

THE TOP TEN STRATEGY MISTAKES

IN GOLF YOU SHOULD BE AVOIDING

FAIRWAYS
IN REG

SEASON
58%

AVERAGE DRIVER DISTANCE

229 YDS

USAGE 32%

FREE E-BOOK
LOWER YOUR HANDICAP

Shot Scope

INTRODUCTION

The 10 biggest strategy mistakes that golfers make based on Shot Scope performance data.

1. Not hitting enough club
2. Leaving putts short
3. Not knowing your miss
4. Driver or 3 wood off the tee?
5. Having a favourite 'Short Game Club'
6. To lay up or not to lay up?
7. Compounding errors
8. Carrying v Pushing
9. Spending too much time in the sand
10. Hybrids or long irons?

This E-Book looks at 10 strategy mistakes that golfers make on a regular basis. Each mistake has been analysed through the use of Shot Scope statistics and top tips have been provided to help you, the golfer improve your on-course strategy.

To make Shot Scope information more relevant to the individual golfer, we ask users to enter their handicap into the system. With feedback from the previous e-book and other statistics based information that we have shared, there has been a request for a larger range of handicaps to be included in the analysis. For the purpose of this e-book we have split the data into 2, 8, 14, 20 and 26 handicaps.

This e-book aims to get you thinking differently next time you play golf. It contains little nuggets of information based upon not only stats, but golfing experience, that WILL help change the way you think about the game.



Shot Scope V2 users reduce their handicaps by an average of 2.7 shots – improvements made due to learning the ‘ins and outs’ of their game.

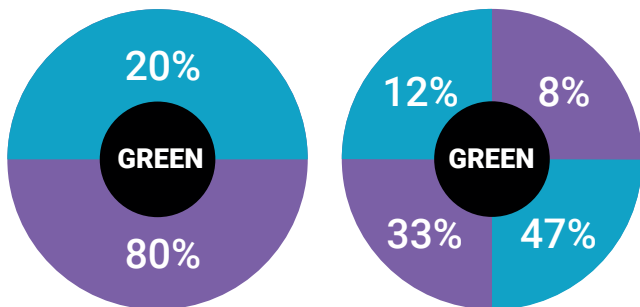
[Click here for Shot Scope V2 discount >](#)



NOT HITTING ENOUGH CLUB

Most golfers think they know how far they hit each club in the bag, yet the Shot Scope data identifies that of all missed greens, 80% of them are missed short. This is a huge percentage when you think about it, and why we will break down the reasons why golfers come up short 80% of the time.

WHERE GOLFERS MISS GREENS

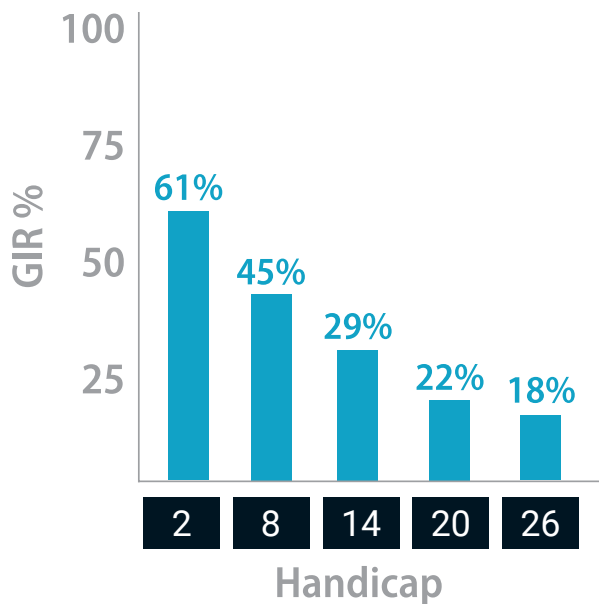


To explain this more simply, on average a 20 handicap golfer hits 4 greens in regulation. This means that they miss 14 greens per round, and of those 14, Shot Scope data tells us that 11 are missed completely short of the green altogether. A pretty staggering statistics when you think about it.

Statistics reveal that 96% of golfers play the game right handed. Breaking down where shots miss the green in more detail shows that 47% are missed short right compared with 33% short left.

The common cause for missing short right is a lack of commitment to the shot, in other words golfers are tentative when it comes to approach shots. The phrase 'bailing out' is often used and it means that if a right handed golfer is to 'bail out' or not commit to the shot in hand, then the likely hood is leaving the ball short right of the green.

GREENS IN REG BY HANDICAP

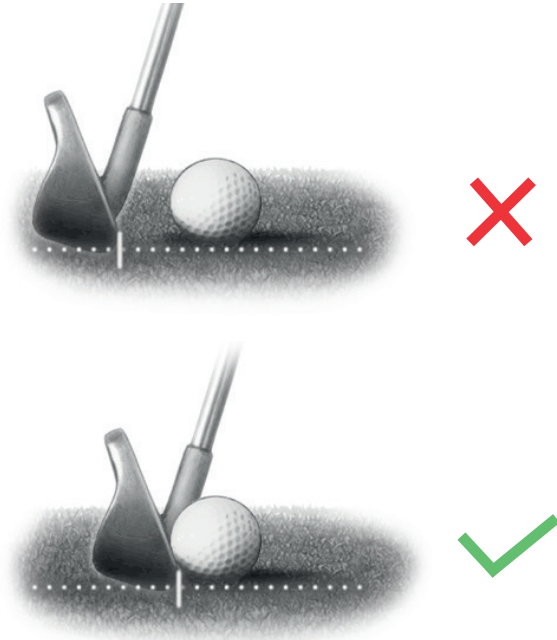


SHOT SCOPE COURSE MAPPING DATA REVEALS THAT 72% OF DANGER IS AT THE FRONT OF THE GREEN, USUALLY SAND OR WATER, WHEREAS THERE'S ONLY 28% BEHIND THE GREEN. MISSING LONG IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS OF A PROBLEM THAN MISSING SHORT.

Other reasons for missing the green short:

1. BALL STRIKING

Consistency with the strike plays a major role in the distance the ball will travel. All it takes is a little clip of the turf before the ball, or a toe/heel strike which will significantly impact the distance the ball will travel. Naturally, as your handicap improves, your ball striking will too (or vice versa whichever way you'd prefer to look at it). If you feel this is the weakness in your approach play, there are lots of free online tutorials out there to help you strike the ball then turf. The images below provide an example of what a good strike would look like



2. EQUIPMENT

We all love to blame bad shots on the clubs... well the good news is it could be your clubs – to an extent. You need to have equipment that is forgiving enough for you. It could be that those toe/heel strikes could be fixed by using a slightly more forgiving clubhead. A more forgiving set of clubs will allow for the occasional mishit, and there will be less of a distance loss from these hits. Just because the professionals use a nice new set of blade irons, doesn't mean they'll work the same for you.



