

FYI.

GOLF WITH RODGER DAVIS



THE RIGHT APPROACH

With a proper grip established, addressing the ball is the next step towards a consistent game in the second of a four-part series leading up to the *BRW* World Corporate Golf Challenge.

● Travel down to the local public golf course and observe how many players shuffle almost aimlessly towards their ball as if unsure where they are going. Many players make the mistake of putting their feet in first and then the club – a key reason for poor alignment.

How to address the ball is covered in this second part of a four-part series that teaches how to build a routine which can be used for every golf shot. Last week we covered the first part of the routine: the grip.

The simplest way to obtain the correct address position is to put the club in

first and the feet in second – don't rush it. As shown in the photos, I've set up two clubs showing the position in relation to the ball (picture 1). The trick is to keep your feet completely divorced from the set-up position.

Before addressing the ball, you have already taken your grip while walking in from behind the ball. The grip never changes ('Get a grip', *BRW*, November 12).

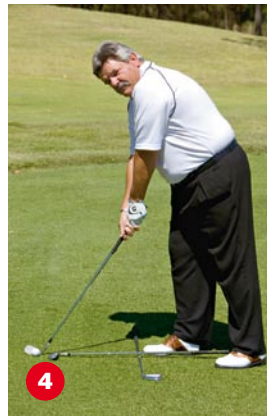
The next step in the routine is putting the club in, with the right foot just behind the ball. The left foot is a little behind the right, but is divorced from the

set-up position at this stage (picture 2). The important thing is the position of the right foot.

Another benefit from putting the club in first and feet second is that it is easy for your eyes to run down the line from the club face to the target (pictures 3 and 4), making sure you are going in the right direction. If the feet go in first and the club second, it is difficult to see the line – this is why a lot of people end up aiming away from their target.

Now, the most important part of addressing the ball is stretching slightly when putting the club behind





BRW WORLD CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

Rodger Davis is event ambassador for the BRW World Corporate Golf Challenge. Winners of the state finals will progress to the Australian final at Twin Waters Golf Club on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, next April. Davis will then accompany the winning team to South Africa to act as coach and mentor in the world final in May next year. To enter a team or for more details, go to BRW.com.au.

the ball. The stretch sets up the shoulders. If you are not stretching just a little, the shoulder may be open instead of square – and the ball will start left of the target. The likely result is poor contact.

Also, when stretching, do not extend so far that height is lost. Keep the same height – it's just a very small stretch.

Next, align the club, which always points where you want the ball to finish. When you put your left foot in, the right foot moves back to a comfortable position (picture 5). The body automatically falls square to the shoulder line.

The ball position will always remain the same in relation to the left foot; the only change is the width of the stance for comfort. A driver stance is wider than a wedge.

So now we are really starting to build a routine that will continue throughout our golfing days. With practice, the grip becomes a natural part of the start-up. Start behind the ball and picture the target. The left hand falls into the correct grip position and we glance down while moving towards the ball to ensure the right positioning for the hit – straight shot, fade or draw.

Start approaching the address position – put the club in first, feet in second. Suddenly you have the perfect position, having checked the left thumb grip on the way in and knowing that the correct sequence of club and feet puts you square to the target line.

By following this routine, after a while you will be using it for short chip shots and even putting – not just fairway shots. It will be the same for every iron, right up to the driver in the bag.

Next we will cover posture, which flows on naturally from addressing the ball. **BRW** With Damon Frith

When Laurie Walker finances a public-private partnership, 5,779 students benefit.

Working as an advisor, Laurie and her group arranged funding for seven new schools in South East Queensland. Combining senior public funding with subordinated private debt, they minimised project risk and lowered the cost of capital. It's all part of Total Capital Solutions. Put Laurie and Commonwealth Bank's resources on your side.

Laurie Walker
laurie_walker@cba.com.au



Developed by Top-400