



# SAM HUTSBY

*Golf Monthly's* touring pro Sam Hutsby creates incredible power with a seemingly effortless and flowing swing. He is proof that you do not need to be the biggest to hit the ball a long way. Sam's coach Damian Taylor talks us through his impressive technique



DAMIAN TAYLOR

The first time I worked with Sam was just before the Amateur Championship in June where he finished second. Straight away I could tell by his ball-striking that he had the talent and fundamentals to become a top player. Sam has got very good rhythm and he has a great flow to his swing. He produces a huge amount of power without looking like he hits the ball that hard. Of course, he is helped by the fact that he is a flexible guy. The flow of the swing means there is no interruption in the speed and as a result he loses very little power through impact.

Sam has a fairly simple, straight up-and-down swing and this is something we work hard at maintaining. With the modern high-speed cameras however, it is easy to over-

analyse and get too caught up in swing thoughts. By doing this you can get tied in knots and we want to make sure we keep the strengths that come with a swing that is compact and simple.

We have been working hard on his takeaway because Sam has a tendency to get a little bit inside the correct line and under plane. Another area is the top of the backswing where he tends to alter his posture, losing a little bit of height and from here he can get a little quick with his hips. This, in turn, leads to his arms and body getting out of synch and the club gets behind him on the way down. This requires some manipulation with the hands to get back on track. So controlling the speed of the hips helps to keep everything

Photography: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images

more connected and improves his overall consistency. We have done some resistance work using flexible Thera-Bands to help keep everything working together on the downswing.

Unless there is something drastically out of place we won't change too much during tournament weeks. It is during the winter months that we will really knuckle down and work hard on his technique. Sam loves the game and works incredibly hard at it. Sometimes we have to drag him off the practice ground to save some energy for tournaments. This commitment is vital, but you also have to keep yourself fresh for events because tournament weeks sap a lot of energy. He is also a great listener and is very good at applying any advice that he receives.

## WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM SAM

As well as the technical aspects of his swing, Sam also impresses with his attitude on the golf course. He is the type of golfer that makes it difficult to tell whether he has made a birdie or a bogey and is very level-headed. He may get a little annoyed when he makes a mistake, but it never affects the next shot. I often see amateurs who make it very clear that they are having a bad day and this can ruin their whole round. Try to move on from a bad shot and move your focus onto the shot that lies ahead.

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