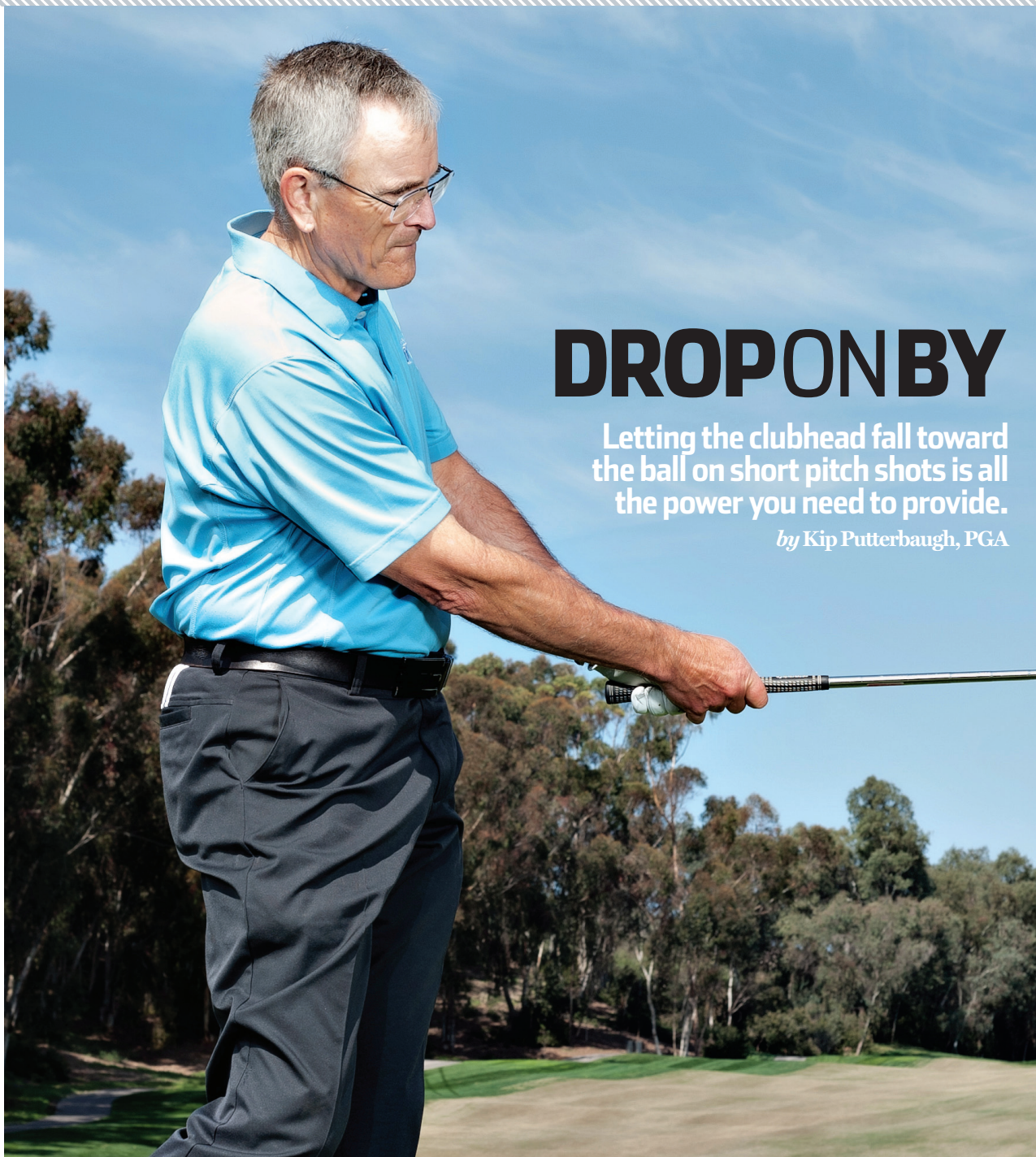


# Lesson tee

{ Exclusive Golf Instruction From Southern California Teaching Professionals }



## DROP ON BY

Letting the clubhead fall toward the ball on short pitch shots is all the power you need to provide.

*by Kip Putterbaugh, PGA*





**O**NE OF THE major errors I see from amateurs is a belief that they have to “hit” the ball on green-side pitch shots. By hit, I mean using force or power from your arms and hands.

That thinking is amplified when the ball is in the rough. Since the weight of a lob wedge or sand wedge is heavier than the grass it has to go through, what needs to be applied on these shots is the feeling of the clubhead falling to the ground and letting gravity supply the speed.

To get this sensation, hold the club in your left hand (right-handers) and put your right index finger under the shaft and your left hand just past your right thigh. Now remove your right hand and let the club fall to the ground without your left hand moving forward. The club should hit the ground behind your right foot. Repeat this drill five or six times.

Now do the same drill and let your left shoulder and hips rotate to the left until the clubhead hits the ground where your ball would be. Once you get this sensation, put both hands on the club and create the same motion. After you feel the “fall” of the club you’ll be amazed how little effort is needed to hit a soft greenside pitch. **SG**

**Kip Puterbaugh, PGA**, operates his namesake Aviara Golf Academy in Carlsbad. He can be reached at (760) 438-4539.

**TIP**

ADEQUATE HIP AND SHOULDER ROTATION WILL CAUSE THE CLUBHEAD TO FALL WHERE THE BALL LIES.



KENNETH RUGGIANO