



KEVIN STENT

LYNNETTE BROOKY . . . she and her two New Zealand team-mates have already played the tough Versaille course

Cup trio aims to skip water

By DUNCAN JOHNSTONE

THE New Zealand women's golf team is banking on its intense preparation to carry it to success on a water-laden course in France for the Espirito Santo World Amateur Golf Trophy this month.

The Kiwi team of Wellington's Lynnette Brooky, Palmertson North's Susan Farron and Cantabrian Kerryn Starr leave today for a week in England before crossing to France for the national course at Versaille.

New Zealand, coached by Philip Tataurangi's mentor John Griffin, defends a proud recent record in the event having finished third in Vancouver in 1992 and second in Christchurch in 1990.

"We've got a team that is very capable of living up to that record or going one better," said

manager Cherry Kingham. "More preparation has gone into this team than the one that went to Canada and we're hoping that will pay off."

Importantly, the team has already played the tournament course in July and since returning to New Zealand has either been together at tournaments or training camps every weekend.

While the Kiwis didn't perform exceptionally well individually in July, Kingham says the trip was vital for the world event which starts on September 28.

"I think the girls will play the course a little differently when they go back this time. We weren't there to get results, we were there to look at the course which we did. It's unlike any course in New Zealand."

Twelve of the holes contain

daunting water hazards, something that will probably determine the eventual winner.

"In July we struggled by flying in late and having to play but this time we're doing it right by shaking off our travel in London and then moving on to France for practice.

"I really believe we're lucky that the team has played the course. A lot of the girls won't have done that and they'll be sighting it for the first time under practice conditions. And it really is a course where you can gain real benefit from having played it in a tournament.

"The optimum places for laying up shots into the green get very narrow, so you can run out of room quite quickly . . . that's something we found out in July.

"I don't think any team will

stay dry throughout the competition. The water will be a factor and cutting that down to a minimum and making as few errors as possible will be vital.

"It's a course you can score well on if you're on top of things. If you take the gambles and they pay off, it is very rewarding. But if they don't pay off, they can be very punishing."

Kingham says the United States and Sweden loom as contenders but the local knowledge of the French team will be a real factor.

"When we played there the French girls had a team total of 5-under for 72 holes and they were just trying to make the team at that stage.

"The French Golf Federation owns it so all their workshops are carried out on the facility and that will be an advantage."