

Like my first two tournaments I was following people round just to know what to do next, and they knew I was there but they just couldn't get rid of me.

I didn't know you had to register just before the tournament and pay your fees. But I think that after two or three years I'll be settling in quite well. I did find that playing ten weeks in a row did stress me out so I'll be planning things differently in 1996 and I'll make room for relaxation which is very important.

Q. How friendly have you found the European women's tour as a newcomer?

A. Sometimes it can be almost too friendly, other times you can feel just so alone. There are times when you need your own space, but you don't want to offend anyone. When you've been on the go for eight or nine weeks in a row and some players aren't making enough cuts to survive, things can get a bit bitchy. I do think in future I'll spend more time on my own.

Q. Obviously in your second year in Europe, everything will be so much more familiar?

A. Yes it'll be so different. I know exactly what to do now. I'll make sure I'm properly prepared, and if it doesn't work out in the first month or two I know it's going to sooner or later and I'm just going to wait.

Q. What was the highlight of your playing year?

A. The British Open being on top of the leaderboard twice in one day was a buzz and the people running the scoreboard got to know me because I was either making bogey, birdie or par and someone would overtake me, and my name was all over the place so they must have been wondering what I was going to do next.

Q. Can you see the day when New Zealand hosts a big money women's tournament?

A. I hope so. Bob Tuohy who runs the Australian tours approached me at Royal Pines in Queensland (in November) and asked if I thought we could get a tournament going in New Zealand, and I know for a fact we would get Laura Davies and Annika Sorenstam over here to play because they'd like to know what New Zealand's all about. I said to him the galleries in Australia are nothing compared with the numbers we'd get in New Zealand.

Q. In the immediate future, what are your plans between now and your return to Europe?

A. I'm going to make sure I get to see (Sydney-based) Alex Mercer and have a good talk to him. He's one coach I don't have to see all the time because he gives me the sort of knowledge that stays with me, and spend a lot of time with Jack Oliver my Wellington coach. I'm going to try and see him nearly every day, even if it's just to say hello. I'll be back in Europe early in April, a month before the tour starts. ♦

GOLF

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Masters finish boosts McGuire for Japan

GOLD COAST. - New Zealand golfer Marnie McGuire flies to the lucrative Japanese women's golf tour this week buoyed by her final round performance in the Australian women's masters at Royal Pines in Queensland.

Canada's Gail Graham won in dramatic fashion after Australia's Karrie Webb bogeyed the two final holes to hand the 29-year-old Canadian player her second US LPGA Tour win in an eight-year professional career.

Webb, who led Graham by five shots after four holes of the final round, self-destructed over the back nine, with two further three-putt bogeys at the 10th and 17th holes, eventually losing by a shot.

McGuire, who was one-under but 13 shots behind overnight leader Webb, restored some respectability to her final aggregate score, shooting a three-under 69 that

helped her grab a share of 11th place and a cheque for \$US11,470 (\$NZ16,735).

"I really am happy with my finish, particularly after the third round effort because today has given me that sharpness I need to take with me to Japan this week", said

McGuire. "I just love playing in the company of some of these great American players and after playing in Hawaii last week and now in another US Tour event in Australia, I'm looking forward to commencing the Japan tour."

McGuire said her performance in the past two weeks had only whetted her ap

petite to eventually quit the Japan tour and move to the United States possibly in 1998.

Fellow Kiwi Lynette Brooker was another who finished strongly also shooting a three-under 69 to grab a share of 49th place. - NZPA



Lynette Brooker - strong finish.