

BATTING SKILL 1 - THE DRIVE - STRAIGHT

The front-foot drive is an attacking stroke played to a full length delivery. The ball is struck back in an arc between mid on and cover, depending on its line.

SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

Fig.1 Correct grip, relaxed, comfortable and balanced stance. Eyes fixed on the ball.



Fig.2 Head and shoulder and front foot move towards the line of the ball as backswing commences. Front shoulder dips. Eyes remain fixed on the ball and head remains as steady and level as possible.



Fig.3 The front foot stabilises and the body weight is transferred into it through a bent front knee, creating a 'base' for the shot. The head should now be still, eyes level and fixed on the ball.



Fig.4 As the top of the backswing is reached, the shoulders begin to rotate vertically, initiating the downswing. The 'Figure 9' shape is retained as the bat accelerates vertically to the point of contact, which is made 'underneath the eyes', which remain fixed on the ball throughout.



Fig.5 The bat accelerates through the point of contact, it stays 'on line' with the shot for as long as possible to a high finish position. The full follow through should always be encouraged, however some youngsters may find the check swing easier.



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