

## Roll the ball straight

To practice rolling the cue ball in a straight line, you need to practice on a snooker table with just the cue ball.

Place the cue ball on the Brown spot and stroke it towards the top of the table across the Blue, Pink and Black spots.

It should roll over those spots, hit the top cushion, and then roll ball across the spots to you.

If it rolls straight across the spots but after hitting the cushion it rolls to the right or left, then you have hit with side.

To find the centre line of the cue ball, use a Jimmy White trick; when you initially address the cue ball, lay your cue tip on the cloth so that touches the cloth right in front of where the cue ball touches the cloth. That is the centre ball position.

Now raise it to the Natural Roll position and stroke it.

This is tedious practice, but it pays dividends.

You must be confident that you are striking the centre line of the cue ball without spending any extra time checking that you are, so that you can concentrate on the aim and strength of the hit.

When you can approach the table, step into your stroke, address the cue ball and run this practice without looking at the cue ball, you are competent, but not competent enough to stop practicing. It never stops.

To break the monotony, try placing the cue ball on the Baulk line tight against a cushion, and try to stroke it across the baulk line so that it rolls back to you. To find the centre ball here, find the highest spot on it. (This is also a handy thought when using the Spider to hit a cue ball hidden behind another.)

When you think that you are good at this, try putting the Black ball on its spot.

Now your cue ball has to hit the Black, be hit by the Black on its rebound from the top cushion, and the cue ball then roll back to you across the spots.