

THE PUSH SHORT APPROACH

BY E. V. HARTFORD



MOST PEOPLE who have seen me make this shot seem to think it is one of my own invention. Perhaps it is, as I have never seen a stroke described just as I play it.

I hardly knew what to call it, but decided on the above title, because it seems in its result to have several of the characteristics of a restricted push shot.

It can be played with any of the irons. The maximum distance that should be essayed with it is

Mashie.....	80 yards
Jigger.....	90 "
Midiron.....	100 "
Cleek.....	110 "

As you see, we don't get very much distance, but the ball flies with deadly accuracy when it is properly performed and has considerable back spin, holding the green beautifully.

I stand rather close to the ball, with the latter rather closer to the right heel than the left. This means I am a little in front of the ball. Overlapping or interlocking grip.

Club is held firmly in the left fingers.

Take the club back by rolling the wrists and fore-arms to the right

(principally with the left). Make a decided *pause* at the top of the swing, which shouldn't go back for more than quarter of the distance of the full-swing. Both arms perfectly straight and very taut, like bands of steel. Bring the club through by unwinding the fore-arms (principally the left) and the club-head meets the ball just before it reaches the lowest part of its arc, and takes a little turf on the farther side of the ball. Keep the arms straight and the muscles like springs. Don't bend the wrists at all—do it all with the arms. Bring the club through with a lot of verve and snap.

The club should finish in a horizontal position, pointing toward the hole. That is, for the full swing of this shot the club-head only describes a semi-circle. For shorter approaches, play in just the same way, only take the club back a shorter distance.

Don't try to shorten the flight of the ball by easier hitting. It can't be done with success.

If made properly, the ball rises very quickly, enabling one to play close behind a bunker. Most of the flight is in a flat trajectory and the ball drops quickly and runs a very short distance and finishes, let us hope, close to the flag. When well played, this shot never fails to receive praise.

*Keep your head still
and eye on the ball.*

