

# There's gold in those hills

A question I am often asked is how to play the ball when it lies on a slope. When playing at Bukit or Island location I can see why: both courses have their fair share of undulations. However, there appears to be a lot of misconceptions as to how to play these shots. This month I am going to try to dispel a few of these myths.

## Uphill Lie

When faced with the uphill lie, the ball should be roughly in the middle of your stance, with your weight forward, leaning into the slope. You will find that your shoulders are level with the lie of the land (**Picture 1**). A common misconception is that you should stay back on your right foot when you swing through to hit the ball (for right handers), whereas you should really be feeling that you are moving your weight forward and through the ball. Another tip when playing these shots is to take an

extra club: you will need the extra yardage since the hole is uphill.



**Picture 1**

## Downhill Lie

As with the uphill lie, you should feel that your weight is forward, but now it is leaning downhill, not up (**Picture 2**). You should feel as though your weight is forward and you are over the ball. The common misconception here is that people think they need to scoop the ball up, hitting it off their back foot. Take note that when playing the downhill lie the ball



**Picture 2**

will come out low. Don't fight that. This time, take a club less than you would normally use, as the slope of the ground will de-loft the club.

## Ball Above Feet

When the ball is above your feet, you should take your normal set up but choke down your grip i.e. grip the club lower down the shaft (**Picture 3**). When playing this shot, having the ball above your feet will tend to make the ball go right to left (for right handers), so you should aim to the right of the target.

## Ball Below Feet

With this shot, the important thing is to feel like you are keeping your

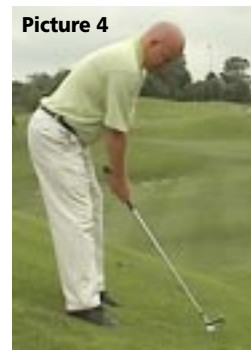
## Tee-time with Josh

Joshua Willard



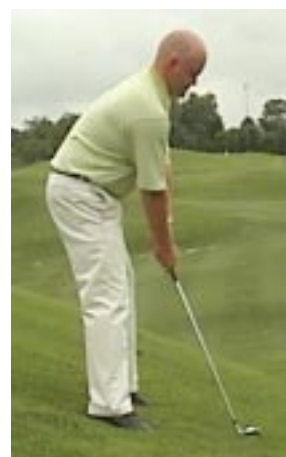
**Picture 3**

angle over the ball (**Picture 4**). Where people often go wrong is that they try to straighten their spine (**Picture 5**). In this case, the ball will tend to fade, left to right, so you should aim to the left of the target.



**Picture 4**

If you follow these simple tips, you should find that you have more success when faced with hilly lies, and can start lining your pockets with the gold you find hidden in the hills.



**Picture 5**