

Golfing can be murder



After six months in Europe, rookie golfer Lynnette Brooky has some unusual tales to tell

Sleeping on trains and slipping buffet food into bags was par for the course in Europe for New Zealand's struggling golf professional Lynnette Brooky. The single, attractive rookie has arrived back in Wellington after surviving a gruelling six months on the women's European professional golf circuit.

Lynnette (27) passed her first year with flying colours. But the stress of it all has left her mentally and physically worn out.

"Yeah, it was pretty tough, as I didn't know anyone and went over there by myself with no idea of what it was going to be like," Lynnette says. "But just knowing there were people back here at home who had confidence in me, gave me the courage to press on and make my own decisions."

Persevering paid dividends for Lynnette, and her tour highlights included eighth-place finishes in the Madero and Dutch Opens.

In general, she said, the 120 female players on the European circuit were a friendly bunch and included a few gay women.

"You get used to it after a while and don't even think twice about it. I mean they all keep to themselves and don't try to come on to you or anything like that. Some of them are my friends and we often travel together. There's not a lot of them but, those who are

generally have their partners caddying for them."

With finances forever tight, Lynnette often had to rough it round Europe.

"I'll never forget one trip when I had just caught a ferry from Belgium to Dover in England and arrived late at night on a Sunday to discover there was no accommodation anywhere," she says.

"By this stage, my friend Fiona and I were even thinking of sleeping on the train station as we hardly had any money on us."

"Luckily we managed to catch the last train to London that night and got two tickets for the equivalent of \$6.80 each. I thought, 'Wow, what a bargain'. Little did I know that the tickets were for Chering, not Charing Cross in London."

"So after we got going the

Farron, Brooky in best performances

NEW ZEALAND golfers Susan Farron and Lynnette Brooky were in the money on two continents yesterday.

The former New Zealand amateur representatives achieved their best results as professionals. Farron tied for second at the US Air Futures Classic in Ohio, and Brooky was second in the Austrian Open.

Farron, 25, carded a final round par 72 to tie for second with two other players, one stroke behind Lori Tatum, of Texas.

Farron's three-round total of 214 was two-under and was equalled by Marilyn Lovander and Patty Ehrhart, both of the United States.

Farron, from Palmerston North, next month plays in the qualifying rounds for the British Open.

Farron earned US\$4333 (NZ\$6385) in her second appearance on the Futures Tour, the secondary tour on the United States women's circuit.

She was 22nd on the Asian circuit's order of merit this year, up 15 placings from 1995.

Her former New Zealand colleague Brooky, who also joined the professional ranks in late 1994, dropped shots on the closing holes to see her challenge wilt in Gutenhof.

The 27-year-old Wellingtonian suffered a double bogey and two bogeys on the run home to fire a final-round one-over-par 72 to finish two strokes behind Germany's Martina Koch, who closed with a level-par 71 for a level-par 213 total.

Frank Nobilo and Greg Turner finished in the top 10 of the French Open. Australian Robert Allenby produced an inspired finish to deny German Bernhard Langer victory, winning a playoff at the first extra hole.

It was another come-from-behind victory for the in-form Allenby, who three weeks ago denied Colin Montgomerie the English Open. This time he grabbed a final-green birdie to catch Langer and then rammed in a 30-foot putt for a winning birdie when they went into sudden death.

Turner and Nobilo ended tied for seventh after both shot closing round 71s, one-under par. Each earned £18,000 (NZ\$41,171).

The result was Nobilo's third top-10 finish in 10 tournaments on the European circuit this year, which includes winning the Deutsche Bank Open in Hamburg, while it was also Turner's third and equalled his season best. — NZPA



conductor said, 'Hey you've missed your stop, it was the first one after Dover'."

Lynnette adds, "We both must have looked pretty sad because he eventually let us off the fare. I can laugh about it now, but back then we had only £20 on us – and I was just about on the verge of bursting into tears."

Michelle Parun

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