

Brooky hopes sun shines for her again

By GARY MORLEY, Golf writer

Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky awoke to English sunshine this week, and hopes it's a sign the wretched northern weather has finished toying with major British tournaments this summer.

Brooky is one of three Kiwis in the field for the women's British Open which starts at Royal Lytham tonight (NZ time), along with Japan-based Marnie McGuire and fellow European tour player Susan Farron.

Brooky was literally blown off the course at the WPGA championship of Europe in Scotland last week, missing the cut after a opening-round 83.

"It was blowing a gale. When I got through my swing I got a little bit of fade

... when the wind came across, the ball was going miles into the heather," she said from her hotel in Lancashire yesterday.

"But I still had a birdie and nine pars in that 11 over. I just shook my head in disbelief that no luck was going my way."

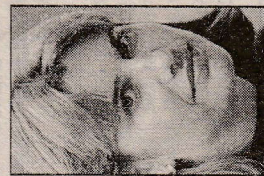
Brooky has found the going tough since her first win on the tour in Austria three weeks ago.

"I think I got a little bit cocky thinking I was going to win the next one, and I didn't.

So now I'm rebuilding. I want to chill out a bit and make sure I get through this tournament the best I can, and get a nice result.

For me to win that tournament, I played out of my tree. Two days after that I was still recovering, because I was worn out."

She sounds weary after two months of



Brooky

tournaments, including her first US Open, where she enjoyed the atmosphere despite missing the cut.

"It was amazing ... that's why I think I came over and won the next one," she said. "When I saw Pak [Se Ri, US Open winner] walking down the 18th and all the crowd around the green cheering and yahoing, I just got this sensational feeling down my back."

"I thought I'd love to be in that position, and I had all these wonderful dreams afterwards. I want to be there one day."

Brooky will have to overcome the testing Royal Lytham beachside links course and a full-strength field, which includes the US tour players, to achieve that goal this weekend.

"The course is very green, and pretty long. There's only four or five holes where you can get to the green with irons," she said. "It's by the beach, so the wind always gets up [as the day progresses] but I'll be starting at 6.50am on Friday [in the second round], so that could be an advantage."

"And I've had my coach from Oxfordshire [the club where she practises] up to see me today. We worked on my swing ... He told me all I have to do is take a little more time with every shot, and just visualise a bit longer than everyone else. Because it is going to be tough."

Brooky excited at Ko Open invite

NICHOLAS BOYACK

Lynnette Brooky wants to turn back the clock when she plays in the \$1.8 million New Zealand Women's Open in September.

Brooky was New Zealand's most successful female golfer until Lydia Ko emerged to become the world number one.

These days the 49 year-old concentrates on coaching at Manor Park Sanctuary and travelling with husband Ian Godleman, who coaches in Europe.

Brooky and 1996 Halberg Sportswoman of the year, Marnie McGuire were offered invites, in recognition of their success on the world stage.

McGuire declined, noting that she retired 12 years ago.

Brooky jumped at the opportunity and is looking forward to

watching Ko play.

Never short of confidence, Brooky believes she can do well, against what will be a top field.

"Realistically I can do anything. I have been there and done that. I just have to have the mind in the right frame and feel positive."

Her plan is to travel overseas with Godleman, which will take her to some of the top courses in Britain and Switzerland, and sharpen up her short game.

"I am going to work hard and I mean work hard."

As well as impressing Ko, Brooky has another reason to do well in the open.

"I want to show the kids that I teach, that I can still play."

The open is being played on the new Windross Farm Golf Club in Auckland.

most prestigious women's tour, the LPGA, has ventured to New Zealand.

Brooky is excited about taking part.

"I wanted to watch this event from inside the ropes, so why not just play in it."

I'm extremely thankful for the opportunity," said Brooky.

Brooky played on the Ladies European Tour, claiming four titles against some of the best players in the game with victories in 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2006.

She also had four wins in Australia to finish with combined career earnings in excess of \$1 million.

Her impressive record will count for nothing in Auckland, where she knows she will have to be at the top of her game to compete against some of the best



Lynnette Brooky at the 2005 Women's Golf Masters. The 49-year-old