

Jane Crafter hopes to bring world-class female golfing talent to Adelaide

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Jane Crafter hopes to bring world-class female golfing talent to Adelaide. Picture: George Salpigtidis
Source: The Advertiser

CHAMPION South Australian golfer Jane Crafter hopes to bring world-class female golfing talent to Adelaide to raise the sport's appeal among youngsters.

Keen to become more involved in helping the state unearth golfing potential, she wants to take advantage of a big contingent of players in Australia for the Masters and Australian Open by enticing some to Adelaide next January for a pro-am event.

"It is all about sponsorship and money," Crafter said. "Things are tight but I'd like to tap into the contacts we know and I'm confident we could get some players here in January.

"At this stage nothing has been planned but I'd like to get the players to Adelaide for a pro-am and raise awareness of the sport.

"I would like to get more involved in helping golfing development in SA. I still have stuff I need to do in the US but I want to use what clout I have to assist golf here."

The only golfer in the SA Sport Hall of Fame, Crafter is a dual Australian Ladies Masters champion; she won the 1997 Australian Open and was also victorious in the US.

She is based in Arizona but aims to increase her presence in Adelaide and work with Golf SA to lift the sport's profile for young players.

SA is well behind the other states in producing players for the world's major tours.

"I met with Golf SA last week to see what I can contribute," Crafter said. "It comes down to money and a need to raise the profile of amateur golf here.

"The youngsters have so many distractions and golf is time consuming and expensive.

"We are having a girls golf camp in April the sort of things we did when I was a youngster.

"We had passionate ladies involved who taught us more than just our game such things as etiquette, character building and sportsmanship.

"That is something I'd like to get more involved in and I'd like to come back to Adelaide more often. I've been thinking about it I've got older and I need to get more involved."

Crafter was in the commentary team for the Ladies Masters at Royal Pines when Karrie Webb claimed an incredible eighth title.

"Karrie never ceases to amaze me," Crafter said.

"Even at 38 she is fit and motivated she wants to play in the Olympics.

"She is so calm and confident."

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