

AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION AT SUNNINGDALE

COMPLETELY automatic irrigation is now in use for all 36 greens and tees at Sunningdale Golf Club.

The system, which was handed over by a British firm of irrigation equipment specialists on Saturday 30th April, will save labour, maintain turf on greens and tees in good condition in the driest weather, avoid inconvenience to players and economise in the use of water.

A short ceremony at the club, when Mr T. R. Hilton, managing director of British Overhead Irrigation Limited, presented Mr J. K. Peppercorn, club captain, with an illustrated brochure commemorating the occasion, was followed by a demonstration.

Ploughed in

The installation, also carried out by British Overhead, involved the laying by mole plough of eight miles of underground PVC water mains, siting 250 underground "pop-up" sprinkler heads and two pumps, together with electrical automatic control apparatus. Installation commenced in late January, and the new practice of laying water mains in a golf course by mole plough resulted in faster completion with little or no disturbance to players.

Says Col. Ronnie Yeldham, club secretary "It will save us the equivalent of one man's time and will be more economical in the use of water. Certainly watering will take place when we want it to and because it will take place at night it will not inconvenience players, nor be unduly affected by evaporation or wind.

"We look forward to the greens, aprons, and tees being maintained in a better condition through the use of BOIL pop-up sprinklers."

While British Overhead Irrigation Limited installed several schemes on British golf courses last year and on courses overseas before that, Sunningdale is the first of its size and importance in the U.K. to install such equipment.

Supply

Water for the scheme is extracted from the mains supply by ball-valve and stored in a 3,000 gallon galvanised steel tank.

An electric sequence controller, sited at the pumphouse, automatically starts two electrically powered 5 h.p. Grundfoss CP8/100 pumps linked in parallel. Water then flows along the eight miles of rigid PVC mains to each of 36 "stations", each composed of one green and the nearest tee.

Sprinklers

Pressure then causes the BOIL Toro 612/17 "pop-up" sprinklers to rise from their below-ground position and water sectors of the greens and tees for a pre-determined length of time. Each will apply one-third of an inch of water in one hour if required. Most greens are served by four sprinklers, while tee requirements are supplied by up to three.

A BOIL 614/17 sprinkler which turns a full circle is located at the approach to each green.

Watering will be pre-set to operate at night, two "stations" at a time. If required, as much as one inch of water can be applied in one week and amounts of water to be applied to each green and tee can be individually controlled.