

There's nothing so soul satisfying as getting a nice long one out of the rough with a wood, unless it's seeing your opponent ask for a wood when he's in the same sort of spot. For while we thrill for hours over the occasional one we do accidentally get away with we know that only one out of ten comes out right, so we just love to see the other guy ask for a wood and start whaling away. If you want to play this game right stop taking those ten to one chances, for rough is supposed to impose only a one shot penalty so why gamble for two or three. Incidentally a carefully played iron shot that will assuredly take you out is sound, and the next one from the fairway has a chance of holing out. So if you have that gambling instinct why be a piker with a measly ten to one chance, why not forget that and play an iron and take the thousand to one chance of holing the next one, or at least getting it close enough for a sure par.

Playing irons out of the rough is simple; just think your shot out. You realize of course that thick grass will hold the club head back and may even open the blade. So toe your club in a little so this is offset. You also realize that the ball must be gotten into the air quickly so that the grass ahead will not deflect it, therefore you hit down, and because the ball may be pretty well hidden you know a deeper faced club will be surer. So you forget distance take an iron of good depth and firmly hit down at the ball. The toed in or closed blade will keep it straight. You also realize that when this rough shot is close enough to get home that grass between the blade and the ball will cause the ball to run more than normal. If the green is closely trapped you may use a more lofted iron and play short and try to get the **next** one dead, because a long iron out of the rough will seldom hold the green, and you'll usually find a lot of trouble in the rough behind the green.