have relaid two more greens to USGA specification.

He first did two a year ago and is delighted with the results. Originally the old greens had a serious drain and thatch problem. Congratulations to James Braithwaite from Hallgarth Hotel and Country Club Darlington on his move to Long Ashton GC in Bristol.

Bruce Burnell

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL January 1997 75
Sheffield

Happy new year to all!

On November 7 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Mr John Le Mar from Bio – Lube UK Ltd on an interesting lecture which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather, our Christmas competition which was to be held at Wortley GC had to be cancelled but will hopefully be played later this year if possible.

Our next lecture will be given by Mr R Moore from Levingtons and will be held on February 6 at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

JVLax

North West

Happy new year to all!

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

I have mentioned throughout the season the progress of the Rigby Taylor fourball knockout. Well at last the final took place back in November at Castle Royal GC. It turned out to be a very tight match with it being decided on the final green as dusk set in. Tony French and Geoff Wheeler, Lambourne GC, were triumphant over Peter Critchley & John Thorne, Three Locks GC. Thanks to Rodger Bowles for sponsoring this tournament it's much appreciated by all the people who participate.

The last golf day took place at Calcot Park again back in November. Once again this was a well-attended event with 42 people battling it out for the splendid prizes. The weather could have been kinder for Simon and his staff but the hard frosty conditions were the same for everybody and judging by the scores the course played very well.

Prize winners as follows:

1. G. Patience/J. Brooks/B. Melville, 95pts;
2. V. Riches/N. Ely/C. Riches, 84pts
3. R. Clarke/C. Jacobsen/P. Reeve, 80pts (last year's winners)

Longest Drive, S. Adby (310 yds with a three wood?)

Nearest the Pin. I. Holton

Congratulations to Nigel Ely for holing out in one for 5 pts! As he didn't have any cash on him he has promised to buy us all a drink at the next event – That should boost the numbers.

Thanks to all at Calcot for making the day a success it was much appreciated by all. Thanks to all the trade support as usual not just for this event but for your continued support throughout the season.

The golf was followed by the AGM which was carried out without any problems. The present committee was voted back on en bloc for another term of office. The newly appointed Regional Administrator Peter Larter attended the golf and meeting, giving us a brief insight into his role with the Association. Thanks for attending, Peter.

Venues for 1997 are as follows: Castle Royal, Badgemore Park and Lambourne as yet no firm dates are fixed. Fixture lists will be posted in time for the first event.

Lindsay Anderson

East Midlands

This year's AGM and Texas Scramble golf match was played on November 6 at Hinckley GC. Despite some very heavy showers and strong winds some excellent golf was played. The winning team consisted of the following members A. Porter, C. Chamberlain & C. Bates; 2. C. James, G. Thurman & M. Johnson; 3. R. Barker, K. Sissens & T. Allard.

Moving on to the serious business of the AGM, which was a lot longer than usual (34 minutes), there were no major changes to the Committee so you will have to suffer my reports for another year. However, there is concern over the lack of numbers in attendance, at the AGM only 23 Greenkeeper members. The Committee consist of the following people:

Chairman, T. Allard; Vice Chairman, D. Leatherland; Secretary, A. Bindley; Treasurer, R. Barker; Committee Members, P. Tatlow, A. Porter, P. Forshaw, G. Arnold and G. Robson.

Thanks should go to Hinckley GC for hosting our AGM and providing us with an excellent golf course for our tournament and to Andy Sharpe - Steward – for a great meal. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Vitax for sponsoring the day.

On March 5 a new fixture has been arranged at Lingdale GC. The format for the day is a Better Ball Stableford competition. This will replace the old pairs K/O tournament. The tee has been reserved from 11am and is restricted to full members only. No entry forms will be sent out, so should you wish to attend please give me a ring and I will forward you a entry form.

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changes that had taken place to Westurf '96 and continued with the regional Hayter final held at Salisbury & South Wilts GC. He informed members that all who attended enjoyed the hospitality shown to them by the club and Hayter. The Secretary thanked the Section's President, John Palfrey, for kindly driving the mini bus and helping with the organisation of the trip.

The Secretary moved on to the recent review of the Association's constitution and informed members that after consultations with Sections and Regions the new constitution was recommended to the AGM at Harrogate and approved.

He advised members that with regret he had to inform them that Regional Administrator, Gordon Child, would be retiring from office next summer after 10 years, and continued by saying all good things come to an end, and extended the sections good wishes to Gordon & Marion for the future and thanked them both for all their efforts.

He thanked the members who had returned the Section's recent survey forms and informed members that the results are now available for viewing at section meetings or by contacting one of the Section Committee members.

