

Pitching - Minimum Air Time

When playing your shots around the green I believe a great motto is “Minimum Air Time”. In other words if you do have the option to send the ball high and land softly on the green like a butterfly with sunburnt feet, or you could bumble the ball along the floor, then I know you will find the bumbling along the floor option far more successful, if not least of all because it tends to happen when you do not mean it to.

So, if there are no obstructions or bumpy ground or excessively long grass between you and the putting green, you should always use a 7 iron or a club like that and keep the ball as close to the ground as you can and allow the ball to roll out along the green. The danger with the lofted route is more that because the ball should travel through the air, the swing required to send the ball the desired distance will be quite large. Then if in the unlikely event, you make a bad contact with the ball, this will mean the shot could easily end up further away from the target after you have played than it was before you took the shot. Whereas the low running shot requires less backswing as the ball will travel along the floor at speed for most of its journey, so if you miss hit the stroke, it could actually end up just as well positioned as if you had hit the ball as intended, an ideal scenario really as it works whether you play it well or not.

