



Photo DAVE HANSFORD

EUROPE-BOUND: Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky has set her sights on an early victory on the European women's golf tour this northern summer. Story page 23.

Hutt to host top golf pros

The Hutt Golf club will this week host the biggest professional golf tournament in New Zealand.

The \$30,000 New Zealand Masters Pro-Am Golf Championship is sponsored by Wang and has attracted a top field including Mark Brown, Steve Alker, Richard Hislop, Tony Christie, Simon Owen, Peter Fowler and Alaister Sidford.

Hutt director of golf David Hartshorne says events like the New Zealand Open are worth more, but the Hutt pro-am is the biggest PGA organised tournament in New Zealand.

One golfer worth watching is Australian Robert Stephens who has made a career out of winning second tier events.

As well as winning \$294,000 on the regular tour, he has won over 100 pro-ams.

The pro-am is a 36 hole event and he is expecting the winner to come from Hislop, Christie, Brown or Stephens.

One player who will definitely be worth keeping an eye on is Sidford, who is the professional at Hutt.

In the past he has played well in Australia and with his knowledge of the course should have a big advantage.

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Boocky to play

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New Zealand's top women, Lynnette Brooky, who is based at Hutt during the summer, is also playing.

She is playing well and Hartshorne says she should not be discounted as she knows the course well and has been getting in plenty of practice.

"Don't worry she will be right in the thick of the money, she has been playing very well lately.

"She has been going round in one under (par) or par and she should go well."

Money raised will go to Kids and Clubs, which helps disadvantaged youngsters to play golf.

In the next few years Hartshorne is hoping that Hutt will be able to host a major event like the New Zealand Open.

At the moment he says the course is in "superb" condition and course superintendent John Spraggs has the greens playing particularly well.

■ Members of the public are welcome. Hutt Golf Club this Thursday and Friday.