



Lyn Brooky

Champion faces worthy opponent

Wellington golfer Lyn Brooky will begin the defence of her national matchplay championship at Tauranga today against one of the great competitors of New Zealand golf, Liz Douglas.

The Christchurch player, many times a New Zealand representative, won the title in 1976. Now in her 40s, she remains a formidable match-player.

Brooky won the title at Paraparaumu from Canadian Terrill Samuel with a birdie on the 37th hole of a final played in appalling conditions.

She has since earned representative honours and was a singles winner in New Zealand's Tasman Cup victory against Australia last week.

There are 11 Australians and two Canadians in the matchplay draw of 32 for an event won five times in the past six years by overseas players.

Annette Stott (Muriwai), who won the strokeplay title at the weekend, has a first-round clash with Ashburton junior Catherine Knight.

The strokeplay runner-up, Anne-Marie Knight, of Australia, meets Jan Oliver, of Lochiel, a semifinalist two years ago and a qualifier for the United States amateur this year.

An interesting clash will see Joanne Brooks, a local player now studying at the University of Nebraska, meeting Annette Almond, of Whakatane, one of the heroines of Bay of Plenty's victory in the provincial teams event at Hamilton.

Two rounds of the championship will be played today and tomorrow, with the final over 36 holes on Thursday.

Top six realistic for Capital at champs

Former provincial power-broker Wellington hopes the hard part is over at the ANZ national women's teams golf championships in Nelson.

Wellington, which won the title in 1992, enters the second day of the tournament today determined to fulfill non-playing captain Gwen Hill's prediction of a top-six finish.

After back-to-back losses yesterday Wellington now faces an uphill struggle to live up to Hill's expectations although its international star Lynnette Brooky remains confident such a result is within their grasp.

"A top six placing is still realistic. We had our toughest games today," Brooky said.

Wellington's campaign to wipe clear memories of last year's 10th placing started inauspiciously on the 5519 metres Nelson club course.

It was overturned 3-2 by a buoyant Manawatu-Wanganui in the morning and could not deprive defending champion and title favourite Auckland of a 3½-1½ success in the second round.



Brooky - top form needed

Brooky, who Wellington depend heavily on to provide success at the top of the order, was below her best yesterday, losing on the 18th green to fellow international Susan Farron of Manawatu-Wanganui and then halving her encounter with Auckland Annette Stott.

The 26-year-old displayed her renowned fighting qualities in clawing back a two-hole deficit against Stott and striking the lead after leaving the 16th.

A 17m birdie putt on the par-three 15th saw Brooky draw level with Stott and she then forged a one-hole advantage when paring the 16th before three-putting the 17th, which left Stott needing only to halve the last hole to share the match.

Stott duly accomplished this, thanks to a fine 28m putt which enabled her to par the hole.

Brooky described her opening-day form as "a bit radical. It was a matter of either bad shots or bad putting".

Wellington's stuttering start could be corrected, Brooky said, looking ahead to clashes with Bay of Plenty-Thames Valley and Otago today before it strikes South Canterbury and Taranaki. — NZPA

Wellington golfer sets sights on top British titles

By RUSSELL GRAY

WELLINGTON'S Lynnette Brooky has set her sights on Britain's top women's golfing titles after an outstanding performance last week at the Queen Sirikit Cup teams' tournament in Perth where she finished as top individual.

The women's British Open amateur strokeplay, at Gullane in Scotland, and the British Open at Woburn in England have always figured in Brooky's plans for 1993 but she is now looking forward to them with relish.

Brooky, 25, has fashioned a formidable record in Australasian golf, having held all three New Zealand titles — foursomes (with Susan Farron in 1991), matchplay (1990) and strokeplay (1992) — as well as winning last year's Australian strokeplay title.

She also showed her liking for strokeplay by tying with Canada's Jackie Little for first place at last year's British Columbia championships in Vancouver before losing in a playoff.

Last week's tournament, at which New Zealand finished second, whetted Brooky's appetite for more top-class competition, and while she is looking forward to the New South Wales 72-hole strokeplay event in Sydney next month it is the trip to Britain that is predominant in her thoughts.

Brooky knows it won't be easy. Financial constraints mean she will have to travel on her own. She is prepared to accept that, but said she still hopes to raise more money before leaving in August so she can concentrate on her golf once there.

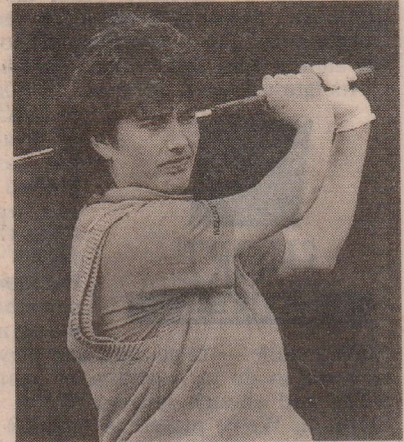
"I'm definitely going but it costs a lot of money," Brooky said.

"I'm trying to get sponsorship so that I'm comfortable while there and not worrying about where my next meal is coming from.

"Ideally I should just have to worry about my golf, so hopefully I'll get some backing."

As soon as an amateur golfer begins doing well inevitably the question of turning professional is asked. Brooky has already become used to that but isn't being rushed into anything.

While admitting that at 25 she will have to make a move soon if she is going to turn professional, Brooky said she was determined



LYNNETTE BROOKY

she wouldn't take that step without the right backing.

She has heard too many stories about players going on to the professional circuit and then struggling through lack of money.

"The last thing I want is to get to the point where I get so depressed I can't do myself justice on the golf course," she said.

"You can't get anywhere if you are worrying about other things all the time."

Travelling on her own shouldn't be too much of a hardship for Brooky who by her own admission has always been something of a loner.

It is a side of her that people have struggled to come to terms with when she has been in a team situation.

"People think I'm a bit strange when I just get up and take off for a walk," Brooky said.

"When I come back and I'm not smiling they immediately assume there is something wrong which there isn't. I just need to get myself in the right frame of mind."

Brooky said her superb final round in Perth had confirmed in her own mind that she could go to Britain with confidence.

"There were all sorts of stories after that round," she said.

"People were saying a woman hadn't got below par there before and they wanted to know about the round shot by shot."

Now a firm strokeplay disciple, Brooky used to be better at matchplay. She said her outlook changed when she learnt to play strokeplay properly.