BLADE

Thin clubhead with a very small 'sweet-spot'. Recommended for highly skilled golfers.



MUSCLE BACK

Lies somewhere between a blade and a cavity back. Easier to hit than blades, not as easy as a cavity back.



CAVITY BACK

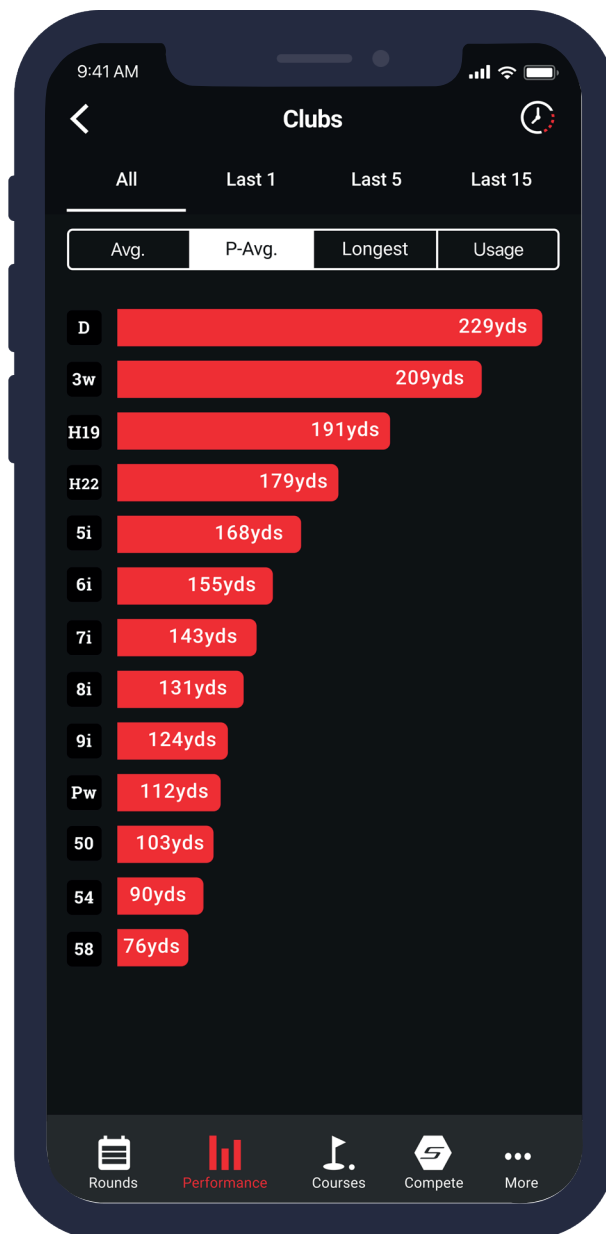
Bigger more forgiving clubhead, designed for the regular golfer. Easier to hit properly than blades.

3. NOT KNOWING HOW FAR YOU HIT EACH CLUB

Do you know how far you hit every club in your bag? This is where Shot Scope's performance tracking system benefits the golfer greatly. Many golfers think they hit a 7 iron 150 yards, when in reality, Shot Scope shows that the average golfer hits the ball nearly a full club shorter than they think they do.

Shot Scope V2 records all shots hit on the golf course and provides the user with actual club distances, based on the distance they hit the ball on the course – not on the range.

This provides the golfer with a more realistic outlook on how far they actually hit each club, as it is based on real shots, in real conditions on a real golf course. Opposed to being based upon how far you hit each club on the range, with range balls, a perfect lie and the same conditions every time.



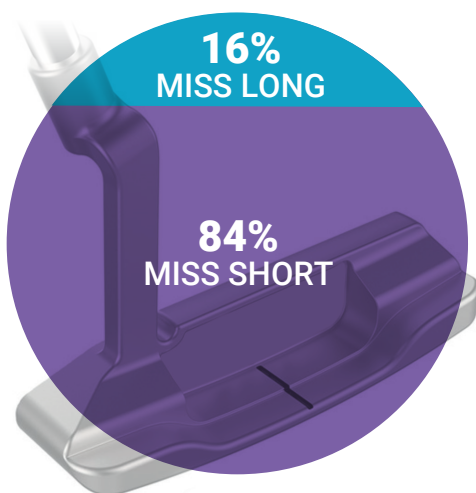


LEAVING PUTTS SHORT

'Never up, never in' is the famous saying we all know and say on occasion when leaving a putt short.

This is an obvious statement as the ball physically has zero chance of going in the hole if it does not travel to it. What percentage of putts do we leave short? Shot Scope's database of over 30 million shots has highlighted that an enormous 84% of putts over 5ft are left short!

RESULTS OF PUTTS 5FT AND LONGER



This statistic is based upon what real golfers are doing out on the golf course - something we all need to think about. 84% of the time we are giving our ball zero chance of going in the hole... Yes there is an argument that a putt left 1ft short is better than a putt raced 6ft past the hole, however working on getting the ball to the hole, should be a focus point for everyone when they step on the green.

SO WHY DO WE LEAVE PUTTS SHORT?

Often it is an issue of strike, particularly in higher handicaps. An inconsistent strike will play havoc with your distance control. For example you may make the same length and speed of putting stroke, but if the ball hits a different part of the face each time it is going to be hard to control the distance.



TOE STRIKE



HEEL STRIKE

EXAMPLE PUTTING DRILL

A good drill to work on your strike is placing a tee either side of your putter. This will help you to get that centre strike with your putter. Leave a little gap between your putter and the tee but no more than an inch. The aim is to hit those practice putts without catching either tee with your putter. This is a drill that should only be done when on the practice green - not when playing on the course.

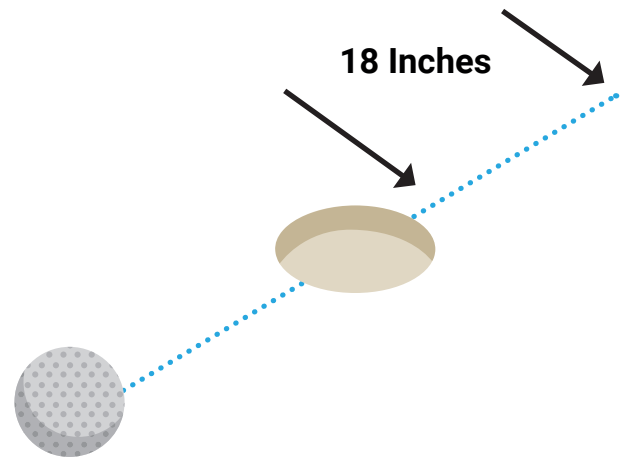


Another reason we leave putts short, is confidence. A lot of the time if we are unsure of the line or are thinking negatively i.e. "don't 3-putt" it causes us to bail out/not commit to the putt and results in the ball coming up short. The key to putting well is being confident that you can get the ball starting on your chosen line, at the pace you want for it to fall in the hole.

