

Brooky does it her way

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Brooky made the Wellington representative softball team but once her father introduced her to golf she was hooked.

While she trialled for Wellington beforehand it was only when she moved to Auckland in 1990 that Brooky got really serious about golf. She lived with professional Dennis Sullivan and his wife Sheila and received coaching every day.

Winning the 1990 national championships was the first sign that Brooky was going right to the top, but there were still some hurdles to be cleared before she reached her target.

At times it seemed Brooky had to prove herself more than her rivals but she got there in the end.

Brooky has listened to many people on how she should play the game, but now she has gone back to her natural swing and feels more confident.

"I'm hitting the ball the way I feel is right," Brooky said.

"I've gone back to using my natural ability."

Brooky plays out of Manor Park, where she says the women have made her feel really at home, and was coached by Mal Tongue who has some top-class players in his stable.

The "washing machine" swing preached by Tongue didn't suit Brooky however and she has reverted to a more classic swing.

"I was going through the ball too quickly and when the pressure went on it didn't stand up," she said.

"It is great for some people but not for me."

There is no lack of confidence about Brooky now and while she will continue to listen to those close to her she is determined to do it her way.



New Zealand international golfer Lynette Brooky is flanked by her father Frank (left) and Kevin Watson (Porirua Licensing Trust) at the Manor Park Golf Club.

On Tuesday, Watson kindly donated \$1000 on behalf of the Trust to Frank Brooky, who also acts as Lynette's

manager. The money is to assist Brooky's parents who have been supporting their daughter for a number of years. The timing could not be better as Lynette leaves for Europe with her father on

July 18.

Frank says it is going to give them a good guide on Lynette's standing.

"It is a great trip for her. She has well and truly proved herself against the best in the

Southern Hemisphere and this four week trip will be a good measure for her," he says.

Lynette will play three tournaments beginning with the European Amateur in Terreno, Italy on July 22.

Brooky battles way to Aussie golf title



NEW ZEALAND amateur Lynette Brooky hit two double bogeys and five bogeys in gusty conditions at the Australian women's amateur golf championship but it was good enough for her first overseas tournament victory yesterday.

Brooky (25), leading by three shots overnight, carded a 10-over-par 85 in the final round at the difficult New South Wales course at La Perouse, Sydney, for a four-round total of 310.

With most players struggling in the strong winds, her final round was enough to beat Victorian Tanya Holl by two shots with north Queenslander Karrie Webb one shot further back third.

"I just couldn't control my golf in the wind," Brooky said, adding she was thrilled at the win.

Eighteen-year-old Holl, 11th overnight, leapt up the leaders' board with a four-over-par 79 to finish on 312.

Brooky was disappointed with the way she handled the wind but had tried to remain calm when her game fell apart.

"When I three-putted, I didn't get emotionally upset, I just thought 'Oh well, I've blown it again'. I told myself to wait and see the end result.

"I even had a bogey on the last hole — the easiest. Ten over, gee."

Despite her first overseas win, the former New Zealand championship winner and last year's national strokeplay champion and golfer of the year was not immediately thinking of turning professional.

"I've got a neat little guy at home so I'm happy," she said. "There are too many broken hearts on the professional tour. However, if someone came up to me and said 'I'll give you so much to play,' I'd think about it."

Brooky, from the Manor Park club in Wellington, said big celebrations would have to wait until she returned home this morning.

"I'm down to my last \$50. Maybe I might buy a bottle of red wine to go with dinner, but there'll be a lot of partying when I get home."

AAP

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