



A simple greenside splash shot starts with securing your feet in the sand left of the target (wriggling your feet into the sand should do this). Your hips and shoulders should also run parallel to your feet left of the target line. The ball position should be a couple of inches further toward your front foot than any other shot so that you strike the sand this much behind the ball (this will all make sense later don't worry). Next aim the clubface right of the target line making the clubface as lofted as possible by facing it up to the sky.

Now, this is where the magic of the sand-wedge can come alive... The sole (bounce) of the club is now activated and is well below the level of the leading edge of the club (remember the sharp bottom line of the clubface). Now swinging the club on the line of your feet hips and shoulders (left of the target).



Anticipate a fairly steep wrist like takeaway and using that steepness on the way down to allow the sole (bounce) to dig into the sand a few centimetres behind the ball allowing a cushion of sand to be present between the ball and the middle of the clubface. Once achieved keep rotating the body so that you finish the shot with your chest and belt buckle facing where your feet hips and shoulders were aiming thus allowing all the angles to come into place and allowing the ball to start on line (or just left of target ready to spin back right once on the green) achieving your desired ball flight and length of carry.



Once you have this clearly in your mind it is time to add a great method I was given after visiting John Cook's Golf school (famed for his tuition features in Golf Monthly Magazine who taught at The Warwickshire Golf Club). Simply hit the cushion of SAND a few centimetres behind the BALL towards the point where you want the golf ball to LAND. However, remembering that the grains of sand give some resistance to the clubs movement you will be forced to deliver the club with the correct amount of velocity to skim through the sand and complete the shot, resulting in the sand and ball being carried to this point. Once ball and sand hit the green together the grains of sand will disperse leaving the ball pitching on the green and checking up next to the flag...

Obviously to master the art of this would take a fair few practice sessions but I feel this comprehensive guide will give you a solid system to not just get out of a bunker but give you some control over the ball and not allowing any common faults to creep in.

**A big thank you to Lutterworth Golf Club for use of there facilities as well as photographer Matt Bailey in helping to put together this feature. Dan Bailey PGA is available for coaching on 07940 962627**