



KEVIN STENT

WHEN top golfer Lynnette Brooky isn't playing birdies or eagles, she's only got time for the dogs.

Well, just one dog for now. Her two-year-old german shepherd Ben has been the Wellington golfer's constant companion since his birth, accompanying her for up to four hours each day on the fairway at the Manor Park golf course, where he carefully studies the flight of each ball.

"He loves it out there," says Lynnette who turned professional at Christmas. "He runs around and play with the divets then

PUPPY LOVE . . . golfer Brooky and Ben

Dog legs no hazard for Lyn

when it's time to hit balls he'll just sit there and watch."

Lynnette has never fitted the conservative golfing image. A self-confessed rebel with a love of leathers and motorbikes, she was thrilled to meet a golfer at her club who bred her favourite dog, the german shepherd.

"She told me I could buy a puppy for half price if I won a

competition that was coming up," says Lynnette. "That was a pretty good incentive."

Club members and management have accepted Ben on the course, although they were concerned at a tug with a flag. Ben, however, has only been hurt once when a chip failed to sail over his head and the ball hit him on the leg instead. "He

keeled over and was lying there crying. But it hasn't put him off."

Ben, who Lynnette says has an excellent sense of humour, is "her life" outside of golf. "You have to give up a lot for golf with your time, dress codes and keeping a good reputation so I think it's really great that the golf club has let me have Ben."

— SARAH STUART