

Driving lessons

European Tour coach Mark Pearson explains how to find more fairways, and more length, by getting a few fundamentals right

WIDE OPEN

When hitting the driver your feet should feel slightly more than shoulder-width apart with your weight towards to your right side. A narrow stance will encourage a slice so a solid base will help to square the clubhead at impact



Mark works with European Tour players Phillip Archer and Sam Walker and is the head teaching pro at Oulton Hall. For more details on the club visit www.devere.co.uk and click on Oulton Hall or call 0113 282 1000

SWEET SENSATION

Ideally you want at least a third of the ball showing above the top of the clubface and some players prefer to hover the club slightly above the ground. Modern-day drivers are designed with a 'sweet spot' above the middle lines (see inset)



LOFTY AMBITIONS

By getting your weight too far ahead of the ball you will de-loft the club – this will most likely result in a low shot to the right. We can see from the address position opposite that your head and torso should be behind the ball to help generate power



KEEP THE FLEX

The wrists uncock just before impact, which produces maximum clubhead speed and therefore a few extra yards. You will notice a big difference in positions from the last photo but we have still maintained the flex in the right knee – this helps to promote a wide arc in the downswing and the correct angle of attack



PLEASE RELEASE ME

More power also stems from a good release of the clubhead. There is no sign of trying to steer the ball down the fairway, rather a trust in the swing. A good checkpoint is to hold your right arm at the horizontal position – if you have released the club properly it should be pointing at the target

