

Brooky holds out for French double

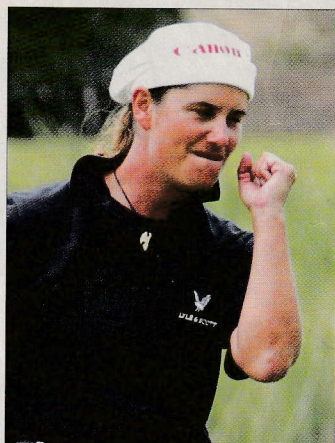
It was a case of *deja-vous* for defending champion Lynnette Brooky as she held on to her French Open crown. Martin Park reports from Arras.

LYNNETTE BROOKY successfully defended her title after holding off England's Trish Johnson and Norway's Vibeke Stensrud on a dramatic final day.

The 35-year-old Kiwi closed with a final round five-under 67 to finish on 14 under, one clear of her playing partners.

Johnson rattled in six birdies during her 67, but a penalty drop resulting in a bogey at the 13th hole after she hit over the green, ultimately cost her the title.

Stensrud birdied the final hole for a 68 and to jump into a tie for second, while Carin Koch, in only her second event back from giving birth last April, took outright fourth on 10 under.



Brooky – second French trophy.

Starting the day one clear, Brooky made her intentions of retaining her title with a birdie at the 1st, adding others at the 4th, 6th and 7th to turn

in 32.

Johnson kept in touch with four birdies of her own on the front nine, and tied for the lead with a birdie at the par-3 10th, but Brooky snatched it back at the next.

"Trish is a really tough person to play against," said Brooky. "We had a great battle all day between the three of us and it's great to win the title again."

"I couldn't sink any putts yesterday, but I had 10 minutes on the putting green last night and it was rolling beautifully, so I left it. Today, I made some crucial putts down the last few holes to hold on."

With the lead down to one, Johnson applied the pressure, but when she left her birdie putt short at the final hole, Brooky took two putts to become the first player since Sherri Steinhauer in 1999 to defend a title on the European Tour.

Second place for Johnson came as little consolation as she and her caddie Mark Fulcher had taken odds of 25-1 each-way.

"It couldn't really get any worse," giggled the Englishwoman. "But in fairness to Lynnette, she played well, made some great up and downs and she obviously likes it here."



Johnson – backed herself at 25-1.

Inside the ropes

Brooky's night on the town

IN WINNING last year's French Open, Lynnette Brooky spent Saturday night down in the historic town of Arras at a music festival until 3am, but still shot 66 in the final round to cruise home by five. This year, there were no risks taken, even the same music festival was on in town with over 40 live bands, but Brooky, who is in essence a socialite on the Tour, admitted this year to only having one drink.

"I just had one G&T and then off to bed," she said. "I knew that if I wanted to

win in such good company, I had to be on absolute top form. Last year I had to lie about what time I got in, but after winning it, I felt so guilty, I had to tell everyone that I was up until 3am in the town!"

■ **SCOTLAND'S Kathryn Marshall** had her hopes dashed of playing in the Evian Masters when she failed to enter in time for the Ladies French Open at Arras.

Now her only chance of getting into the women's equivalent of The Masters, played from July 23-26 is to win in America before the

event starts.

The 36-year-old from Broughty Ferry near Carnoustie was the first-ever Scot to win on the LPGA Tour, when she lifted the 1995 Jamie Kroger Classic.

■ **ANA BELEN SANCHEZ** from Spain has never been considered so far this year for a Solheim Cup place, but the amiable 27-year-old from Malaga has been a model of consistency over the last two seasons and occupies sixth spot in the current rankings.

Sanchez has had four top-10s in six starts this season and with five events to go

before automatic qualification is decided at the Wales WPGA Championship of Europe. Sanchez could join Paula Marti and Raquel Carriedo as the third Spaniard to represent Europe in the biennial event.

■ **IRELAND'S Yvonne Cassidy** missed out on a brand new Peugeot 206cc convertible when she chose the wrong hole to ace.

The 35-year-old from Carlow hit a 5-wood at the 8th hole from 190 yards, but if she could have held on two more holes, she would have been driving away with the £18,000 soft top.