RECOMMENDATION: READ BOB ROTELLA'S PUTTING OUT OF YOUR MIND, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.

SO HOW FAR PAST THE HOLE IS GOOD?

There is research from Dave Peltz, where it is found that the ideal pace of a putt is to get the ball rolling so that it finishes no further than 18 inches past the hole. Peltz suggests that aiming to hit the ball up to 18 inches beyond the hole, will allow the ball to travel at an appropriate speed so that the ball will fall into the cup, even if it does not hit the centre of the hole.



The more work you can do on your speed control, the more likely you will be to putt just past the hole – and if you can do that more often, chances are you might hole a few more putts.

TOP TIPS TO ENSURE YOU DON'T LEAVE ANYMORE PUTTS SHORT.

1. **WHEN OVER THE BALL AND LOOKING AT THE HOLE, FOCUS ON THE BACK OF THE HOLE, OR A SPOT JUST BEHIND THE HOLE.**
2. **LOOK AT THE HOLE WHEN TAKING PRACTICE STROKES, IT WILL MASSIVELY IMPROVE THE SPEED OF YOUR PUTTS.**
3. **WORK ON PACE CONTROL DRILLS ON THE PRACTICE GREEN BEFORE YOU GO OUT.**
4. **WORK ON YOUR STRIKE, A CONSISTENT STRIKE MEANS YOU HAVE MORE CONTROL OVER HOW FAR THE BALL WILL ROLL.**



NOT KNOWING YOUR MISS

Do you know what your miss is? Are you more likely to miss right or left off the tee? Is the bunker or water hazard down the right side a big danger to you? Or do you simply have no idea whether it could be a left or right miss?

Shot Scope V2 provides users with statistics on every tee shot they hit, ensuring that they know exactly whether they miss left or right more often. The Shot Scope database of over 30 million shots, highlights that on average, golfers are more likely to miss right than left.

OFF THE TEE MISS



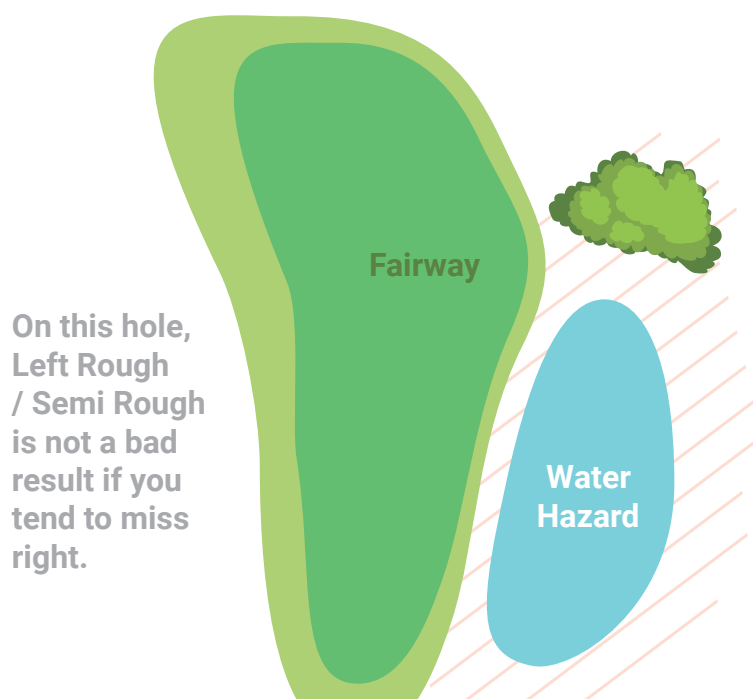
Knowing and understanding your game, understanding your shot patterns and understanding where you are most likely to miss is the first step to improving. The best players in the world don't always hit great shots, however they understand more than anyone where not to miss, as well as knowing what they are most likely to do, particularly in a pressurised environment. This is something which all golfers can do, by taking a little time to think about your shot patterns and the dangers you face.

For example on a hole with water down the right side, going right will create difficulties. If you know you are a golfer who is more likely to miss right, you can adapt and build your strategy based on that knowledge. You can see there is danger down the right, so you know to keep this one up the left side of the hole (easier said than done right enough) but majority of the time the

left rough / semi rough is a suitable and safer place to be. Contrastingly if you're someone who misses left more often, you know that the water on the right is not in play for you. Knowing this allows you to approach the hole with a more aggressive strategy and take a slightly tighter line off the tee.

Having a simple strategy based upon what you are most likely to do can really help your game. Improving your game starts by knowing and understanding what your current game does, then applying that knowledge to the on-course strategy. Shot Scope can help you learn how to manage your misses and improve from there.

DANGER ON THE RIGHT!



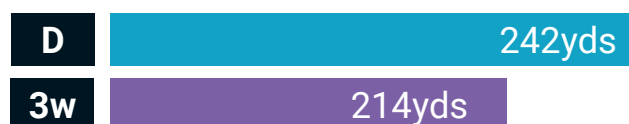


DRIVER OR 3 WOOD OFF THE TEE?

For the majority of golfers there is no such question when they get to the tee, it's Driver all day long, everywhere.

Those who have read up on this area will have found that you should look at some holes more conservatively and hit less club off the tee. The concept behind this being that the shorter club you hit, the more accurate you are with it. Now, some golf holes will certainly not require a Driver off the tee – however Shot Scope data tells us that you should hit Driver as often as possible. Here's why...

DRIVER V 3 WOOD DISTANCES



Average based on all handicaps

The Shot Scope statistics show us the average distance a player hits their Driver and 3 wood off the tee. It is evident that on average a Driver will go around 30 yards further than a 3 wood, which is probably what you would expect. So the Driver goes further, which will leave a much shorter shot to the green than if 3 wood had been hit. This leads to the next question: What club is more accurate off the tee?

DRIVER V 3 WOOD FAIRWAYS HIT



Average based on all handicaps

This is where the results are probably not what you would expect to see. On average Shot Scope identified that golfers are only 1%, yes 1%, more accurate with a 3 wood than with a Driver off the tee. Obviously 1% is such small percentage, which just goes to show that there is very little benefit to hitting a 3 wood off the tee for accuracy.

DRIVER SIZE V 3 WOOD SIZE



DRIVER

3 WOOD

Hitting more drivers is well worth considering, especially knowing how difficult fairway woods are to hit properly. They have a smaller head than a Driver, but a similar length of shaft. This means you have to stand about the same distance away from the ball as with a Driver, but have a smaller area to strike the ball with, meaning there is a high level of skill required and this is not something we would recommend an average amateur golfer to use off the tee.

