

Brooky qualifies in second place for British Open

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WELLINGTON'S Lynnette Brooky is beginning to establish herself on the European women's professional golf circuit.

Yesterday Brooky qualified in second place for the British Open, which starts tomorrow at Woburn, with a two-under par round that had her looking forward to the tournament proper.

"I found form today and felt really good about my game," Brooky said.

"I hit the ball straight and played sensibly. It has put me in the right frame of mind for what is the biggest tournament on the circuit."

It hasn't been easy for Brooky since she returned to Europe in May after qualifying for the tour in Spain during March.

While her old mate Michael Campbell has been picking up big cheques during his rookie season in Europe, Brooky has been struggling to make ends meet.

Brooky was at her lowest ebb when she missed the cut in her first two tournaments.

"I was really down but I had my cry to Gail [Allport, who is caddying for her] and said 'if I don't make the next cut I'm going home'," Brooky said.

"She told me not to be silly,

By RUSSELL GRAY

but it got it out of my system and I've made the cut in the five tournaments since. Once you make the cut you get a wage [\$420 minimum]."

When she arrived in Europe money was always on Brooky's mind. If she missed a putt she would think how much it had cost her. Now she is concentrating on playing and getting herself established rather than dwelling on what she is earning.

"I'm not going to get rich at the moment, but I hope I'll go back home with

a couple of thousand pounds profit in October," she said. "The main thing for me this year was to get established and become known. That is important and it is starting to happen."

Brooky is 62nd on the order of merit and if she makes the cut after two rounds of the British Open it will push her up the ladder. Finishing in the top 80 on the order of merit will guarantee her card for next year, while a top 60 position gets her into the rich Evian Masters and Hennessy Cup next season.

First prize at Woburn this week is £60,000 (NZ\$143,000).



LYN BROOKY

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 practice 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.

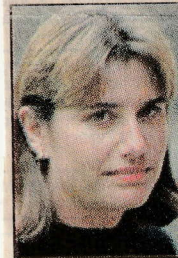
Brooky carded a final round 69 for 13-under-par 203, but it could have been an even lower total. She bogeyed the 17th and 18th holes in her first two rounds, and missed a short putt to bogey 18 yesterday.

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.



Lynnette Brooky