

With thanks to the Dunas at Terras da Comporta, a challenging and beautiful new David McLay Kidd design plotted through the pine forests and sand hills south of Lisbon, Portugal. The course made a top-10 debut in our recent list of Continental Europe's Top 100 courses.

For more information visit comporta.com

HOW DO I PLAY...

HIGH SAND SHOTS

As summer continues and courses become firmer and faster, we often find ourselves needing to play more high-flying, soft-landing shots from greenside bunkers. If we can master this flight, we can get the ball to settle quicker and give ourselves a better look at an impressive up-and-down... though for the vast majority of amateurs, down in three remains more than acceptable. Also a great option when the green is running away from you or when you have plenty of bunker but not much green in front of you, the high-flying sand shot needs plenty of speed and commitment. Let's take a look at the technique that will enable you to play this shot with both.

KEY CONCEPT: USE CLUB, NOT BODY!

When I see amateurs try to play this shot, the most common error I see is trying to create the steep launch through unnecessary and ultimately futile body contortions. The swing's low point becomes erratic, and so does contact. So in future, approach this shot with the clear understanding that it's the clubface that delivers the height, not the body. This starts with selecting your most lofted wedge. From here, I'll show you how it all works.

YOUR COACH



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Tour Striker: Improve iron strike



Must of us know all too well the skinny, low-in-the-face iron strike... and that singular sense of hollowness that accompanies it. We also know that, on our less-coordinated days, this occasionally workable contact turns into a completely unworkable fat or thin.

But fear not! Tour Striker has been designed for you. The brainchild of *Golf Digest* Top 50 coach Martin Chuck, its clubface features a bulbous sole and uncompromisingly high leading edge. Flick or scoop through the strike – the hallmark, rising deliveries of the chronic duffer and incurable thinner – and it's impossible to get that elevated clubface on the ball.

You quickly realise the only way to get any sort of tune out of this club is to get that X, low down on its face, lower to the ground through the strike. Before you know it, you're leaning the handle forward, delofting the face and compressing the ball like a pro.

A simple idea deftly delivered, Tour Striker passes the two key training-aid tests of (a) allowing you to make a normal swing and (b) forcing you to make its intended change yourself. Perhaps its only weakness is its potential to encourage a bit of a chop – Chuck likes a shallow attack with that forward shaft lean. But if you start with short shots – 50 yards max – and build up to full speed, this shouldn't prove a problem.

£88 (PW or 7-iron)
tourstriker.com



HOW TO PLAY IT

Set-up 1:

Open the face
Twist the clubface 45° open to your target line before taking hold of the club. This adds loft and sole bounce, helping the clubhead skim through the sand. Play the ball off the lead heel, avoid the temptation to lean back and place 60% of your weight into your lead side. Finally, set the handle slightly 'behind' the clubhead.

Set-up 2: Set the handle lower

There's no need to move away from a square stance, but we do need to lower the handle, an action that squares that open clubface while preserving its loft and bounce. Stand a little further from the ball and squat more than usual. This will bring your hands closer to your knees, but as long as you have clearance to swing, that's fine.



Strike: Work the clubhead, not yourself!

Your best feel for this shot is to keep your body relatively stable while allowing your arms, hands and wrists to work freely back and through. It's this freedom in the wrists that will allow you to release the clubhead aggressively through the sand and create the speed needed with the clubface set so weak. Practise the feel before taking it to the course.