If your course suits and you decide to put your Driver into play more often, this removes the need for a 3 wood for tee shots. We suggest that you look at investing in a 3 wood that is easier to hit off the fairway with accuracy valued more over distance.



HAVING A FAVOURITE 'SHORT GAME CLUB'

If you were to watch a professional figure out how to play a short game shot, they will consider many options.

The two main extremes being fly it all the way and stop it, or play a bump and run. Compare this to your typical amateur golfer... "I always use my 56" or "this is my bunker club" or the one who uses a 7 iron from everywhere.

There are two main types of amateur golfers – the ones who believe only clubs named wedges are for short game shots, and their wedge resembles the image on the right. Or those who have been informed that a bump and run with a 7 iron is an easier shot to execute, so use this club all the time.

Shot Scope data reveals that using a range of clubs around the greens makes for a better short game player. We classified poor short game players as anyone who has an average proximity over 20ft and better short game players as anyone with a proximity under 20ft. You can see that the better short game players use a range of clubs, from 8 iron to putter, with a more equal spread of usage.

Example 1 shows that golfers use their lob wedge 42% of the time – yet this club, accounts for only 10% of up and downs made. These golfers will see an instant performance improvement by not using their LW so often.

For the more skilled golfer, using different clubs in bunkers can also help get the ball closer to the hole, particularly on the longer bunker shots. To keep things simple, keep the technique the same – but use a club with less loft, for instance a gap wedge, this will help the ball to travel further without any more effort on your part. Ideal for those 30/40 yard bunker shots.

Worn out wedge



POOR SHOT GAME PLAYER

Example 1

| CLUB | PW | GW | SW | LW | Putter |
|-------|-----|----|-----|-----|--------|
| USAGE | 16% | 9% | 24% | 42% | 9% |

Example 2

| CLUB | 7i | GW | SW | LW | Putter |
|-------|-----|----|-----|----|--------|
| USAGE | 53% | 6% | 18% | 8% | 15% |

GOOD SHOT GAME PLAYER

| CLUB | 8i | 9i | PW | GW | SW |
|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----|----|
| USAGE | 15% | 14% | 22% | 12% | 9% |
| | LW | Putter | | | |
| | 10% | 18% | | | |

TOP TIP: WHEN FACING A SHORT GAME SHOT, USE A CLUB LESS THAN YOU NORMALLY WOULD. SO FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU THINK 'I WILL CHIP WITH MY SW', TRY USING YOUR PW INSTEAD. YOUR SCORES WILL THANK YOU FOR IT.



TO LAY UP OR NOT TO LAY UP?

A popular theory when it comes to laying up on a hole is that you are better to leave yourself a full shot in, opposed to a shorter 50 yard shot.

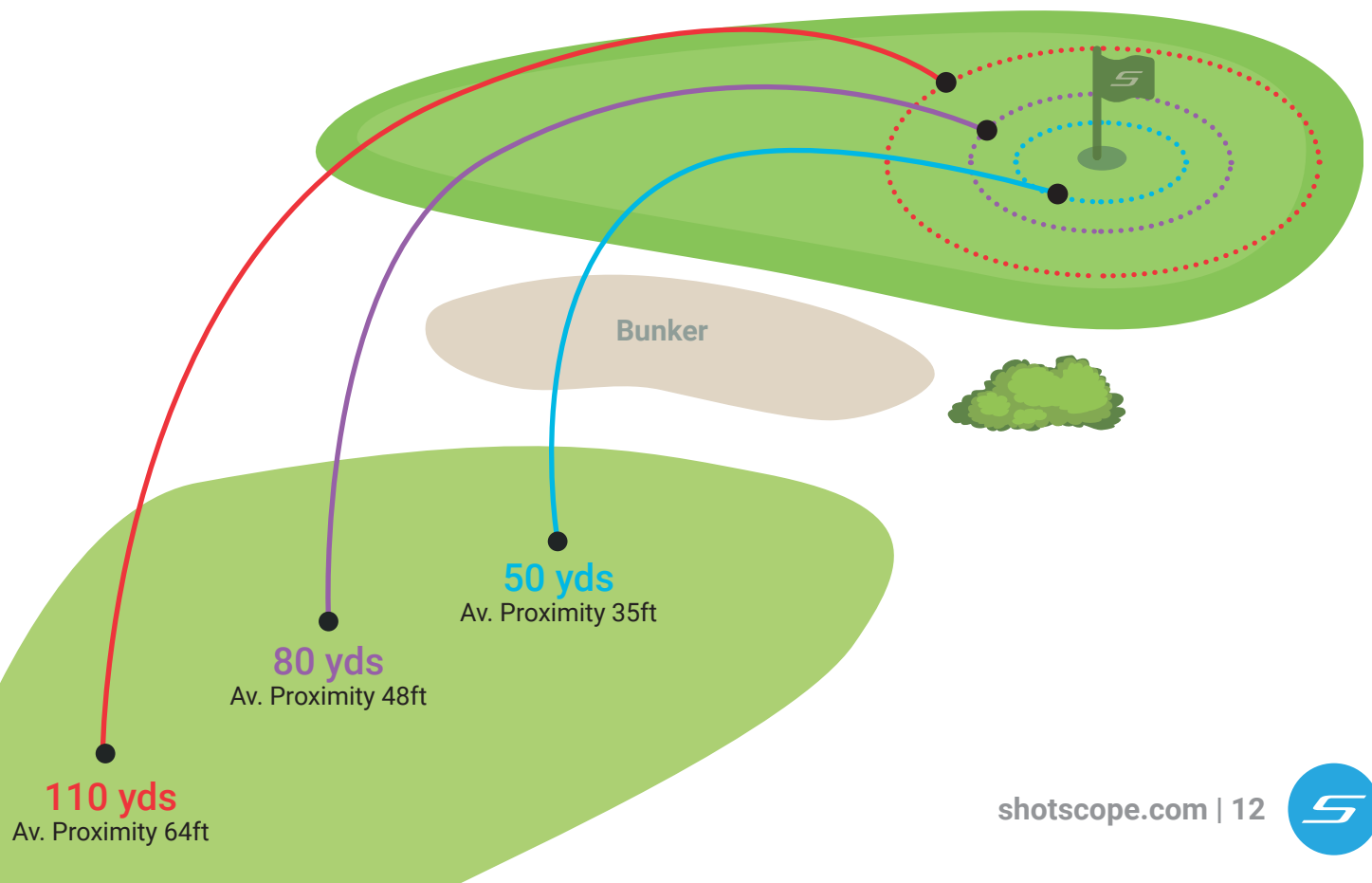
The idea being that a full swing is generally a more committed swing and if you practice from a specific yardage, say 80 yards, you will perform better at this distance than a much shorter 50 yard shot.

