

NZ team only two shots behind thanks to Brooky

VANCOUVER

A SHARP-EYED Lynette Brooky kept New Zealand from falling to three shots behind Great Britain-Ireland after yesterday's second round of the world women's amateur teams golf championship in Vancouver.

Brooky shot a one-over 73 which, combined with Lisa Aldridge's 72, took the Kiwis from third and four shots behind the British side to second and two back.

When her Canadian playing partner and marker Marie Josee Rouleau called out Brooky's score, she correctly had the New Zealander paring the short 11th hole.

The Canadian had left the scorer's tent when Brooky ran her eye over her card once again and was startled to see that Rouleau had in fact written down a bogey four on the 11th.

Rouleau was recalled to the tent and amended the card. Had the four stood, then Brooky's score would have been adjusted to 74 and New Zealand would have fallen into a tie for second with Spain and France.

Brooky smiled with relief as she finished recounting the incident because she knew that it could have taken a little of the polish off an exceptional day for the young Kiwis.

Aldridge set the standard by playing the back nine in three under par and improving by five shots over the last four holes on her first round effort.

Susan Farron was the first New Zealander on the course



LISA ALDRIDGE

and she continued to struggle, though her 78 represented a five-shot improvement on the first day.

Aldridge began poorly and finished brilliantly. The first hole was nearly a disaster, her drive blocked out by a tree, her second in the rough, her third still short of the green and finally a 2m putt for a bogey five.

She immediately birdied the second but had three more bogeys with the more difficult back nine to come.

"I looked at the leader board and saw that we were one-over for the day and I thought I must be playing better than I thought," she said. "I decided to get aggressive and it worked, much to my surprise."

Aldridge birdied the three par-fives coming in and played Thursday's horror stretch from

the 15th in one under.

"I had to get my revenge," she said.

Still, she had to work for her par on the last with a 3m putt. Her two-round total of 147, three over, tied her with Brooky in equal fourth on the individual standings, four shots behind Catriona Lambert (GBI) and Annika Sorenstam (Sweden), whose 68 took a shot off the course record which stood for 31 years.

Brooky was around par all day, with a birdie on the second which was almost an eagle, a bogey at the third, another bogey at the ninth and then bogeys at the 16th and 18th with a birdie at the 17th sandwiched in between.

She knew her score had to count and she responded superbly.

"I made some brilliant ups and downs (for pars) but now I've got a headache. Every time I concentrate, I get a major headache."

But it was for a good cause. Only Spain, with 144, scored better than New Zealand yesterday and New Zealand coach Alex Mercer is confident that in today's third round Farron will emerge as one of New Zealand's counting players.

Great Britain-Ireland are on 292, followed by New Zealand (294), Spain and France (295), Sweden (296), Australia (297) and the United States, the defending champions, seventh on 298. — NZPA

Brooky back in swing of things

New Zealand golf star Lynette Brooky is to back her own judgment as she strives to repair a faulty swing in time for the Queen Sirikit Cup tournament in Indonesia later this month.

Conflicting advice from different coaches saw Brooky's normally reliable swing disintegrate at the national women's interprovincial teams championships.

She was unable to strike the ball with any consistency and finished the championships with only three wins from six matches.

Brooky was far from her best and she is determined to repair her swing deficiencies next week before she, Susan Farron of Manawatu-Wanganui and Waikato-King

Country's Gina Scott leave for Jakarta.

The 26-year-old Wellingtonian was the leading individual at last year's Queen Sirikit Cup tournament in Perth when New Zealand finished third.

Brooky voiced concern earlier this week about the conflicting nature of advice she had received from Millbrook coach John Griffin — which was recommended by the Ladies Golf Union — and her personal coach Jack Oliver.

"My posture will stay as it is, and that's natural," she said.

"Some coaches try to find the perfect posture but what's best is what's comfortable." — NZPA