

A Tough Start For Brooky

As A Rookie

Lynnette Brooky returned home in late November encouraged by her rookie year on the European women's circuit where she did enough to keep her card for 1996.

Brooky paid her way, earning £14,500 for 43rd place on the Order of Merit, with the top 80 players exempt for this year.

She played in 14 tournaments, missed only two cuts, had two top-ten finishes in the Dutch and German Opens, and after winning the pre-qualifying tournament for the British Open finished 19th.

She was interviewed at home in Lower Hutt by Garry Ahern.

Q. How would you sum up your rookie year in Europe?.

A. I'm not as happy as I might have been because I didn't play to my potential. But my aim was to get my card and I achieved that goal, and to make sure I got to know some potential sponsors of the European tour and I spent time with them.

Q. Why did you choose the European tour rather than Japan which has been the popular circuit for most NZ women professionals in recent years?

A. I know that Sheree Higgins, Jan Higgins, Tracy Hanson and Marnie (McGuire) had invitations to go to Japan which gave them good starts. But I didn't have the money and didn't know how to go about getting a start up there.

Q. So it's been a hard grind financially this year?

A. Very hard because basically I have one major sponsor, Canon, and support from Wilson (Brooky

has fallen in love with a new Wilson Invex driver and was about to take delivery of a full set) and Singapore Airlines, but it's not really enough to cover my expenses for major tours. The European tour is a good competitive training ground for a new professional hoping to graduate to the big tours in America and Japan.

Q. What were the hardest facts of tournament professional life you learned in 1995?

A. A lot of it is financial finding the right places to stay close to

the tournament courses, trying to book the cheapest available flights, and best value hotels.

But you're still looking at 65 pounds a night for a hotel room, it just kills my bank account.

Q. You were a world class amateur ...what's the difference between an elite amateur and a successful professional?

A. I think it's just a matter of time. This year I didn't reach my potential because I was worrying about finding my way on the tour.



Lynnette Brooky