

Knock Knock

What shot's there? At Salem, the best answer might be the 'old school' knock-down shot.

BY KEVIN WOOD



A GREAT SHOT to have in your bag when you need to control the height and distance of your golf ball is the knock-down shot.

I like to use this shot into the wind, hitting downhill and especially to front flagstick placements where positioning your approach is the key to scoring well. Salem's greenside bunkers are generally left and right of the green leaving access through the center.

I start by choosing one more club for the distance I want to carry. My body alignment is open to the target with the club face aimed directly at the target. My weight favors the left side where it stays throughout the shot. The ball is set in the back of my stance.

As I take the club straight back on the target line, my hands set as they normally would. To knock the ball down on line, my hands lead the club toward the target (as seen in the photos) and strike the ball at a steeper than usual angle. 'Holding on' or not releasing my hands will produce a low ball flight that will skip once and check quickly on the green.

Family: Wife: Janet; sons Justin (9) and Christian (5)

Club: Head golf professional, Salem Country Club

Years as Pro: 21 (12 at Salem)

Favorite Course: Kiawah Island Golf Resort (Ocean Course)



SETTING UP...

In the photo at left, note my setup with an open stance (front foot angled out) and my weight favoring my left side (my weight will stay there throughout the shot). The ball is set back in my stance.

GETTING DOWN

The two photos at the bottom show my follow through... note that my hands lead the club toward the target and strike the ball at a steeper-than-usual angle. My hands don't release, which produces the desired low ball flight.