Well Shot Scope's database of over 30 million shots completely contradicts this 'theory'. We looked at the average proximity from both 50, 80 and 110 from our database of mixed ability golfers.

You can see from the image that the closer you are to the green the closer you hit the shot.

BUNKER PLAY

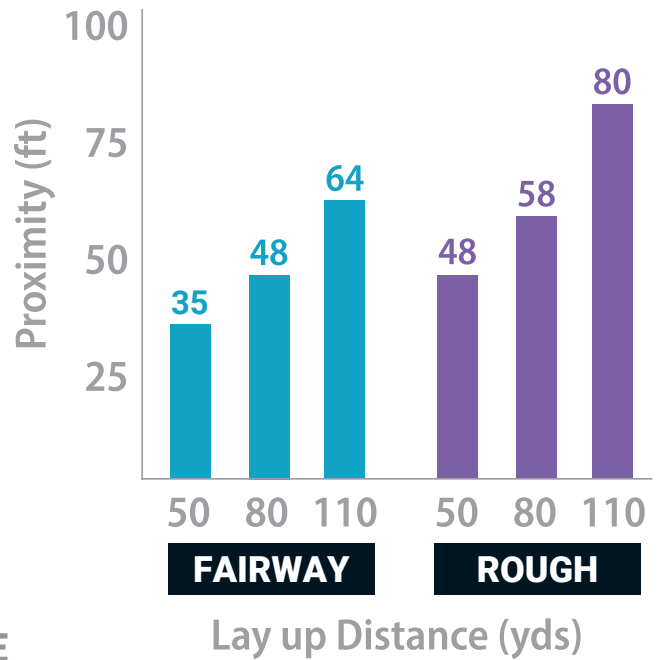
Proximity to hole from 50, 80 and 110 yards.



PITCHING DISTANCES

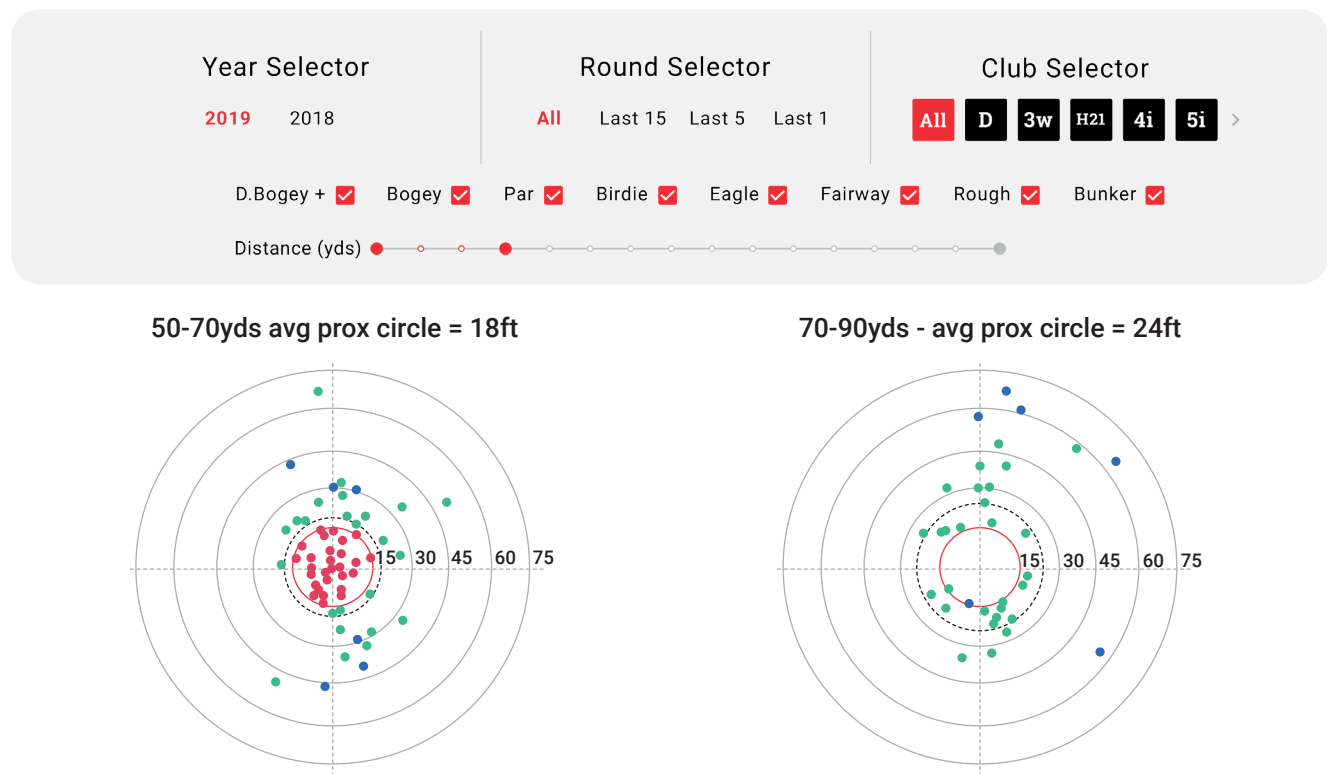
This emphasises the importance of being closer to the green with a lay up shot. Providing there are no other factors involved, e.g. water hazards or bunkers, you should lay up as close to the green as possible.

The reality is, the closer you are to the hole, the closer you will hit the ball to the pin. This is without a doubt, something you should consider when playing next, particularly if you usually lay up to a specific yardage which is further away.



SHOT SCOPE DASHBOARD EXAMPLE

Filtering shots by distance on dashboard.



Shot Scope users have the ability to track this on the performance dashboard. Analysing approaches and short game shots by distance is simple to filter on the dashboard. For example, select the desired distance range and compare against a longer or shorter distance to see which has the better dispersion and closer average proximity to the hole.

If you find that you do it hit closer from closer to the green, as most people do, you should consider adopting a more aggressive strategy off the tee or with your lay up shot.

CLOSER TO THE GREEN = CLOSER TO THE PIN!





COMPOUNDING ERRORS

Avoiding big numbers on the card is an easy way to help reduce your scores. We would class anything from a double bogey upwards as a big number.

To analyse this we have taken the average number of birdies and double bogeys (or worse) per round for 5 different handicap categories.

Looking at the table it is clear to see that between 8 and 26 handicaps there is minimal difference between the number of birdies per round. However, when you look at the average number of double bogeys, the 26 handicap golfer makes 5 more a round than a 2 handicap golfer. This is where the difference lies between those top end handicaps and mid-range handicaps.

