



Golf Digest, with the assistance of the PGA of South Africa, is again ranking the best teachers who are members of the association. The PGA have identified the top 25 teachers in the country after a vote cast by all PGA members which asked them to rate the quality of teachers they know both nationally and regionally. The 25 teachers, 21 men and four women, are distributed throughout the country, with 10 based in Gauteng, 10 in the Cape (four Western, four Southern and two Eastern), and three in KwaZulu-Natal. The remaining two, Jamie Gough and Grant Hepburn,

are no longer available for personal lessons. All of the 25 teachers, and they vary in age from 32 to 68, have already built excellent reputations. Some are more prominent than others, and the more experienced teachers have come to the fore. We have ranked them from No 1 to No 25 in terms of the votes they received from their peers. We hope the rankings, which are published every second year, will encourage more golfers to take lessons from proven instructors. On the following pages, you'll meet the 25 teachers, and read a tip from most of them on how to play consistent golf. – *Stuart McLean*

1

DEREK JAMES

Southbroom Golf Club,
KZN South Coast

PGA of SA Teacher of the
Year 2008 & 2014
PGA Club Pro of the Year
2002 & 2014

AGE 56

CONTACT 039 316 6051

WEBSITE
southbroomgolfclub.co.za

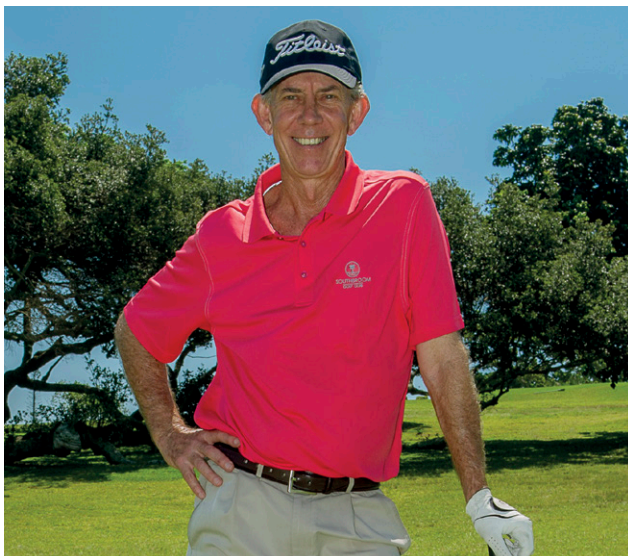
PUPILS Brandon Stone,
Mark McNulty, Keith Horne,
Hennie Otto and Jaco van
Zyl. Teaches individuals,
teams, and does golf clinics.

METHOD I believe in
fundamentals and the
simpler the golf swing the
better. My most used drill
for the short game for right-
handed players is "Use your
right side" (hand) only.
Your right is natural and
generates speed, which is
so important. Your left side
is critical, but you need to
understand and train the
right.

LESSON R260 for
30 minutes.



A good drill is to set up to a chip shot with a ball under your right heel. This shifts your weight to the left at address. Play the shot, ensuring that your right heel comes away from the ball as you swing down. This forces your weight even more to the left side



WEIGHT SHIFT IS CRUCIAL IN THE SHORT GAME

Right-handed golfers should load their left side with weight on short shots. One of the keys to the short game is the ability to hit down with a descending blow. You cannot hit down at the correct spot if your weight is on the back foot. You either hit behind the ball, or on the up and in the teeth.

When throwing a ball you would naturally shift your weight on to the left foot, so think of that motion. A big mistake with short shots comes when players try and stay still. Using your legs and shifting your weight naturally means less tension, and you gain a sense of feel. Your head should stay quiet but you must shift and turn your lower half.

KEY POINTS

- 1) At address, set up with 70% of your weight on your left side.
- 2) Hit down through the ball.
- 3) Your weight moves naturally to the left so that 90% ends up on the left side at the finish.
- 4) Like throwing underarm, your right arm should extend towards the target, which is impossible to do off your back foot.
- 5) Make sure your right heel comes away from the ground on all shots.
- 6) Hold your finish for balance.