

GOLF

Brooky wins in Austria

By GARY MORLEY, Golf writer

Confirmation of a guaranteed start at next month's British Open helped relax Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky before her first European LPGA tour win yesterday.

She received the news from manager Gail Allport last Thursday, then shot 64 the next day to be joint leader after the first round of the Austrian Open.

That score, matched by England's Samantha Head, was a new record on the par-72 Steiermarkischer course.

Brooky, 30, was equal leader with former world No 1 Laura Davies going into the third and final round yesterday.

While Davies fell behind, Brooky reeled off three birdies in a row from the 14th hole to take the title – and the \$37,700 first prize – by one shot from another Briton, Trish Johnson.

Davies tied for third with three other players, another shot back.

The win gives Brooky direct entry onto next year's European tour.

Allport said knowing she was into the British Open – at Royal Lytham on August 13-16 – took a lot of pressure off Brooky before the Austrian tournament started.

"She was a lot more relaxed. After finishing 44th at the Evian Masters [last month] we thought she'd have to pre-qualify but there were obviously enough exempt players above her," Allport said.

She said Brooky had benefited from being able to practise at England's prestigious Oxfordshire club this year.

"She's extremely pleased with her swing. For the birdie at the [par-five] 14th, she hit her second shot – a five wood – 205 yards on flight onto the back of the green," Allport said.

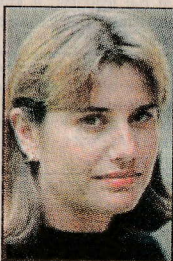
Brooky carded a final round 69 for 13-under-par 203, but it could have been an even lower total. She bogeyed the 17th and 18th holes in her first two rounds, and missed a short putt to bogey 18 yesterday.

Paired with Davies, and following Johnson's group, Brooky could afford that final slip.

"I knew I just had to keep my full concentration until I missed that little one at the last," she said. "But, by then, it was over. It's extra special to beat players of such calibre."

It was Brooky's second tournament win this year.

Last month she triumphed at the second-tier Goteborg Open in Sweden.



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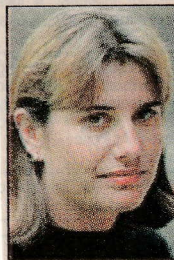
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Lynnette Brooky

Brooky slips to share of lead in Austria

LONDON. – Lynette Brooky maintained her fine touch to lead the field after a two under par 70 in the second round of the Austrian Open golf tournament today.

Brooky and Briton Laura Davies finished the day 10 under to share the lead, two shots clear.

At one stage today Brooky held a four-stroke advantage over the chasing pack, but bogeys on the 17th and 18th pegged her back to 10 under.

Brooky, who fired a course record 64 on the opening day, started the round well with two birdies in the first three holes. She

began the back nine just as well, with birdies on the 10th and 14th, but drove into a bunker on the 17th and into the trees on the 18th to drop two shots.

Davies hit a six under 66 to catch Brooky, who had her first European tour victory last month in Sweden. – NZPA

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