

Tour warm-up ideal for Brooky

By GARY MORLEY, Golf writer

Wellington golfers were in the prizemoney in professional tournaments around the world at the weekend.

Lynnette Brooky had the best possible warm-up to her European LPGA tour campaign by winning the Goteborg Open, a second-tier event, in Sweden yesterday. It was Brooky's first win in Europe and came after Sweden's Malin Burstrom took her to a second-hole playoff. The first LPGA event is the Evian Masters in France starting tomorrow.

Stephen Scahill continued his solid start to the European Challenge tour with equal 13th placing (\$2361) at the Challenge de France in Le Mans.

He finished seven shots behind the winner.

Martin Pettigrew earned his first pay cheque of the tour, taking \$1160 for his equal 31st placing.

Paraparaumu's Paul Devenport picked up \$3819 after finishing equal eighth at the Payless Open, the opening event of the Canadian tour.

Devenport shot a 10-under-par 278, just three strokes behind the winner, American Jay Hobby.

Kiwis Mark Brown, Stuart Thompson and Grant Moorhead missed the second-round cut.

Canadian course tests NZ women golf players



NEW ZEALAND'S amateur women's golf team have been wearing out their long irons and fairway woods as they prepare for today's first round of the Espirito Santo world championship at Marine Drive, Vancouver, Canada.

"We are not playing the course that much shorter than the men will," said Wellington's Lisa Aldridge.

"On only about three holes will we be on the forward women's tee.

"We're just not used to playing holes of this length in New Zealand."

Marine Drive, which has a par of 72 for the women this week and 70 for the men in the Eisenhower Trophy world tournament next week, has narrow fairways and more than its share of dog-leg holes.

That will serve to separate the bold from the cautious but already the Kiwis know that the brave approach can make life a little easier.

In yesterday's final practice round, played in warm, sunny condition on a lush course, Manawatu's Susan Farron challenged a willow tree on the dog leg at the 338m third while Aldridge took the

conventional line. Farron hit a six-iron second and Aldridge a two iron.

"You can't cut any corners here," said Aldridge. "You've got to respect the dog legs."

The green have also caught the Kiwis' interest.

"They are hard to read," said the third member of the team, Lynnette Brooky.

"They don't take as much borrow as you expect and they are not very quick."

The Kiwis haven't been playing that much attention to keeping scores in the three practice rounds, but they don't expect that par will be broken often.

In the first round the Kiwis will be paired with Argentina and Bermuda and in the second round with Canada and Colombia.

At least there will be a Canadian team competing, but what sort of mood the players will be in is hard to know.

Lori Kane of Prince Edward Island went to court to contest the Canadian selection system, and won. The final threesome will not be known until the morning of the first round. NZPA

Relaxed Brooky on brink of first European Tour win

By RUSSELL GRAY

WELLINGTON golfer Lynnette Brooky was on the brink of a first European Tour win going into the final round of the Goteborg women's Open in Sweden overnight.

Brooky, who was beaten in a playoff at last year's German Open, followed up a first round course record five-under-par 66 with a 71 to take a two-shot lead into the last 18 holes of the 54-hole tournament.

Brooky said from Gothenburg that she had never felt so relaxed in a tournament and felt that was the reason she had played so well.

"It is the first time in three years that I've gone out and not worried about my swing and it felt really comfortable," Brooky said.

"I said to Brett [her caddy] that

I was going to use the tournament to get ready for next week's Evian [Evian Masters in France] and that I wasn't going to get upset if things went wrong.

"As it happens I missed five putts from between five and 10 feet but didn't let it get to me."

Before going to Europe Brooky spent a weekend in Sydney with coach Alex Mercer and the way things went there gave her the con-

fidence to play well.

"Alex told me my set-up swing looked good and that I should just go and enjoy it," she said.

"What really surprised me was that the course record came on the seventh day in Europe and that usually my worst so far as jets goes."

Brooky said she was trying to take the same relaxed approach into the last round.

Record round gives Brooky lead

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynnette Brooky grabbed a share of the lead after shooting a course record in the opening round of the Austrian Open women's golf championships at Frohnleiten yesterday.

Brooky and English player

Sam Head shot eight-under-par rounds of 64 to hold a three-shot lead over their closest challengers.

Fellow New Zealander Susan Farron had a three-over 75 yesterday and is equal 77th. — NZPA

Don 18/7/98

Brooky leads from start to finish in Austria

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynnette Brooky took charge with three birdies in a row from the 14th and went on to clinch her first major professional golf win in the Austrian Open at Murhof, near Graz, yesterday.

The 30-year-old shot a three-under-par 69 to finish on 13-under-par 203, one shot ahead of Britain's Trish Johnson, and col-

lected the \$37,000 first prize.

Wellington's Brooky led every round and equalled the course record on the first day.

Favourite Laura Davies, Spain's Estefina Knuth, Italy's Federica Dassu and American rookie Laura Philo shared third place on 11-under 205.

Brooky, in her fourth year on tour, had set out sharing the lead

with Davies. But the Briton fell back with a double-bogey seven at the seventh where she hit two shots in a bush and then went into a bunker. She shot a 71.

For Brooky it was a nerve-wracking experience to lead from first to last.

"But it was great fun playing in the final group on the final day," Brooky said. — NZPA

Don 20/7/98