



# Mastered by the Master

Internationally renowned course designer Peter Harradine reveals the best line at The Track's brand new par 5, 9th hole.

**T**he Track at Meydan is Dubai's first 'pay and play' golf course, a unique new facility where you can book a start time, turn up and tee off. No club memberships, no waiting around, just instant, accessible golf for all.

The course itself is a 9-hole par 36 arrangement, carved out of the back 9 of the old Nad Al Sheba course. Reworked

by course maestro Peter Harradine, it offers a rather stiffer challenge than before, with some rewarding plays for the adventurous player, but enough leeway for a beginner to enjoy a satisfying card.

The course designer himself invited us to sample some of the challenge and options on offer, and showed us two alternative strategies for the testing long 9th hole.



**Tee Shot**

We set up on the Silver tee, not the longest, but suitable for good drivers of the ball. Peter describes it as "a good hole for people who really like to whack the ball", and he suggests you should start with a really long drive.

"Just try and get some distance" is his advice here. "Regular players should aim pretty much straight down the middle, and get as much length as you can – it's the second shot that's critical on this hole. Really good players might like to stay a bit more to the right, between the sign and the palm tree, to set up an approach shot over the water on the left later."

PLAYING IT SAFE

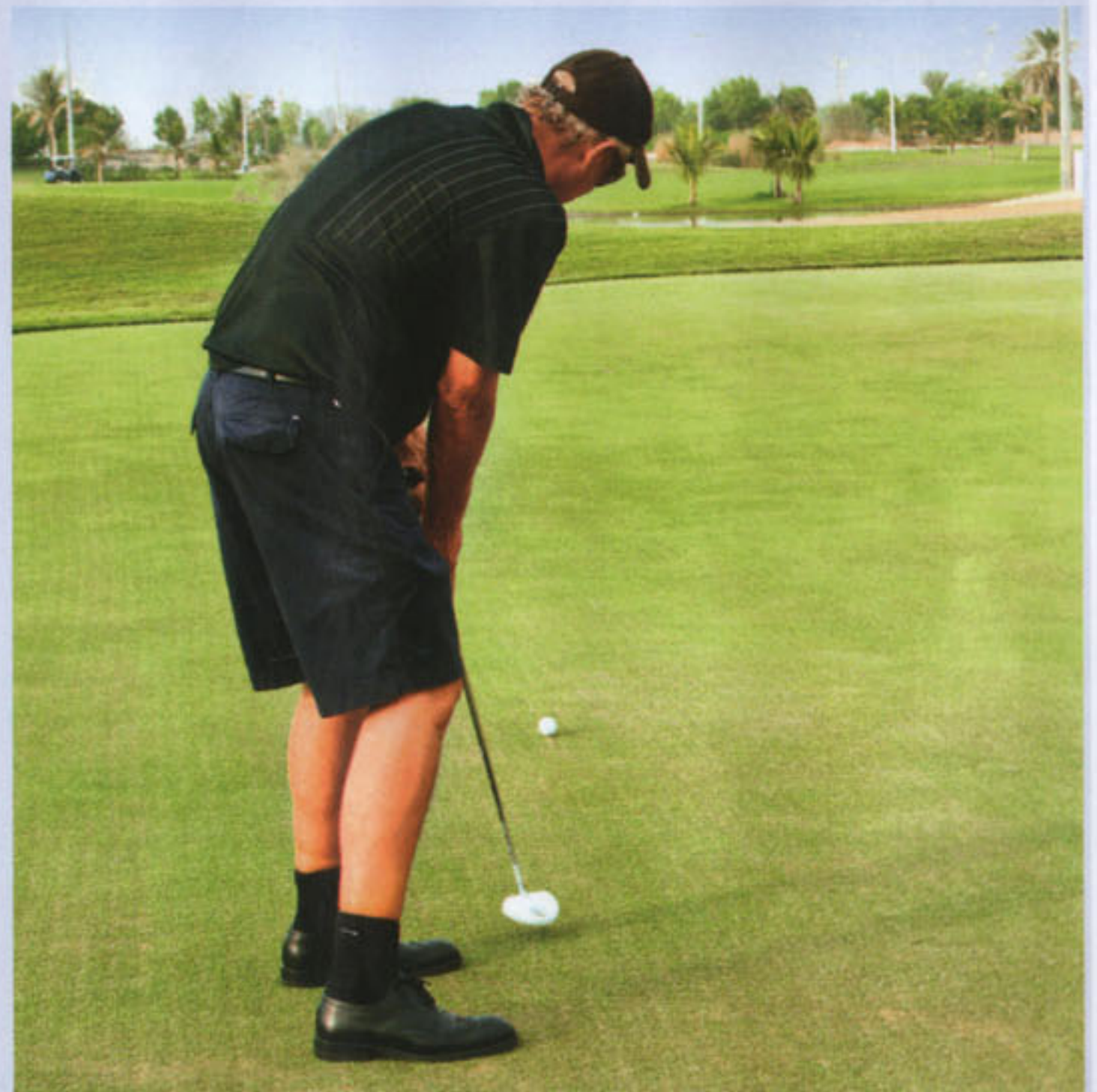
This approach simply follows the dogleg for a safe par



**Second Shot**

Safest strategy here is to stay clear of the water and simply play down the middle of the fairway to approach the green. There are hazards on both sides – a reed-fringed lake on the left, and very sandy rough on the right, but the fairway itself is smooth and well-sighted. One of Harradine's principles is always to design a hole so that the player can see the landing area, and this is a good example.

If you're feeling brave, try a shot over the water. There's a narrow strip of fairway with a bunker behind, and as Harradine says, a good player won't mind about landing in that, because it's shallow and offers a nice easy chip onto the green.



**Third Shot**

Regular players following the reliable route now have a fairly simple shot to the green. There's a large flat area to the left of the pin at which to aim, and a two-putt finish is available.

Bold players have a short chip from the fairway or that protecting bunker, and the better putting choice is from the much smaller, slightly elevated right of the green. If you can stop the ball cleanly on this surface, it should be a simple short putt for a birdie, and you still have a shot in hand for par.

**TAKING A CHANCE**

Taking a risk brings the water into play, but might reward you with a birdie



**Fourth and fifth shots**

Regular players will want to play an approach putt from the lower end of the green. If you do go past the cup, the upward slope behind it will save your blushes and make for a short tap in.

If you did reach this smaller side of the green, your concern will be more to focus on line rather than length.