



EROSION OF SLOPING PATHS

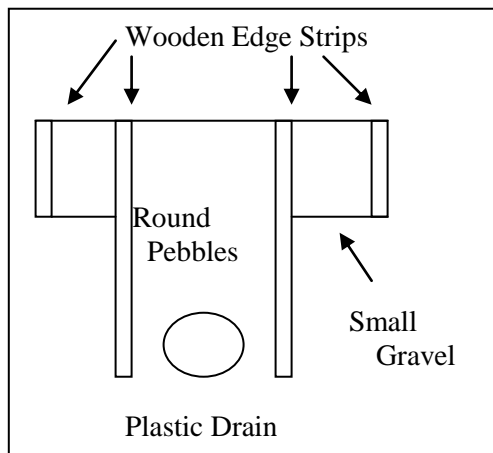
Denis Divot suggests a system using loose stones to prevent water erosion of sloping paths.

Secretary At Work: August 2008 (*Revised September 2009 & May 2012*)

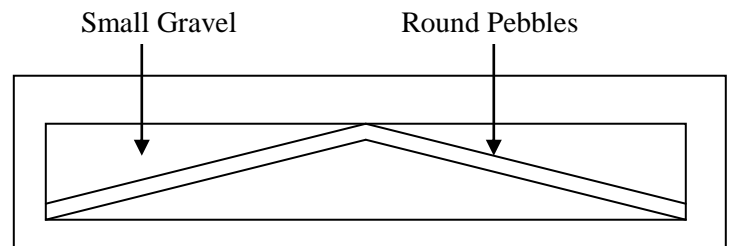
Is there any simple method of preventing water from eroding sloping paths composed of loose material on golf courses?

The most effective system I have seen is that constructed at Ogbourne Downs Golf Club in Wiltshire. Some of their paths on the level and sloping ground have been constructed with an artificial turf surface. However, on the paths where sudden downpours of water have, in the past, produced serious erosion problems, resulting in the scouring of the loose material, and the presence of surface water on the artificial turf might cause a slip hazard, they have adopted the following construction. Greens Chairman, Keith Burke was responsible for the design of the system which was built with the help of the greens staff.

Cross Section



Plan



Wooden edged catchment French drains of loose pebbles have been built diagonally across and within the wooden edged path. By finishing both the drain height and path height to exactly the same level, there is no problem in walking, using an electric trolley or driving a buggy over the surface. Any water running down the path must at some point need to cross the diagonal drain, and hence falls into it. This prevents the establishment of eroding rivulets of water running the length of the path. As the course is on chalk, the pebble drains were continued into out of play areas and the water simply allowed to disperse. Should a club need to remove a large volume of water, on land without good natural drainage, a polypropylene mesh drain can be placed under the pebbles and run into an off play sump. However, a better solution is to link the path drain into the course drains at suitable points.

Photograph A shows the general appearance of the path, whilst B shows the drain continuing into an out- of- play area. Both photographs courtesy of Ogbourne Downs Golf Club.

Photograph A



Photograph B



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