



MEET THE EXPERT

Former county player and England international Katie Dawkins is a PGA professional at Hamptworth G&CC. She runs the New Forest Girls Golf Academy at the club, which caters for all standards of player.



GROUND CONTROL

As the British winter draws in, you may find yourself venturing to sunnier climes for a golf holiday. The courses abroad often feature sun-hardened fairways and greens, making the chip-and-run shot a valuable weapon

Words: KATIE DAWKINS Photos: STEVE BARDEMS



THE SET-UP

On sun-soaked, hard courses it is easy to send lofted shots bouncing through the back of the green. So if you have a clear route to the putting surface it is useful to have another approach shot in your armoury. Here I am using an iron with less loft – a 6-iron. I read the shot like a putt and pick a point where I want the ball to land. I grip down the club and place the ball back in a narrow stance, with my hands forward. I take a few practice swings to get a feel for the shot – distance is everything here.

THE SWING

Make a smooth stroke and accelerate through impact, looking to brush the grass beneath your ball. It should bounce a few times then roll onto the green. By keeping it low you will avoid the unpredictable bounces that occur when you hit a lofted club to a hard surface. Practise this shot before using it on the course and you'll soon realise how versatile it can be.