

Bunker Play

Roll it Out

This month I'm going to take a look at playing from out of a greenside bunker where you are faced with both carrying a high lip in front as well as having a good amount of green to work with as can be seen in pic 1.

Facing this shot your first goal should be to make sure you get out! You definitely don't want to be playing your next shot from inside the bunker again. This means selecting a club that has enough loft so that you can easily carry the high lip in front. So here I have selected a 54 degree sand iron which should have more than enough loft to help get up and out. Second is to ensure that the ball will release and roll upon landing on the green. And not pull up quickly leaving you a long putt making it hard to get up and down for only two shots.

So below are the keys to help you achieve a more desirable result.



01-02: SET UP The key to playing a bunker shot where you want the ball to roll out and not spin too much. Is to contact the sand much further behind the ball than normal. By having more sand between the ball and the clubface it will help reduce the amount of back spin on the ball and as already suggested result in the ball rolling out a lot further and finishing up much closer to the hole. To help develop this skill I have drawn a line into the sand at least the width of two golf balls behind my actual golf ball, as can be seen in pictures 1 and 2. This will help me focus on striking the sand on or near this line with taking out a nice island of sand, well behind, below and past the ball as shown in pic 4.



03: BACKSWING As you will be taking more sand behind the ball. You will face more resistance through impact. So to ensure you have enough swing speed through impact, make a slightly longer back swing than you normally would.

04



05



06



04-06: IMPACT TO FOLLOW THROUGH As previously mentioned in pic 4 you can see that the club has struck right on the line drawn into the sand with removing the sand well behind, below and beyond the ball. With both the sand and the ball exiting safely out of the bunker. Also note that once again just like my backswing, my follow through is longer than normal, thus ensuring that the club has plenty of momentum to get through the extra sand. I'm certain that by practicing this simple exercise you will soon start to enjoy getting the ball safely up and out of the bunker and successfully rolling up to within a one putt range.

COACH



Kevin Smith

NZPGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL

LOCATION

- > Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club
- > Otaki Golf Club
- > Golf Warehouse & Driving Range Lower Hutt

- > 2016 Wellington Coach of the Year
- > 2016 Kapiti Coach of the Year
- > 2015 Porirua Coach of the Year

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO GREAT GOLF BOOK

- > \$45. Order online nzgolfmagazine.co.nz/shop

COACHING SCHOOLS

- > Email me regarding attending one of my 3 & 1 Day Golf Schools. Mid week and weekends. Accommodation can be arranged!

CONTACT

T: 0274 399402

E: kevinsmithgolf@xtra.co.nz

The PGA of New Zealand exists to promote excellence in the delivery of professional services to the golfers of New Zealand.