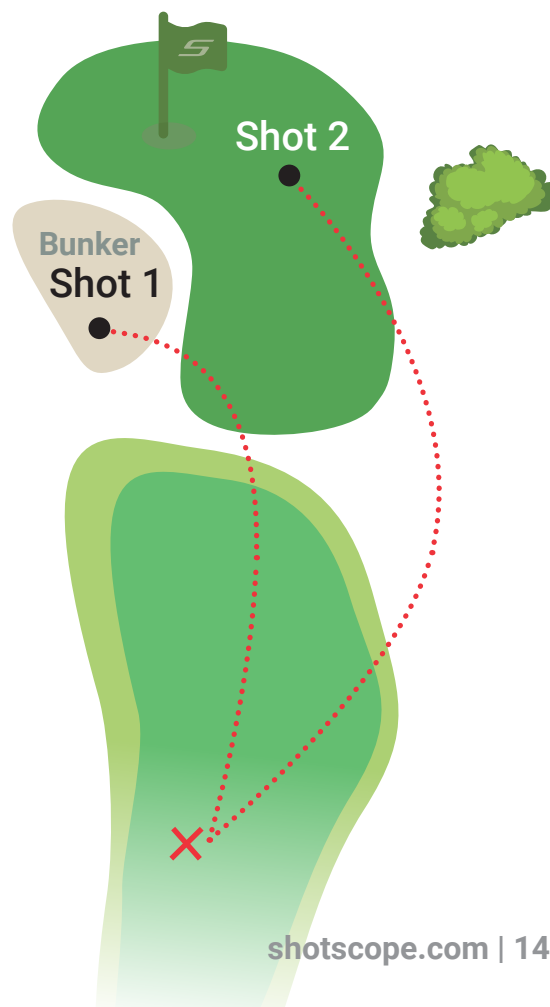
DOUBLE BOGEY / BIRDIES

| | Per Round | |
|----|-----------|---------|
| | D. BOGEY | BIRDIES |
| 2 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| 8 | 1.9 | 0.8 |
| 14 | 3.5 | 0.4 |
| 20 | 5.5 | 0.2 |
| 26 | 6.1 | 0.1 |

It is clear that the fastest way to improve and reduce your handicap is not to make more birdies but to reduce the number of double bogeys in a round. One way to do this is change the strategy with approach shots. A tough pin tucked behind a bunker is a no go, unless a perfect golf shot is executed, which is highly

unlikely for a handicap golfer. Yet time after time, golfers find themselves being sucked in to going for the flag, which brings bogey, double or even worse into play.

TRICKY PIN TUCKED BEHIND BUNKER



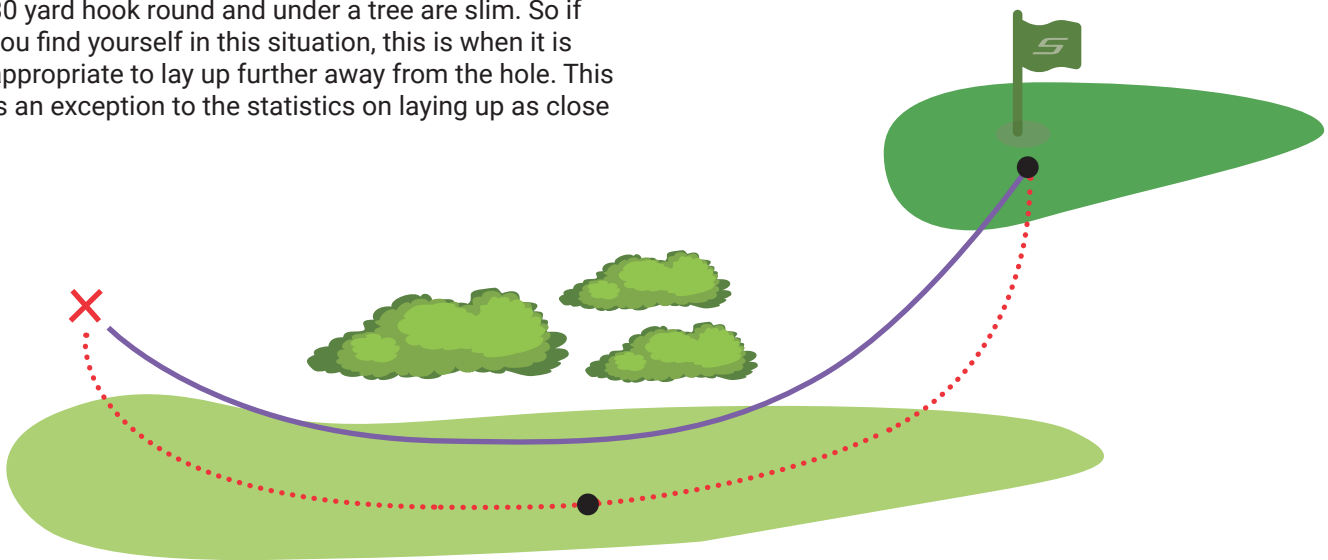
A simple way to reduce these scorecard demons is to simply play for the middle of the green. Hitting the ball here will reduce the likelihood of going in the bunker short and making bogey or worse. If you hit to the middle of the green you will always have a putt to the flag rather than a difficult short game shot, plus, you will never be too far away from the flag if you're in the middle of the green.

AGGRESSIVE OR CONSERVATIVE

Being aggressive has its pros and cons, you need to be skilful enough to pull off the aggressive shots, otherwise it will cost you even more shots. Everyone would love to pull off these miracle escape shots but the chances of you successfully pulling off the 30 yard hook round and under a tree are slim. So if you find yourself in this situation, this is when it is appropriate to lay up further away from the hole. This is an exception to the statistics on laying up as close

to the hole as possible. Take your medicine and make sure you get the ball back in play, to give yourself the best possible chance of hitting the green with your next shot. Having a longer but clear shot to the green ensures the error is not compounded.

If you were to go for the miracle shot – chances are you end up further in trees or in more bother, what we call compounding the error of the first bad shot. So if you find yourself out of position on the course, do not compound the error by attempting to hit a 'miracle' shot. Put your conservative head on, and figure out the best way to get the ball back into play, leaving yourself an easy shot to the green. This strategy will help reduce the number of scorecard wreckers you have in a round and over time, will help reduce your score too.



Hook round a tree or lay up/chip out onto fairway.

- The hook is risky and hard to execute
- The chip out is an easier shot and less risky

NEXT TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF WITH A TIGHTLY TUCKED AWAY PIN, OR OUT OF POSITION ON THE COURSE:

- 1. THINK ABOUT YOUR SKILL LEVEL, WHILE WE WOULD ALL LOVE TO HIT THESE GREAT ESCAPE SHOTS IT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT RESULTS IN A HIGH NUMBER.**
- 2. DON'T HIT A SHOT THAT WILL MORE THAN LIKELY LEAVE YOU IN A WORSE POSITION THAN YOU WERE.**
- 3. THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE HITTING THE NEXT SHOT FROM**



CARRYING V PUSHING

This is an area which is overlooked by all golfers. Part of ensuring a solid strategy on the golf course is ensuring you are prepared and equipped to perform at your best.

