

The Truth About Lies

This week I will talk about how to hit solid shots from sidehill lies. This is a valuable skill when you play at The Links of GlenEagles.

It is important to read your lie before your shot and anticipate how the ball will react to your lie. The ball will tend to move in the direction of the slope. A ball above your feet will naturally go left of your intended target. A ball below your feet will naturally go to the right of the intended target.

Some adjustments should be made in your set up. For a shot where the ball is above your feet, choke down on the club to compensate for the ball being closer to you. Since the ball is above your feet, your swing will have a flatter arc similar to a baseball swing. Aim slightly right of the target as this shot will naturally go left-to-right. The tendency is to hit this shot fat, so put the ball slightly back in your stance to ensure that you hit the ball first.

For a shot where the ball is below your feet, you need to bend your knees more than usual so you can be low enough to hit the ball solidly. Aim slightly left of the target and take one extra club than usual. Make sure that your weight isn't over your toes. The tendency is to "top" the ball on this shot. You need to "stay down" on this shot.

It's vital to maintain your balance through the swing and don't allow your weight to get out on your heels or toes. Take extra club if you need to, and make a smooth, balanced stroke.

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