

Brooky on track for full recovery

■ GOLF
GREG FORD

TOP Kiwi professional golfer Lynnette Brooky is back on the course and expected to make a complete recovery from a career-threatening injury.

Lower Hutt's Brooky broke her left elbow — a golfer's worst nightmare — in an accident nearly 10 weeks ago and had the break fused with wire during an operation.

She feared it would prevent her straightening her elbow, which would require a complete revamp of her swing — akin to an athlete learning to run again.

But Brooky, 33, returned to the golf course this week and passed her first test with flying colours.

She has almost reached maximum distance — about 260m — on the driving range and is shaping shots left and right using long irons.

Brooky is almost able to completely straighten her elbow and expects to recover 100 per cent flexibility soon.

She agreed it was a big relief.

"It's been a frustrating and worrying time but everyone has been so supportive," she said.

"I can't fully extend [my elbow] yet but my swing is fine."

Brooky, a veteran of more than 100 professional tournaments, finished 11th on the European women's tour order of merit this year, which included a tournament win



Big relief: The operation scar is visible when top Kiwi professional golfer Lynnette Brooky practices her swing as she recovers from breaking her left elbow.

Picture: CRAIG SIMCOX

in France. She resumes the tour in April but plans to visit her coach Alex Mercer in Australia, who will assess her swing.

She will then play three major tournaments there — the Australia-

second 50m but my timing is re- turning," she said.

"If I played a tournament tomorrow I doubt I would win it, but I think I would make the cut."

Brooky said her 10-week hiatus

had whet her appetite for the game.

"I have been getting out of bed at 6.15am when the forecast has been bad to make sure I get in some practise, even though my arm has been screaming at me 'not today'."