

Draining with plastic pipes

READERS of The British Golf Greenkeeper will certainly be aware of the value of good drainage for keeping courses playable. More and more courses are being drained using uPVC land-drainage pipes, and many of the advantages claimed for uPVC over clayware are already widely known. Being much lighter, and simple to install, uPVC systems minimize the time spent on drainage work and the disturbance to existing sward.

However, enquiries carried out by a major supplier of uPVC pipes, Trenching Plastics Limited, Coggeshall, Essex, indicate that where clayware pipes are still being specified this is sometimes the result of a misconception about how clay drains work. Experiments performed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have proved that clay drainage depends for its effectiveness on water entering between the pipes. In practical terms, scarcely any water passes through the clay walls themselves. And the gaps between clay-

ware pipes will obviously depend upon how well they are finished and laid.

With plastic pipes, of course, water enters through multiple rows of perforations all along the length. In this respect they more nearly approach 'the ideal drain' and allow very rapid water intake. Trenching Plastics are an appointed distributor of **Wavincoil** and **Wavinflow** uPVC systems. They point out that these systems are used extensively throughout Europe, and that both conform to the stringent requirements of British Standard 4962. The size, frequency and distribution of the perforations in both systems have been developed from years of experience and research to combine good hydraulic properties with resistance to siltation.

Readers who would like further information on these and other drainage products available from Trenching Plastics are invited to write to Harcog Group Ltd., FREEPOST, Coggeshall, Colchester, CO6 1BR. No postage stamp needed.

Sponge on the 11th green

By courtesy of The Journal S.T.R.I.

PROBLEM

IN RECENT years our 11th green has increasingly become a problem. Despite being constructed on a sandy, well drained soil, the surface holds water and plays badly. What can we do to improve the situation? A sample of turf is enclosed.

REPLY

The sample of turf shows an exceptionally fibrous condition. This has developed over a number of years as plant material such as stolons, leaves, roots etc. have accumulated near the surface. When a thick layer like this has built up it holds water like a sponge and reduces aeration, which in turn leads to shallow rooting and greater building up of fibre. Over acid soil conditions are sometimes associated

with this condition and a soil sample should be sent to us for testing.

Fibre can become a problem when mechanical operations like scarification and aeration are neglected, but also through over generous watering in the summer.

We suggest you carry out solid tine aeration on the green now, applying a light (2 lb./sq. yd.) top dressing of sandy compost. Light and regular scarification (every 2-3 weeks) should be practised during the summer, exercising discretion when watering. Use a power driven scarifier thoroughly early in September, giving time for recovery before winter. Follow up by hollow tining to remove physically some of the fibre as cores and allow subsequent top dressing with sandy compost to be worked well into the surface.