

A great deal of sponsorship is needed at the level Lynnette has reached and she would like to acknowledge those who have supported her. Major sponsor Canon has their name on all her head gear, while Air New Zealand and Alpega share space on her shirt. Other supporters include Titleist golf gear, King Toyota, Alan Burns insurance brokers, Adorn Cleaning, Calaway Woods, and Lyle and Scott Clothing. Gail says people like Frank Burgess, Steve Elkington and Alex Mercer have also been a great help. Alex used to coach the New Zealand team and Lynnette says his help has been invaluable.

"He's a fantastic coach, one of the best. I wouldn't want to go elsewhere."

Lynnette is also rewarded with Atarangi pinot noir wines every time she posts a top five placing, but her skill has been her downfall lately.

"It used to be top 10 but I was getting too many!" she laughs.

While home in May for a break Lynnette caught up with her family at their annual family tournament, a tradition started around five years ago.

"My brother lives on the golf course and we had a barbecue outside his back door by the 11th and 12th tees. It's just family - about 30 playing - and it's a real family gathering. They have a good handicap, a three or four, and I play off the tee with them. I'm their little pro!"

Europe is well known as the home of fine dining and Lynnette says she and Gail have been treated to some wonderful meals while living there.

"We were invited to one of the top hotels that has a kitchen with around 30 to 40 chefs. They love golf and asked us to eat in the kitchen. We sat there with silver service for 11 courses!"

Gail says although golf may have been the initial drawcard for many of the people they meet overseas, friendship soon takes over.

"Lynnette being Lynnette, people mill around her because of her bubblyness. We have a lot of support in New Zealand, and we stay with wonderful people in England. They look after us, it's like a home away from home," says Gail.

In addition to golf, Lynnette also enjoys popping into the Ballroom to play a few games of pool when she's in town. She used to have a Kawasaki Z650 motorcycle too, but admits there were good reasons for selling it.

"I used to ride like a racer! I rode for about two years but golf came and Gail said I wasn't allowed to ride any more. I was afraid I was going to kill myself anyway, so I gave it up for golf."

Lynnette follows a gruelling schedule, with at least 18 tournaments between now and the end of the year. Her aim is to get to the point where she can pick and choose which tournaments she will play in.

"In five years time I want to have a beautiful home on a hill somewhere around here, and I want to choose what tournaments I want to go to. I work hard and don't dwell on any negatives. I want to be the number one golfer and I've got five years to do it. Once I get there I don't want to fall off, I'll work hard to stay there."

Brooky driving hard for European event at Hutt

by Nicholas Boyack

The Hutt Golf Club could host one of the tournaments on the Ladies' European Tour.



That's the dream of Lynnette Brooky, who has been lobbying hard to get a prestigious European event in Wellington.

The tour is expanding into Asia, South Africa and Australasia and the Wellington region has an event tentatively scheduled for 2001.

This year Brooky had a big season in Europe, where she won in Austria.

For the last couple of months she has been based in Lower Hutt and has been practising and playing at Hutt.

Although she had one year at Manor Park with Mal Tongue, she says the Hutt club is where she feels the most comfortable. In fact she positively raves about Hutt.

"This is a great course. It is getting better every

year and I would love to see the European ladies play here."

Although some people say the design is boring, she rates it as a very interesting and challenging course. The greens are of an excellent standard and she can see no reason why it could not host a tournament.

Her win in Austria was set up by her first round, where she shot eight under par and then held on to win by one shot. She went into the last round expecting not to be able to finish in front but ended up beating Laura Davies, who is one of the most respected players in the world.

The 31 year-old pro believes she is entering the best years of her career and is looking forward to winning again.

Although the American tour has a higher profile, Brooky says she will probably continue to play in Europe. As well as the lifestyle and the good courses, the friendly atmosphere and the camaraderie amongst the players is a major attraction.

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