

These irons with their shorter shafts and deeper blades should be even easier to play than those favorite mashies, and they will be too if we don't tighten up and try to give the ball just that right amount of power and steer them for the pin.

Of course I am speaking of the full shot with the #7 or #8 iron and not the run up or chip shot, and more of these shots are ruined by babied shots than from any other cause. So play them boldly and depend more on the lofts to take care of distance, but don't let those lofts induce you to scoop for this shot is more decidedly a downwardly hit shot than even the mashies were, and always play them right on the pin and your downwardly struck ball won't roll away.

To correctly play this shot place your feet as your Pro has advised - remember about the square or open stance and by all means apply it here, for your arms must have a clear path to go down and through. Be sure your feet are comfortably close together so that your weight is evenly distributed on both feet.

The ball should be well back towards the right foot; align the ball carefully on the pin and with a straight left arm start the club head back. Allow the left knee to bend slightly, but do not dip it or throw the preponderance of weight on the right leg, for this is a hand and arm shot and very little turn or pivot is needed. Keep the right elbow well into the body and when the backward swing starts to pull the elbow out start cocking the wrists; your hands on the short iron shot do not need to go above the shoulder.

So remembering to hit down and through and to finish the shot by letting the club head go on through, you may start your downward stroke by starting to brace the left leg and to bring the right elbow into the body - the wrists uncock - you lash into the ball.

Right here's where many otherwise perfectly hit approach shots go wrong - so read this carefully:

No one has ever invented a self returning golf ball so there's just no percentage in your looking up to see how close you are. Just keep those shoulders and head right down where they were until the momentum of the follow through pulls them up, and don't try to stop that club head either, let it fly on through and you'll do all right.