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SFTW 25: My putting Masters-class

How to hole them on fast greens

Posted: 1 April 2011  
by Lee Kopanski



For fast-breaking putts, aim at the imaginary tee on the high side



Striking the ball off the toe when greens are ultra quick will deaden the feel and reduce charging the putt through the break

In the next of his popular series of tips from his online lessons at [www.golfswingzone.com](http://www.golfswingzone.com), Lee Kopanski the British-born head PGA pro at his own golf academy at Loipersdorf Golf Club in Austria, who has worked with some of the best coaches in Europe, offers great advice in helping to fix your faults.

As the players at next week's US Masters have discovered, fast greens magnify the faults in their putting strokes so it's vital that the address position is correct. Even the best players in the world get nervous as Augusta National week approaches but there are certain things they do to push the pressure away.

And after the driest March in 50 years, your home greens will be tracking pretty quickly, too, so there's something here you can also learn.

Unless you are really brave and full of confidence then to putt through the break to attack the hole may be a foolish game to play unless you don't fear the 10-footer back.

Great putters always look around the hole for small undulations and breaks because as the ball loses pace it will take more break - and it's even more pronounced when the greens get slick.

Looking back from the flag to your ball is a great way to start reading the line of your putt correctly. Use the contours on the greens to your advantage and pick out the high point from which the ball drops toward the hole.



From here also focus shoulder of the borrow and run an imaginary line from your ball, through this point, to a point level with the hole. This is now your target

aiming point at address. Strike your putt straight at this tiny point and allow the natural contours of the green to do its job. Your aim is to keep the ball on the high (or professional) side of the hole to give your ball the full width of the hole in which to drop!

Another key key danger to avoid with fast greens is the putt hit too aggressively off the sweet spot of your putter and through the break. Overcome this with a positive stroke played off the toe of the putter to deaden the feel, ensuring you don't allow the clubface to twist at impact.

I always encourage my pupils to mark a line on the ball to help align their target to the putter face and grip the handle with 'soft hands' to reduce tension. A smooth, tension-free stroke will always prove more successful.

And, remember, keep your putting stroke clutter-free from technical swing mechanics, don't hesitate and simply swing back and forth on the line of your feet - great tips I learned from a Bill Ferguson (PGA Master Professional and Tour coach), which vastly improved my putting.

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