

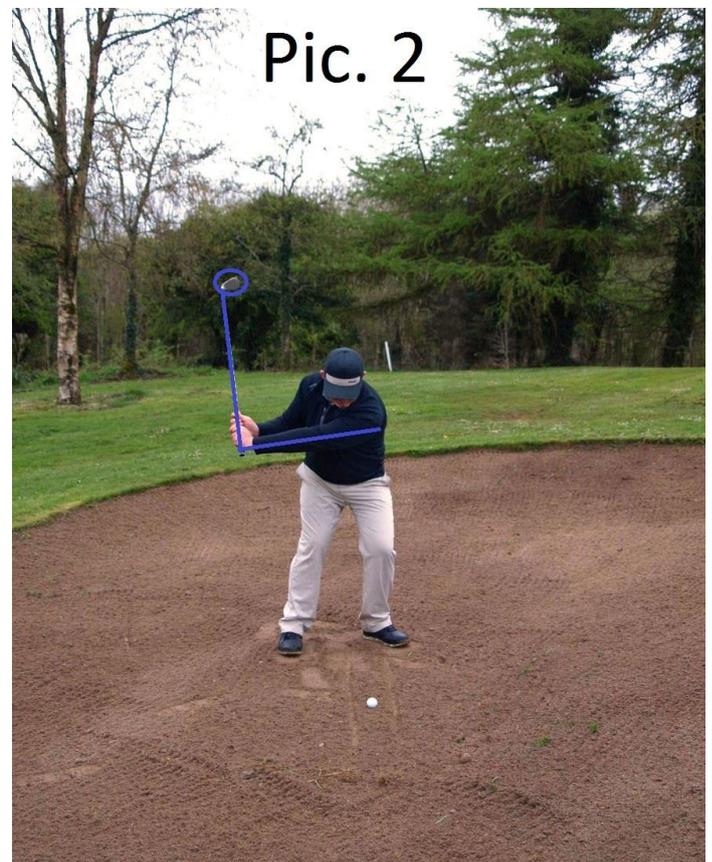
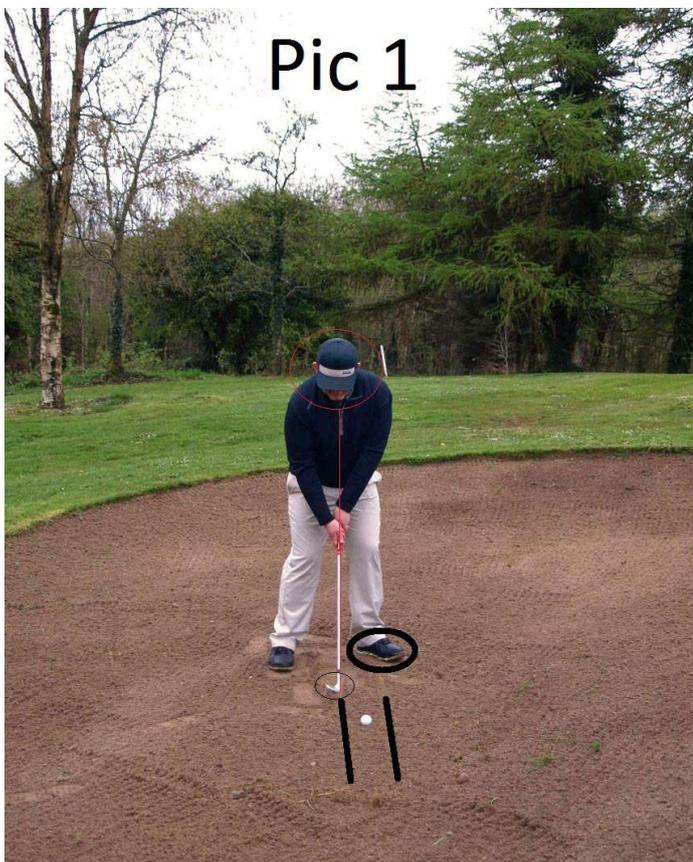
## Week 6 Short Game – Greenside Bunker

Today we're going to look at greenside bunker play. This is an aspect of the game that is feared by a lot of golfers. I believe one of the main reasons it holds so much trepidation is because some of us don't understand the concept behind a successful bunker shot. This is the only shot in golf where we are not looking for the club to make contact with the ball, instead we want the club to enter the sand two inches behind the ball, continue through the sand under the ball and finally exit the sand after the ball. If executed correctly the ball itself should leave the bunker on a cushion of sand having never made contact with the clubface.

Like all shots we must start with the set up. There are 4 things I like to see the player do in their set up which will allow them to play the shot correctly.

### The Set Up

- Firstly, select your most lofted club, usually a sand wedge or lob wedge. We want to have loft on the club so make sure, at address, that you don't have any forward shaft lean, i.e. the shaft of the club should be in a straight line up to your chin (Pic. 1) This helps to expose the sole of the club, something which is crucial in order to get the required "explosion" of the sand needed to get the ball out.
- Line up the place we want the club to enter the sand i.e. 2 inches behind the ball with the centre of our stance (Pic. 1).
- Make sure to keep your head in line with this also by avoiding putting too much weight on our front foot. (Pic. 1)
- Turn out your front foot slightly to accommodate a full follow through. (Pic. 1)



## The Backswing

- One of the most common faults I see in the backswing is the player not moving the club back far enough. Make sure we get the arms past waist high with the club pointing skywards by hinging the wrists. This should create a “L” shape with the arms and club shaft. (Pic 2)
- The clubface should be open at the top of the backswing. (Pic. 2)
- Stay focused on the two inches behind the ball. Don’t get distracted by the ball. We are not trying to hit the ball.

## Impact

- Stay down through the shot. We want to hit the sand before the ball and feel as if we are sweeping under the ball and into the follow through. (Pic. 3)

## Follow Through

- I see a lot of players stopping at impact. I think this is because we are afraid of flying the ball too far. If we hit enough sand we can swing aggressively through the ball and continue into a full follow through position.
- At the finish we should be facing the target, our back heel raised slightly from the sand and the club pointing skywards, enjoying the view of the golf ball floating towards the target. (Pic. 4)



I hope these pointers help with your bunker play.

If you have any specific questions regarding this article or any other golf swing issues you can email Eddie on [eddietraceypga@yahoo.com](mailto:eddietraceypga@yahoo.com) and he will endeavour to address them in future articles.

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