

Week 8 Long Game – Using your Hybrid

How to get the most out of your hybrid club? This has cropped up on the practice tee quite a lot recently. Upon discussing the hybrid with certain players it seems the biggest issue for a lot of us who struggle with this club is, not that they CAN'T hit it but in fact they don't know HOW to hit it or WHEN to use it.

Firstly, a few questions I'm often asked .

- What is a hybrid club? It is a merge of the traditional fairway wood and the longer irons in your set. They are generally more forgiving and higher launching than the equivalent long irons.
- Where should you use it? It could be the most versatile club in your bag. It can be used mainly on the fairway for longer shots but also from the tee on par 3's or shorter par 4's. It can be used from shorter rough as it gets the ball out better than a longer iron tends to. It can also be used close to the green with a putting like stroke to chip the ball slightly and then roll along the green.
- What iron is it the equivalent of? There are numerous lofts available in hybrid clubs which replace different irons. My advice would be to use the irons you are comfortable with and try to get one or more hybrids that go further than the longest iron in your set and shorter than the fairway woods you use. They generally replace the irons in your set not the fairway woods.

Now, how to use it effectively on full shots. The main piece of advice I give on using a hybrid club is to try to play it more like an iron than a wood. I think because it looks like a small wood most players try to add loft through impact and hit up on the ball. At impact we tend to see the player falling back with their wrists breaking, trying to get the club under the ball. (Pic.1). We should try to avoid doing this at all costs. What generally happens when we try to do this is, we either hit behind the ball and take a big divot and lose distance or we hit the top of the ball and hit it along the ground. Neither outcome is desirable.



Like all good shots it starts with the set up. (Pic.2)

- Play the golf ball slightly ahead of the middle of your stance.
- Stand with your feet at least shoulder width apart with the weight evenly distributed between front foot and back foot.
- Put your hands at least in line if not slightly ahead of the golf ball to encourage a downward attack angle and a slight divot after the golf ball.

The Swing

- Through keep your head over the golf ball. Don't fall back behind the ball. (Pic.3)
- Make sure we stretch out through the shot . Don't hit up on the golf ball. We are trying to make a divot after the golf ball. (Pic.3)
- Let the swing bring you to a gradual conclusion.
- At the finish we should be up tall, facing the target, with our weight all on our front leg and most importantly, balanced.(Pic. 4)



I hope these pointers help. Get out to there and try it out.

If you have any specific questions regarding this article or any other golf swing issues you can email Eddie on eddietraceypga@yahoo.com and he will endeavour to address them in future articles.

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