

Week 7 Short Game – Flop Shot

The Flop Shot.

A shot that strikes fear into a lot of players. We've all had that tricky little shot close to the green that requires more elevation than usual because there may be a bunker or some other obstacle in the way. We've probably had some bad experiences with this shot, either rocketing the ball across the green or duffing the ball just in front of us. The main reason for either of these outcomes is down to not trusting the club to do the work for us. We feel we need to hit up on the ball to help it into the air. Not so, trust the loft and execute the shot.

The Set Up

- Play the ball from the centre of our stance with our weight evenly distributed between left foot and right foot. Because the ball is being played from the centre of our stance our head should be directly over the ball.(Pic. 1)
- Although we should have selected our most lofted club we may still need to open the clubface slightly at address. To do this feel as if we are laying the club back so there is not as much forward shaft lean i.e. our hands should not be too far forward of the golf ball. (Pic.1)
- Drag back your front foot slightly to 'Open' your stance but be careful not to open your shoulder line to the target line as this will promote an 'out to in' swing path. (Pic 2)

Pic. 1

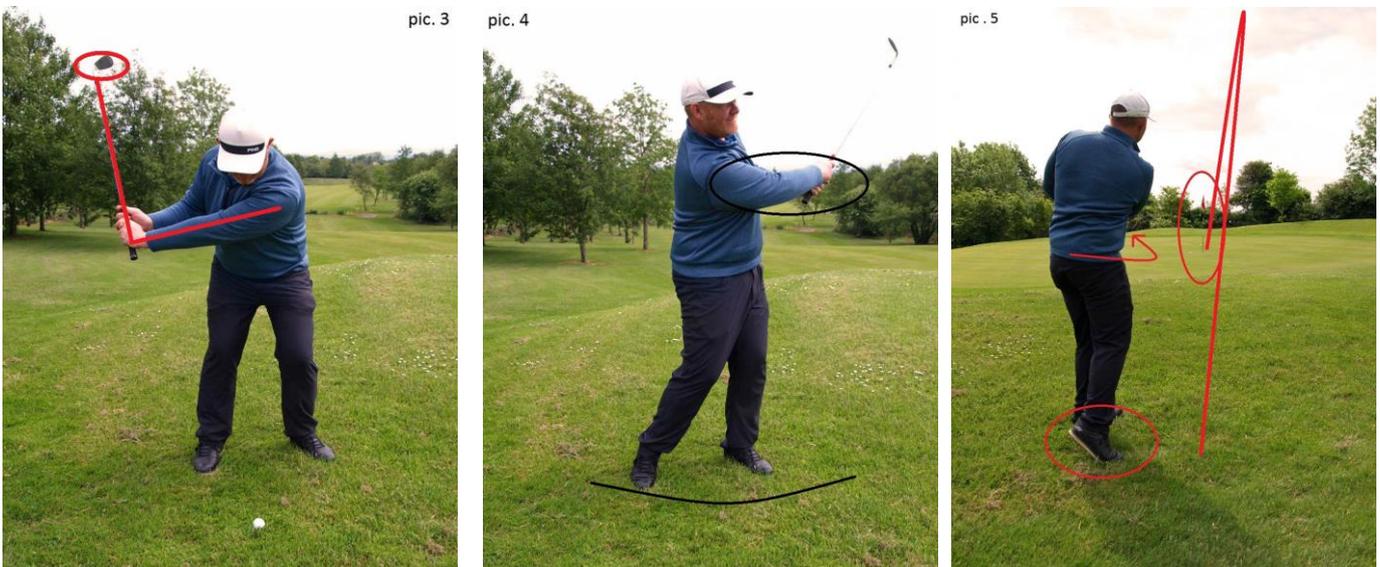


Pic. 2



The Swing

- We don't want to overcomplicate this so there's just 3 key thought for the swing. Make the backswing long enough. Too often I see players, because they are close to the green, making their swing too short. We should be at least making that "L" shape with our arms and club in the backswing. Hinge those wrists. (Pic. 3)
- On the downswing and through impact keep up the speed. The thought and feeling should be of a smooth acceleration through the ball. Again, I see a lot of players decelerating through impact as they feel they are too close to the green for this length of swing. If we make a proper connection the added loft will ensure we don't hit it too far.
- Keep going into the follow through making sure the right arm never climbs over the left arm. This will the clubface open for longer. (Pic. 4)
- At the finish we should have our body turned toward the target with our back heel slightly raised. We should be looking towards the flag to see the golf ball landing softly beside the hole. (Pic. 5)



I hope these pointers help. Get out to there and try it out.

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

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