

Tip of the week

On the range we have a perfectly level lei on every shot, no wonder we don't know what to do on the awkward leis out on the course. With the course design amongst the bank of the Botrivier lagoon you got a pretty good chance of finding your ball above or below your feet. By understanding the impact this has on your swing and making the correct adjustments you can easily knock it on the green.

Ball above feet:

With the ball above your feet the first thing you should do is to grip the club shorter. The slope will bring the ball closer to your body and by gripping it down by the same degree of the incline of slope you don't have to adjust your posture. You do however need to adjust your balance and move your weight more towards the balls of your feet to counter balance the angle of the slope. You will have to aim more out to the right due to the face plane tilt starting the ball more left than intended. Face plane tilt is essentially

where the centre of the club face is aiming with the loft on the club as appose to where the leading edge is aiming. The more loft the club has, the more the face plane tilt will have an effect on the start line. On your ball above lei this will start the ball more left and you need to aim more towards the right. Remember the more loft you using the more you have to aim out right.

Face plane tilt





Ball below feet:

Between the two the ball below is probably the most difficult shot. The ball is now further away from the body. Without feeling like you have to reach towards the ball you have to use the whole length of our club by gripping it higher up. Depending on the severity of the slope you might have to bend your knees more, and have more of a forward bend with the back. This comes with a price, because the more you bend over the less you'll be able to rotate the upper body without losing posture. My suggestion is to take more club and swing it shorter, you'll have a better change staying in posture this way. Like with the ball above feet the face plane tilt will have an effect on the start line, starting it more towards the right. However this won't be the same with everyone as the awkward ball below feet can restrict the body to

turn through and then the hands take over closing the face. My advice regarding whether to aim more left or right in this situation will be through evidence base practise. Next time you got some free time on the course playing a practice round throw down a few balls on a slope where the ball is lower than your feet , get the correct angles in your body to ensure good contact and pay close attention to what your tendencies are. This way you know if you should aim more left because of the face plane tilt or more right because your body can't rotate and the hands are closing the face.



On both situations don't get too aggressive with the approach. Use course management and if you miss, miss in the right spot to keep you in the hole.