

Brooky gains her revenge

Auckland golfer Lynette Brooky had one word on her mind when she played New Zealand representative Lisa Aldridge yesterday: Revenge.

Brooky had lost to Aldridge twice previously this year and wanted to avoid a hat-trick. She won 3 and 2 in a second round full of upsets at the NZI national women's championships at Paraparaumu Beach.

This match was a contrast of personalities: Brooky, 22, used to play at Paraparaumu but left for Auckland at the start of the year, disillusioned with Wellington golf. Aldridge, 18, is the new Paraparaumu star. The rebel versus the darling.

The rebel won, with disciplined percentage golf. "Before, I'd been pushing myself too much. I put a lot of pressure on myself. But today I said 'Let's just take it as it comes,'" Brooky said.

"She has always beaten me. I wanted revenge but not nasty or anything, in a nice way."

The win meant much to Brooky: "It's been a great year for me (in Auckland). The only thing I've missed is my family. To come down and play the Wellington No 1 and beat her on her home course has really made me happy."

Her family lives in Tawa. She has two sisters and six brothers, two of whom play in Paraparaumu's Duncan Cup team including Martin, her caddy yesterday. Praising him, she said her win was a team effort.

She won the first two holes and was never headed. Aldridge was 1 down for a time but her short game was not consistently accurate enough for her to draw level. She fell three behind by the 13th but won the 14th with a birdie. Brooky sank a tricky two-metre downhill putt to halve the 15th and won with a solid par on 16, where Aldridge hit a wayward tee shot.

She was joined as a second-round casualty by fellow Espirito Santo world championship team member Annette Stott. Canadian Eve-Lyne Biron beat Stott — that was no shock but the 7 and 6 winning margin was.

Biron was two-under par when the match finished, as was compatriot Terrill Samuel who demolished Debbie Smith 7 and 6. Smith was the last New Zealander to win the championship, a distinction she will probably maintain the way Terrill and Biron played.

Tracey McCarten, once of Paraparaumu and now at Levin, continued her good tournament with wins over Heather Barnett and Lee Carrington.

Otago's doughty Jan Scandrett looked as good as any of the New Zealanders and was joined in the last eight by Kerryn Starr and Susan Farron.

Brooky edges out Hassall in close final

By EVAN PEGDEN

Wellington golfer Lynette Brooky was taken to the 18th hole before winning the Waikato women's open title in virtual darkness at St Andrews yesterday.

Brooky (Manor Park) beat Lochiel's Judy Hassall (nee Cameron), 1-up, to take the title in a close fought final after torrential rain and close matches had seen late finishes to the morning semifinals.

Play was suspended for about threequarters of an hour during the semifinals as the heavy rain flooded the course, but the water drained away remarkably fast after the rain stopped and the matches were restarted immediately.

Brooky came through with a 1-up win over Manawatu's Susan Farron in her semifinal, but Hassall had to go to the 19th to down Christchurch golfer Robyn Thompson (Waitikiri).

The final did not get under way until 2.30pm and both players made shaky starts. While Hassall hit the ball particularly well three three-putts by Brooky helped keep the final the close.

The Wellington player went 1-up at the first hole and took the sixth with a long par putt to go 2-up, but the margin was only one going through the turn thanks to a Hassall birdie at the eighth.

Brooky birdied the par-five 10th when she reached the edge of the green for two to restore her two-hole lead and increased it to three when the Waikato player had a double bogey six at the 12th hole.

The match could have gone dormie at the 14th, but Brooky three-putted and had to settle for a half, while she also three-putted the 15th to slip to 2-up.

Hassall then cut the deficit to one with a good putt for par at the 16th and narrowly missed birdie putts at the last two holes to concede defeat.

Results of finals: championship, L Brooky (Manor Park) b J Hassall (Lochiel), 1-up. Fraser Cup: J Ranstead (Lochiel) b C Woodham (Hamilton), 5/4. St Andrews Handicap: L Tregida (Manawatu) b L Mitchell (Morrinsville), 2-up. Vardon Handicap: E Purcell (Hamilton) b G Robertson (Huntly), 2-up.

Brooky loses in playoff

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynette Brooky lost the British Columbia women's golf championships in Vancouver, Canada, on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff yesterday.

Brooky and Canadian Jackie Little were tied on a three-round total of 220 at the par-75 Shaughnessy golf club.

But, at the first hole, Brooky who had bogeyed at the same hole earlier in the day while on her way to shooting a superb four-under-71 for the last round, fell again.

She struck trouble by playing a second shot into the trees, handing Little the championship.

Beginning the day three strokes behind overnight leader Little, she raced to be five-under after nine holes in the final round yesterday with four birdies and an eagle.

Little played steady if unspectacular golf, holding her nerve as Brooky made her charge, to card one-under 74 to ensure the playoff.

New Zealanders filled the other minor placings with Susan Farron finishing third with a total of 224, three strokes ahead of fourth placed Lisa Aldridge who carded a disappointing 78 in the last round. — NZPA