

Lesson #16

PLAYING THE 5 & 6 IRONS

Most golfers get their best results from these two mashies without analyzing the reason for it, but the reason is simple for the shaft is shorter and the shorter backswing calls for less pivot, thus there is less margin for error.

Prove these statements to yourself; try some day to hit the ball with a twelve inch backswing then gradually move it up to normal and notice how straight they will go. Let this prove to you conclusively that accurate golf is played entirely with the hands, and that the longer backswing is to increase our power and the pivot or turn is merely to take our body out of the way.

So since we've learned how easy it is to hit the green with these irons why not go still farther and try to hit the flag by carefully aligning our club face with the pin and taking our back swing along the desired line of flight.

Since we want very little roll let's try not to scoop the ball but to hit it down and through very crisply, for the Mashie shots are firm crisp shots. We'll find it is easy to do if the stance is taken with the ball well back towards center and by bending the left knee inwardly but slightly (never dipped) we take our club head back low and do not lift it abruptly into a three quarter position.

Above all else remember to hit the ball downwardly. Don't be afraid you will punish the cover of the ball; just try your best to drive it into the turf with the face of your club, and the ball will soar beautifully absolutely unscathed and without rolling far when it hits the green.

Remember the shot must be finished so don't stop your club head but let the momentum carry your weight onto your left leg and let that club head finish over your left shoulder.