Members were presented with the financial report, the Secretary explained that the Section accounts were over an 11 month period as the year end was now September. The approval of the balance sheet was by proposed R. Parr and seconded by E. Barber and approved.

The Chairman opened his report by informing members that the last 12 months had been very successful for BIGGA. The Chairman thanked the Secretary, R. Whyman, the Region's Administrator, Gordon Child and Marion Child, for all their hard work put into BIGGA over the year. He also thanked Steve Evans for his administration of these events the only concern he had was the number of non members attending these meetings. On closing his report he informed members he was tingered with a little sadness with the announcement that Gordon and Marion would be standing down after next year's Westurf trade show, after 10 years at the helm of our Region. He continued by informing members that Gordon and Marion had started the show and asked every member to attend and to make their last show in charge the most successful yet.

The President opened his report by thanking the Chairman and Secretary for all their hard work put into the Section and Association over the last year, on a personal note, the President thanked Gordon Child, who had helped him in his early days in the industry. He continued by wishing Gordon and Marion a long and happy retirement and thanked them on behalf of all the trade for their help and understanding shown to the trade over the years.

Election of Officers. Chairman. B. Mitchell; Secretary & Cornish Member, R. Whyman; Vice Chairman, S. Evans; Devon Members: J. Parr, R. Wisdom & C. Rawlings; Trade Member – three year term – R Guntrip; Regional Board Member – two year term – Bill Mitchell Richard Whyman

South Coast
Here we are again the start of another year. Firstly, I would like to wish all our members a very happy and prosperous new year. What's better than starting the year on a high note.

Our first winter lecture which was held at Bramshaw GC was a great success. Our speaker was none other than our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, and around 50 of our members were there to hear Neil update us all with what is going on at headquarters. The question and answer session that followed proved very interesting. It covered a wide variety of subjects; they included NVO's, Membership, BTME, Staffing, Magazine, proposals for new headquarters, The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association, the Legal Helpline and a host of other subjects. The discussion could have gone on till the early hours of the morning, however the Chairman eventually had to call a halt. I think that all the members that attended found it to be very informative and a well spent afternoon. I know that Neil was well pleased and took a number of comments back to Headquarters with him. For those of you who attended I would like to say thank you Neil for making it a successful afternoon.

Our next winter event will be held at Bramshaw GC on Wednesday February 5. At 7pm your committee has organised a quiz and social evening, this will be a chance to bring your friends, wives, girlfriends etc. Hopefully this will turn out to be an enjoyable evening. There will be prizes for the winning team we look forward to seeing you all on the night. The more the merrier.

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Around the Green


Thanks must go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event, Bristol & Clifton for allowing the courtesy of their course, their secretary Bob Bennett for his help and centre Sue Ritchings for providing the excellent cuisine.

Following the work we were given a short and informative talk by Andrew Lawrence, of Fenchurch Insurance, followed by Frank O’Malley, of Hambro Legal Protection. We then tackled the AGM in which there was a friendly discussion on education within the region and the election of officers. After some gentle persuasion by Chairman Ivor Scoones the following people where elected:

Chairman – Ivor Scoones, Vice Chairman – Chris Sealey, Secretary – Peter Baynton, Regional Board Officer – Robin Greaves, Vice Regional Board Officer – Paul Jenkins, Team Captain – Tim Dabernett, Vice Team Captain – Matthew Hawker, Fixture Secretary – Terry Humphrey, Section Education Officer and Magazine Reporter – Marc Haring.

Undoubtedly the bravest of volunteers was Peter Baynton who follows Kevin Green who has to stand down as Section Secretary after several years because of career commitments. Everyone within the section has the greatest thanks and admiration for the work he has done for us and we all wish him well at his present and new establishment The Kendleshire GC.

Marc Haring

SOUTH EAST

November has been a busy month for the South West greenkeepers with our autumn meeting, followed by the AGM taking place on the 14th at Bristol and Clifton GC and the annual seminar taking place at Cannington College on the 27th.

An excellent turnout of 60 people gathered to do battle at Bristol and Clifton on a calm but somewhat chilly day. The first impressions of the course were somewhat surprising. How can a course be presented in such immaculate condition in mid November? That’s what I would like to know. But perhaps I am just talking for myself. Anyway thanks must go to John Barr and his crew, one of whom judging by the scorecards, must spend most of his waking life on the practice ground.

The results were as follows: 1. James Coverdale, Bristol & Clifton, 43pts; 2. Maurice Pearce, Wells GC, 36pts; 3. James Braith-