If you knew doing something was likely to hinder your performance and reduce the chances of you scoring well, would you still do it? No.

Research suggests that carrying your clubs is that thing. Golf requires all of your muscles, joints and body parts to work together, to perform at your best. Carrying your clubs, requires lifting and setting down the bag up to 100 times a round placing extra weight and stress upon your body, leading to fatigue, and in some cases a dreaded injury.

Now yes there are benefits to carrying your clubs, including; ease, cutting corners, boot space, no set up pre-round etc. However there are perceived health benefits, such as 'you lose more weight', 'you burn more calories' and 'carrying your clubs makes you stronger'.

Playing a round of golf you burn approximately 1400 calories per round (walking). Dr. Neil Wolkodoff researched this topic discovered the health benefits to carry clubs are minimal. Over 9 holes golfers who carried clubs burned 721 calories, opposed to the 718 calories burned by someone who pushed their clubs. 3 calories is nothing compared to a back injury. He concluded by saying:

"People who push a cart have a lot fewer health issues and a lot less potential for issues. The golf swing is tough on the back no matter how you look at it. If you can push a cart and keep one more stress away from the back that's a great thing."

Dr. Neil Wolkodoff

Other specialists in the industry have also had their say on the matter:

"Repeatedly lifting and carrying a bag full of metal over a four-hour period is madness. If I asked someone to do the equivalent with dumb-bells in the gym you would think I was crazy!"

Josh Salzmann, fitness coach for professional golfers.

"I work with golfers to enhance their performance and carrying a golf bag does absolutely nothing to improve your play – in fact it does quite the opposite."

Mary MacKay, sports therapist for professional golfers.

The experts all conclude that the golfer's best option for both their golf and their life/health is to not carry clubs.

| | CARRY | TROLLEY | OTHER |
|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| UK | 39% | 49% | 12% |
| USA | 27% | 19% | 54% |
| ROW | 48% | 36% | 16% |

Results from independent Shot Scope Survey

PULLING V PUSHING

Now comes the decision of using a push or pull trolley. All you have to do is look at the posture difference between someone pushing and pulling their trolley.

The golfer pulling their trolley, their hand is behind them, meaning that their shoulder is twisted from a natural position.



The decision to push your clubs on a trolley, or carry your clubs is down to the individual.

However, if you are wanting to perform at your best, we recommend choosing wisely.



CARRYING V PUSHING



HANDS FREE!



Cons of carrying your clubs:

- Lifting and setting down bag up to 100 times a round
- Extra weight 8-15kgs on your shoulders and spine
- Physical decline
- Uses extra energy
- Fatigue
- Injury
- Doesn't burn as many calories as people think

Pros of pushing your clubs

- Easier to walk with
- No extra weight on your shoulders
- No lifting a heavy bag up and down
- Saves energy
- Less risk of injury
- Burns more calories than people think



SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN THE SAND

Does your heart start pounding when you see your ball heading towards a bunker? Do you get the fear when you see your ball heading towards a bunker? Is it usually the sign of a scorecard wrecker? Don't worry, you are not alone.

At some point in their golfing career, every golfer has dreaded playing out of a bunker.

Shot Scope have provided us with some bunker specific statistics to help break down and analyse bunkers. The average golfer faces 2 bunkers shots per round. Breaking this down by handicap tells us that higher handicaps face more bunkers shots than lower handicaps.

BUNKER SHOTS PER ROUND

| | | |
|----------|----|-----|
| Handicap | 2 | 1.2 |
| | 8 | 1.5 |
| | 14 | 2.1 |
| | 20 | 2.3 |
| | 26 | 2.8 |

Why do higher handicaps face more bunker shots?

Primarily this is due to lack of a solid course strategy. Having a solid course or hole strategy in place allows you to strategically plan where to be and ultimately miss bunkers. Of course there are external factors that impact this plan and may affect what happens (wind, rain, unusual lie etc), but having a plan in place helps to limit the chances of ending up in a bunker.

Additionally, it comes down to skill level and understanding of how to play a bunker shot, in particular, a greenside bunker shot. A higher handicap is less likely to get the ball out of a greenside bunker on the first attempt. Meaning that they face another bunker shot.

How many of you leave the ball in the greenside bunker after the first attempt at getting out? Why do you think you do this? Poor shot execution?

RESULTS FROM GREENSIDE BUNKER SHOTS

| Handicap | | INSIDE 6FT | MISS GREEN | LEFT IN BUNKER |
|----------|----|------------|------------|----------------|
| | 2 | 32% | 10% | 1% |
| | 8 | 21% | 19% | 4% |
| | 14 | 13% | 32% | 8% |
| | 20 | 8% | 42% | 14% |
| | 26 | 5% | 50% | 21% |

The data tell us that overall 22% of golfers leave the ball in the bunker after their first attempt. The image highlights that as a players handicap improves, so does their bunker play, with 2 handicappers leaving the ball in the bunker only 1% of the time, compared to 21% of the time for a 26 handicapper.



ALWAYS HIT THE SAND FIRST



What is the secret to playing well out of bunkers? Always hit the sand first. A bunker shot is a shot like no other. You want to splash the ball up and out. Do not lean the shaft and hit down into the sand. Low hands mean the ball goes higher.

TOP TIP: DON'T BE GREEDY. IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE PLAYING OUT OF BUNKERS THEN YOUR FIRST THOUGHT HAS TO BE TO GET THE BALL OUT. THAT MAY INCLUDE PLAYING OUT BACKWARDS OR SIDEWAYS IF YOU FEAR YOU CANNOT GET OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PIN. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO THINK ABOUT IS HITTING THE SAND BEFORE THE BALL.



