

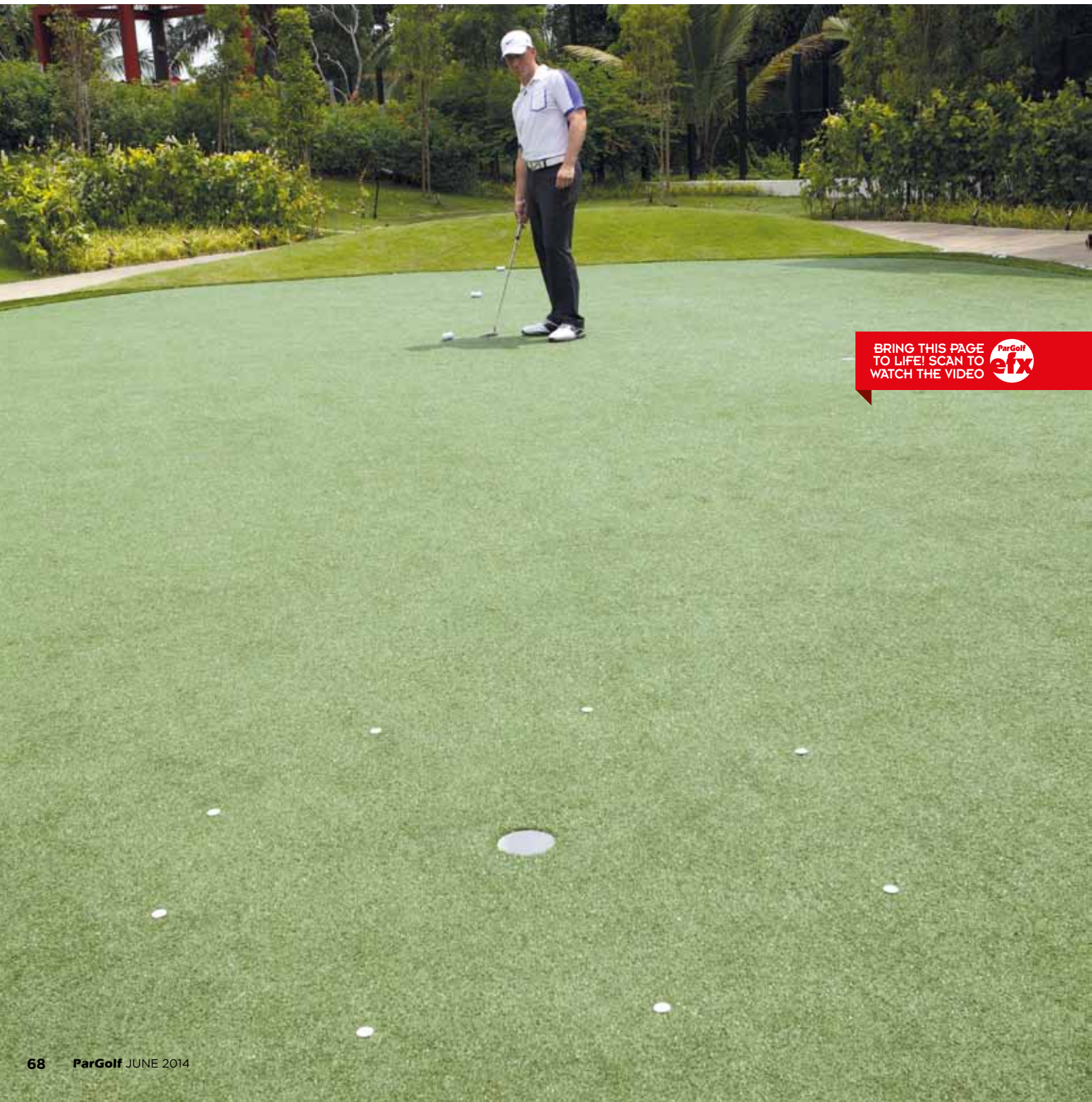
STROKESAVERS WITH STEVEN GIULIANO

# LONG PUTTING

**A challenging scoring drill to help you improve your control and feel on long putts**

In this month's 'Strokesavers', we continue to show you better ways to target your practice to get you into the scoring zone. In this article, we will look at a long putting drill designed to improve your distance control when putting both uphill and downhill.

The distance zone drill is a scoring-based exercise designed for the intermediate to tour level player. The purpose of this drill is to enhance your distance control and improve your feel for putts between 30 and 50 feet (9 to 15 metres) by setting a zone in which to roll the ball.



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## WARNING!

This is an extremely challenging drill as the zone is quite small, placing a premium on rolling the ball consistently at the correct speed.

### REQUIRED

- 12 ball markers or coins
- 3 tees
- 3 to 9 golf balls

### SET-UP

- Begin by choosing a downhill putt with enough room for 50 feet (15 metres).
- From the hole, pace 12 comfortable steps, or 30 feet (9 metres), mark a tee with three balls. Pace another four steps for 40 feet (12 metres) and then another four steps for 50 feet (15 metres), placing three balls at each distance.
- Using the ball markers or coins, mark a two-foot (60-cm) radius circle from the edge of the hole.

### COMPLETION

- Putt three balls from each distance beginning from 30 feet (9 metres) before moving to the next distance of 40 feet (12 metres), then 50 feet (15 metres).
- Score two points if a ball is holed and one point each time the ball finishes in the zone.
- Complete the drill from uphill and downhill and record your score from both sides.
- The next time you complete this drill, work on bettering your score and you'll soon be noticing the results on the course.

### KEY

One of the keys to all great lag putters is their ability to strike the ball consistently out of the middle of the putter face. If you feel as if the length and pace of your stroke is good and your distance putting is showing too much variation, try placing two tees either side of the putter head. This will get the focus more towards the sweet spot and you'll soon be rolling the ball consistently on those long putts.

Good luck, and I look forward to sharing another competitive scoring drill with you in the next issue!



Australian PGA AAA-rated professional **Steven Giuliano** is based at the Impact Elite Golf Academy at The Mines Resort & Golf Club as the Director of Player Development & Education. He is regarded as one of the top instructors for developing amateurs and professionals in the Asia Pacific region. For more information, log on to [www.sggc.com.au](http://www.sggc.com.au) or email [steven@sggc.com.au](mailto:steven@sggc.com.au)

