

On-Course Playing Lesson — Wedges, Chipping, Slopes and the Driver

Key points covered during the lesson

1. **Wedges: narrow stance and centred turn.** Stance inside shoulder width, weight 60/40 on the front side, and stay centred through the backswing as the shoulders turn through. Watch the ball as you strike it — these shots are planned by where the ball lands and how much it rolls.
2. **Driver: hands inside the left thigh, stance an inch narrower.** The hands point to the inside of the left thigh, not the middle of the body, and the feet are the last thing to settle. Too wide a stance slows the body turn and leaves the face open; pulling the right foot in about an inch lets the turn run unimpeded all the way through to facing the target.
3. **Chipping on different slopes: level your shoulders to the slope.** Downslope: take a practice swing first to find the low point, then set ball position from it with the hands forward. Upslope: the same levelled shoulders, ball in the middle of the stance or forward — the shot will fly high, so be aggressive with it.
4. **Short chips: keep the hands and shoulders moving through impact.** Feet closer together and roughly 70% of your weight on the left leg keeps you centered and stops the lift instinct. Swing the hands and the grip — the handle — through the shot, not just the clubhead: if the hands stop or slow, the clubhead passes them.
5. **Full swing shots from the rough: hinge earlier.** The clubhead moves first in the takeaway and the wrists set early and aggressively, so the club comes down steeper and less grass gets trapped between the ball and the clubface. Everything else stays the same — commit to the normal swing.

Your practice path

- On any sloped lie, make the practice swing part of the routine: find the low point first, then set up to it.
- Practice wedges by focussing on the landing spot: pick the point either 1/3 of the way or 2/3 of the way to land the ball on and see how much it rolls.
- Slow-motion chips feeling the handle lead: hands and grip ahead of the clubhead through impact, every rep.
- Rough drill for hand speed: take aggressive divots out of the rough — the action speeds the hands up and syncs the arm gear with the body gear.

Points for reinforcement and review

- Keep the two weight splits straight: 60/40 for wedge shots, 70/30 for chips — and know when each one applies.
- Early hinge in the rough means an earlier set in a smooth takeaway, not a snatch — the steepness comes from the set, not from grabbing at it.
- The two gears concept: as the body turn gets faster, the hands and arms must release more aggressively to square the clubface. Body speed without hand speed leaves the face open.