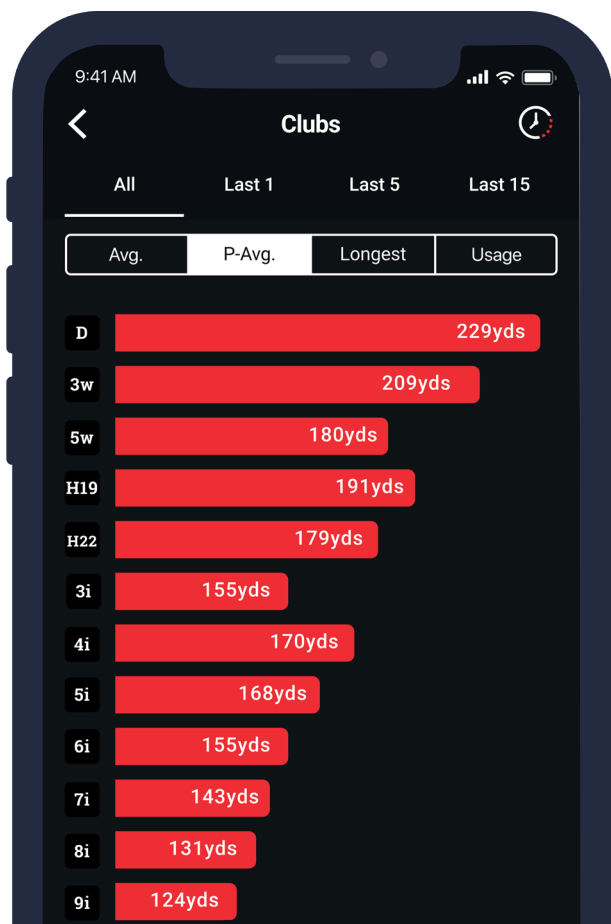
HYBRIDS OR LONG IRONS?

Are you more accurate with long irons or a hybrid? There is often a decision to be made when getting new clubs (or after a while of little success with the clubs you have), whether to go for hybrids or irons to fill the gap at the top end of your bag.

This is a common issue we notice among Shot Scope users. Many golfers realise through the use of the Club Distances statistic that their club gapping towards the top end of their bag could improve, see the example below of a 20 handicap Shot Scope user with poor club gapping at the top of their bag.

A simple way to improve accuracy with the longer clubs is to switch out irons for hybrids. This obviously depends on the level of golfer. Shot Scope data tells us that higher handicaps have more success with hybrids than long irons, whereas for lower handicaps, it is fairly inconclusive and mainly down to personal preference.

P. AVERAGE DISTANCES



ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SHOT SCOPE

- 1. REFER TO YOUR SHOT SCOPE YARDAGES TO HELP UNDERSTAND WHETHER YOU ARE BETTER WITH IRONS OR HYBRIDS.**
- 2. IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, TRIAL A DEMO CLUB AND PUT YOUR SPARE SHOT SCOPE TAG IN THE GRIP. THEN ADD IT TO 'MYBAG' WITH THE MAKE AND MODEL. THIS WILL ENABLE YOU TO DIRECTLY COMPARE ITS PERFORMANCE AGAINST YOUR CURRENT CLUB(S).**

IRON v HYBRID

3 different distance examples of iron v hybrid.

| 210 Yard Shot | | |
|---------------|--------|------|
| | HYBRID | IRON |
| Handicap 2 | 20% | 18% |
| 8 | 16% | 12% |
| 14 | 12% | 7% |
| 20 | 9% | 4% |
| 26 | 8% | 3% |

| 190 Yard Shot | | |
|---------------|--------|------|
| | HYBRID | IRON |
| Handicap 2 | 23% | 25% |
| 8 | 22% | 20% |
| 14 | 18% | 12% |
| 20 | 13% | 8% |
| 26 | 10% | 6% |

| 170 Yard Shot | | |
|---------------|--------|------|
| | HYBRID | IRON |
| Handicap 2 | 30% | 34% |
| 8 | 26% | 28% |
| 14 | 21% | 19% |
| 20 | 17% | 15% |
| 26 | 11% | 10% |

This image cements the findings that higher handicaps are more accurate with hybrids than irons. A 20 handicap golfer is more than twice as likely to hit the green from 210 yards with a hybrid compared with an iron.

The other side of this is that, generally lower handicaps are just as accurate with irons as they are with hybrids. That's why for lower handicaps it is more down to the individual golfer and their preference as there is not much statistical advantage to either club. For 14 handicaps and upwards though it is certainly worth considering swapping the long irons for hybrids as the overall results suggest more accuracy – which is what you need to improve.

For Shot Scope users who have both hybrids and long irons it is easy to track which is better as it can all be

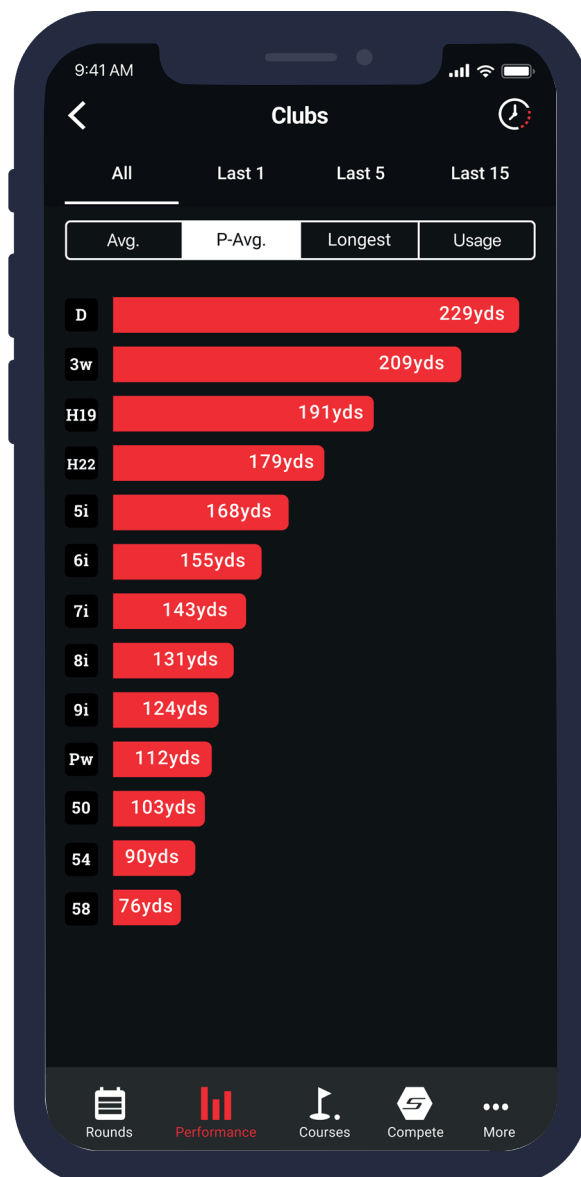
investigated within the performance dashboard. For those of you who are non Shot Scope users, we would suggest keeping some stats of your own and see what clubs you are more successful with from that 160-220yard range, if you keep coming up short with irons, perhaps it's time to invest in some hybrids.

What does success look like? Well in this case you simply need to look and see which club hits more greens in regulation. For the example used earlier, we would recommend that this 20 handicap Shot Scope user should select to use the clubs in the image below.

Hopefully now this is something a lot of you will consider looking at within your game. If you are a high handicapper carrying long irons, have a think, swapping out your 3 and 4 irons for some hybrids could change your game. Sorting out the iron or hybrid situation will certainly improve not only your confidence with longer shots but your accuracy too.

CLUB RECOMMENDATION

P-avg distances club recommendation.





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