Arras Open de France Dames

Le Golf d'Arras, June 19-22

1	L Brooky	68 70 69 67	274	E41,250.00
2	T Johnson	71 67 70 67	275	23,581.25
	V Stensrud	72 67 68 68	275	23,581.25
4	C Koch	70 73 67 68	278	14,850.00
5	S Arricau	71 72 71 67	281	9,845.00
	M Hedblom	73 71 69 68	281	9,845.00
	A B-Sanchez	70 69 71 71	281	9,845.00
8	J Forbes	72 71 71 68	282	5,665.00
	N Taylor	75 70 69 68	282	5,665.00
	I Tinning	71 70 72 69	282	5,665.00
	G Simpson	71 75 66 70	282	5,665.00
	A Berg	71 72 67 72	282	5,665.00
13	J Mills	73 71 72 67	283	4,180.00
	L Fairclough	74 72 70 67	283	4,180.00
	ML de Lorenzi	73 73 70 67	283	4,180.00
	D Luna	72 73 70 68	283	4,180.00
17	M Zelsmann	74 73 71 66	284	3,559.28
	L Kreutz	73 73 70 68	284	3,559.28
	P Marti	77 71 68 68	284	3,559.28
	C Kuld	73 71 70 70	284	3,559.28
	M Burstrom	68 75 70 71	284	3,559.28
	H Svensson	73 72 68 71	284	3,559.28
	K Taylor	69 72 71 72	284	3,559.28
24	S Sandolo	73 73 70 69	285	3,135.00
	C Duffy	71 77 67 70	285	3,135.00
	R Stevenson	68 73 71 73	285	3,135.00
27	C Dibnah	76 72 71 67	286	2,928.75
	S Head	72 72 70 72	286	2,928.75
29	S Parry	75 72 72 68	287	2,763.75
	A Armas	72 69 77 69	287	2,763.75
31	A Larraneta	72 74 74 68	288	2,475.00
	L C-Gomez	74 72 73 69	288	2,475.00
	L Nicholson	72 72 73 71	288	2,475.00
	K Icher	74 73 65 76	288	2,475.00
	J Westerberg	69 70 72 77	288	2,475.00
36	E Esterl	78 70 72 69	289	2,062.50
	V Van Ryckeghem	72 76 71 70	289	2,062.50
	KM Juul	69 74 74 72	289	2,062.50
	M Arruti	69 73 73 74	289	2,062.50
	G Scott	72 70 71 76	289	2,062.50
41	E Pilgrim	75 71 75 69	290	1,684.37
	A Gottmo	76 73 72 69	290	1,684.37
	M Boden	76 71 72 71	290	1,684.37
	C Byrnes	71 74 72 73	290	1,684.37
45	A Villatte (a)	73 75 71 72	291	
	M Monnet	73 69 76 73	291	1,485.00
	C Ekelundh	73 70 73 75	291	1,485.00
	N Karlsson	77 70 69 75	291	1,485.00
49	V Zorzi	77 72 73 70	292	1,320.00
	L Maritz	73 74 73 72	292	1,320.00
	N Nijenhuis	73 73 71 75	292	1,320.00
52	G Nocera	73 73 74 73	293	1,151.00
	A Nicholas	73 72 73 75	293	1,151.00
	F Descampe	71 73 73 76	293	1,151.00
55	N Fink	73 74 74 73	294	1,045.00
56	V Uwland	72 74 78 71	295	990.00
57	T Hyett	75 74 75 72	296	921.25
	E Zackrisson	72 72 74 78	296	921.25
59	J Leary	73 76 76 72	297	852.50
	S Dickens	76 73 75 73	297	852.50
	R Hudson	74 75 75 73	297	852.50
62	S Giquel (a)	74 73 77 74	298	
63	L Tadiotto	75 73 77 75	300	797.50
64	AS Le Nalio (a)	75 74 75 79	303	

Evian Order of Merit

As at June 22	Points
1 Laura Davies	503.00
2 Elisabeth Esterl	404.53
3 Ana B Sanchez	283.87
4 Ludivine Kreutz	258.91
5 Iben Tinning	247.90
6 Lynnette Brooky	242.46
7 Rebecca Stevenson	225.98
8 Corinne Dibnah	211.67
9 Trish Johnson	203.60
10 Sophie Gustafson	187.65
11 Federica Dassu	180.17
12 Mhairi McKay	177.60
13 Alison Munt	177.00
14 Karine Icher	143.09
15 Sophie Sandolo	137.99
16 Vibeke Stensrud	137.55
17 Kirsty Taylor	134.34
18 Paula Marti	124.61
19 Marlene Hedblom	118.06
20 Gina Scott	117.32

Solheim Cup standings

As at June 22	Points
1 Annika Sorenstam	195.00
2 Laura Davies	139.50
3 Elisabeth Esterl	117.04
4 Iben Tinning	101.60
5 Sophie Gustafson	91.50
6 Ana B Sanchez	85.16
7 Mhairi McKay	69.25
8 Paula Marti	67.17
9 Karine Icher	61.50
10 Trish Johnson	56.50