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Keys to Tommy Fleetwood's success

Norman Marshall, head coach at the Tommy Fleetwood Academy, provides a fascinating technical analysis of his former pupil's game

Tommy's clubface is slightly shut at the top of his backswing

1 Strong left-hand grip
Tommy likes to see two to two-and-a-half knuckles on his left hand when he looks down. It means he has a slightly shut clubface at the top of the backswing – which is a common trait among great ball-strikers. It necessitates a good lower-body action on the through swing, which helps him to clear the hips and keep the clubface square. Tommy's lower-body action is a major factor in multiplying the leverage in the transition from the backswing to the downswing. In this sense, the strong left-hand grip, which leads to that slightly closed clubface, has become a strength.

2 Synchronisation
He had a drill with his swing coach, Alan Thompson, where he'd hit balls with minimum wrist movement. It would help him get his arms, body and club working in sync in the backswing, at impact and in the through swing. He likes to feel as though his clubface is square to target for 12 inches either side of impact. He hit it so well during this drill that he decided to play that way, hence the slightly curtailed follow-through.

3 Distance control
He's worked a lot on this with his short-game coach, Graham Walker. Something called 'spin loft' is the secret to distance and trajectory control, as well as the quality of strike – and this is where he excels. He's looking to return the club with the shaft angle similar at impact to what it was at address. Controlling the spin loft gives him control over the launch angle of his pitching.



4 Forearm rotation
Tommy's greenside bunker play is excellent – and he's also known as one of the best in the business at those 40- to 50-yarders. One of the reasons for this, I believe, is because of the way he controls and adds loft. A lot of great golfers really open the clubface at address. Tommy rotates his forearms on the backswing and adds a lot of loft – which he also does on his pitches. It means he has such wonderful control of his trajectory.