

Brooky and Farron join 115 other European tour hopefuls

NEW ZEALANDERS Susan Farron and Lynette Brooky will attempt to join the European women's professional golf tour through the qualifying school in Spain next month.

Brooky and Farron will line up against 115 other hopefuls at the Hyatt La Manga Club Resort on March 14-17.

Players finishing in the top 40 will gain a category eight ranking, giving them a higher priority for entry to tour events than those finishing 41st and below, who will gain a category 10 ranking.

The qualifying school will be played on a tournament format, 72-hole strokeplay with a cut after 36

holes to the top 75 plus ties.

The field includes a host of top former amateurs including Australian Karrie Webb, the 1994 Australian strokeplay champion, and American Jill McGill, 1993 US women's amateur champion.

Brooky, from Wellington, and Farron, of Manawatu, were members of the New Zealand women's amateur team that finished ninth at the world teams championship in France last year.

One New Zealander is already playing on the European tour, Jan Higgins, though Japan-based Marnie McGuire played several events as an invited player last year. — NZPA

Brooky in fair form in France

Lynette Brooky hit every fairway which set her up for a three-under 69 in today's opening round of the prestigious Evian Golf Open being played in France.

Brooky's bogey-free round, her first for two years, has left her two shots behind the Great Britain's Lis Hackney who scored 66.

Sweden's Maria Hjorth had a 67 while Brooky shared third place with Claire Duffy (Great Britain), Xonia Wunsch-Ruiz (Spain) and Patricia Meunier-Lebouc (France).

Brooky was perfect off the tee, which during the first nine enabled her to hit every green in regulation. At the same time she two putted every green.

Being one-under at the par four 13th, Brooky looked to be in trouble when her six-iron approach ended up behind a tree.

Using a sand wedge, Brooky punched the ball out along the ground, it coming to rest one metre from the flag. Her putt was successful to save par.

The Lower Hutt golfer, playing the European Tour for only the second year, only missed three of the 18 greens.

Speaking from France this morning, Brooky said she was extremely happy with her round but remained cautious when looking to the three days ahead.

"I aim to continue on," said Brooky.

The tournament is one of the most lucrative on the tour with nearly \$1 million in prizemoney. — By JOHN FREER

Aussie first stop on Brooky's road to US

By JOHN FREER
Sports editor

A shot at the US Open is on Lynette Brooky's plans for the year but first the Wellington professional golfer hopes to snare a slice of the huge prizemoney in the Australian Ladies Masters.

Brooky, who will cross the Tasman late next month for the \$A820,000 Gold Coast-based tournament, said yesterday that qualifying for the very lucrative US Open was also a realistic goal. Whether Brooky attempts to pre-qualify for the US event will depend how her third season on the European Tour shapes up.

The 72-hole Alpine Australian Ladies Masters being played at the Royal Pines course, begins on February 27.

Brooky has played the event three times, twice making the cut. She admits to feeling confident about the coming season and hopes that recent sound practice form will be enhanced with a three-day visit to Wellington next month by former national coach Alex Mercer.

Mercer is returning from Australia to spend time with Brooky as she finalises her preparations.

"Alex is one of the best coaches in the world. He being over here is a great opportunity for me," said Brooky.

After the Australian Masters, Brooky will return to Wellington before making her third pilgrimage to Europe in April.

Her first tournament there will be the



Lynette Brooky — big season ahead.

Estoril Open in Portugal in May followed by the Tour Players' Classic in Cheshire.

For Brooky her third season on the European Tour is important because she believes she should now be establishing herself financially.

"It takes

three to five years. This year I want to be able to just concentrate on my golf. I feel quite confident and I have got my goals."

Those goals include three tour wins this season, including the British Open which starts on August 14.

"For the first time yesterday I started thinking about wanting to win the British Open," Brooky said.

Before that though will be July's Austrian Open, a tournament Brooky finished second in last year. Another target is the Hamburg Open, Brooky finishing in fifth place last season. "I have to get a good kick-start. If I do then I will try and qualify for the US Open."

Otherwise she will look to consolidate her European programme, improving on last year's 34th placing.

Brooky fifth

Britain's Joanne Morley shot a last round 68 to clinch her first women's tour victory at the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Morley, 29, finished on 11 under 281, four strokes clear of Sweden's Maria Hjorth. New Zealand's Lynette Brooky was fifth equal with a score of 288.

Brooky third

New Zealand rookie golf professional Lynette Brooky hit a 73 yesterday to tie for third place in the Italian women's open at Il Picciolo, Sicily. She was two-under par on 144 at the halfway stage. Spain's Amaia Arruti leads at six-under 140.

Looking good. Australians Denise Brooker and Karrie Webb and New Zealand's Lynette Brooky were well on target to qualify for the European women's golf tour midway through the tour school in La Manga, Spain, yesterday. Brooky shot a second round 73 after 74 the day before and was tied in fourth place, four shots behind leader Stephanie Dallongeville who had a 70.

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