

Injury puts golfer off course 9/11/02

TOBY ROBSON

THE career of professional golfer Lynette Brooky is on hold after an accident in which she broke her left elbow as she got out of a car to post a letter.

But New Zealand's No 2 women's player vows she'll be fit for the Australian Masters in February.

"I can't straighten it right now and I can't bend it fully, but everybody who's broken a bone knows how much work you've got to do.

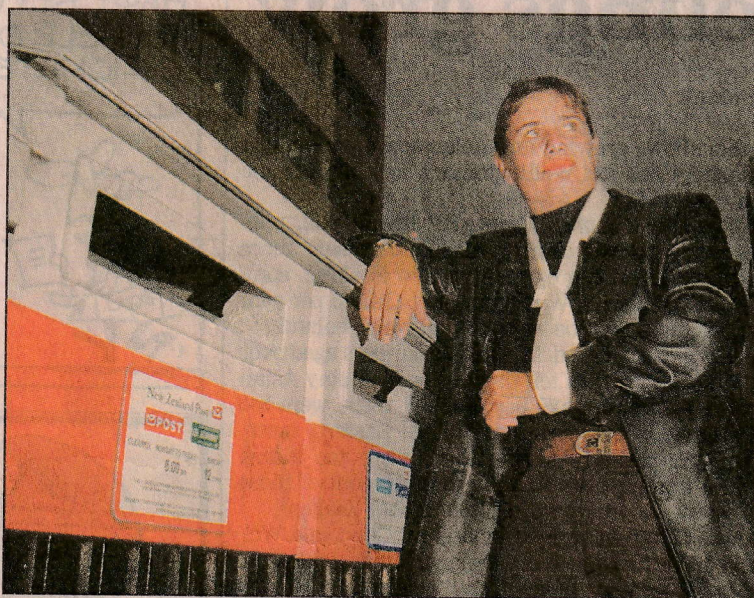
"It's up to you how far you go. There's a lot of people that quit, but I won't quit," Brooky, from the Hutt Valley, said yesterday.

A professional since 1994, Brooky said the accident happened three weeks ago as she was getting out of her manager's car to post a letter.

Her foot caught on a handbag on the floor. "I went down on the road and then the footpath and I heard [the elbow] crack," she said.

The injury was especially frustrating because she had been playing so well. She shot a 68 the day before.

Brooky won the French Women's Golf Open in June, pocketing \$80,000 for her second win on the European Tour.



Boxing on: Lynette Brooky nurses the injury to her arm caused when she fell while trying to post a letter. Picture: CRAIG SIMCOX

"I've got a lot of goals to achieve this coming year, entry into the US, playing on the Evian [Tour] and going back to defend the French and I want to play in them all."

She was drawing inspiration from the successful recoveries of fellow professionals Michael Campbell, who had to rebuild his swing after a serious wrist injury in 1995, and Phil Taturangi, who overcame

heart problems to win the Invensys Classic in Las Vegas this year.

"It's the first time in my life I've had to really be patient..."

Rehabilitation was progressing well.

Brooky even found a lighter side to her injury.

"A lot of people break their arms, some never get straight again, but some have never been able to slice the ball again."

Scott to launch rich classic

By JAMIE TROUGHTON
Golf writer

Top Kiwi women's golfer Gina Scott will be in Wellington next week to help launch the richest tournament to hit these shores.

The \$650,000 Women's Classic will be held at Hutt Golf Club from February 21-23, and a press conference next Thursday is expected to announce the naming-right sponsors and other key backers.

Scott, who won the 54-hole Chart Hills Classic two weeks ago on the European Tour, has confirmed she'll play, and she is likely to be joined by the rest of New Zealand's top women professionals.

Lynnette Brooky will act as the tournament's hostess, and Susan Farron, Kerryn Starr and Marnie McGuire are all likely starters.

McGuire retired earlier this year citing a lack of motivation after 15 years of continual golf, but she rediscovered her enjoyment and is playing with Brooky in the Ladies World Cup of Golf in Ireland this weekend.

Scott beat former world No 1 Laura Davies in the Chart Hills Classic with a final-round 65, to leap up the

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European Order of Merit and hold her tour card for the next three years.

Back home in the Waikato this week, Scott said the win felt pretty natural.

"It hasn't been as huge as I thought it would be," she said. "That's a good thing. It's nice to just take it in your stride and just carry on."

"The first win's always nice, and in my rookie year too - you've got to be happy with that."

Life as a touring women's professional isn't nearly as glamorous as her male counterparts - Scott will be forced to work part-time as a bank clerk in the off-season to fund her travel.

"Unfortunately that's the case - I'm going to go back to work. I do really need to go back because I haven't got any sponsorship secured at this stage.



Brooky

"The papers say I won \$72,000 this year, and I can tell you I certainly didn't come home with \$72,000. There are a lot of expenses that people don't see. I really only come out of my win with \$9000."

Scott hopes February's Women's Classic can trigger a wave of interest in the women's game.

"Grant Waite played awesome the other day, and he deserved the coverage that he got, but he got second [in losing to Tiger Woods].

"Marnie's won in Japan, I've won in Europe, Brooky's won in Europe - but you just can't get your face on TV. If we can get this tournament going, and the public are really interested, and it's a big success, then maybe that might give the TV something to think about."

Shandon will be hoping for its first Duncan Cup interclub golf title since 1986 when it takes on Manor Park at Miramar tomorrow.

Manor Park has held a virtual mortgage on the title over the last decade, but Shandon won the round-robin clash 9-6 earlier this season, and has a string of promising juniors coming through.