

Brooky blitzes 'em

Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky burst clear of the field to hold a four-shot advantage after the second round of the NZ\$616,000 ANZ Ladies Masters golf tournament on Queensland's Gold Coast yesterday. — page 68

■ Lynnette Brooky, of New Zealand, won her first Evian European Tour title since 1998 when she sewed up the French Open by five shots at Arras yesterday.

She hit four birdies and an eagle on her way to a 68, while continuing a run whereby she has not three-putted in her last five tournaments. Her four rounds here were all under 70, and she finished on 16 under par overall.

Her only other victory was at the Austrian Open four years ago and she attributed her failure to win since to a fear of public speaking.

"Last time, I was so nervous at the prize-giving, I announced I wanted to spank the sponsors," she said. "I think that affected me deeply."

Brooky's form was too good for Spain's Paula Marti, whose 68 took her to 11 under par and second place.

The best-placed Briton was Nicky Moulton, from Sutton Coldfield, who was four under par overall in a share of seventh place.

GOLF

Big payday for Brooky

By GARY MORLEY, Golf writer

Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky picked up the biggest cheque of her career in finishing equal sixth at the Evian Masters in France yesterday.

Brooky won almost \$NZ65,000 — more than she earned on the entire European tour last year — for her one-under-par total of 287.

She was eight shots behind winner Catrin Nilsmark of Sweden, one of several top United States LPGA tour players in the event, the richest on the European circuit.

Brooky was the highest finisher of those who play solely in Europe.

She shared the lead during the third round on Saturday until disaster struck at the 13th hole of the picturesque mountainside Royal Golf Club Evian course.

Brooky made a triple-bogey seven after hooking her tee shot under a bush, taking a penalty drop, missing the green and then three-putting.

"I could hear a few people in the crowd who sounded a bit sorry for me, but I just turned around with a big smile on my face ... I just knew I wasn't going to lose it," she said.

At the next hole, a 185m par three, she drove a five wood to four feet from the hole and went on to card 70, and par 72 yesterday.

It was a timely boost for the Lower Hutt player, who failed to qualify for

the US Women's Open last month and missed the cut at her only other tournament of the year, the Australian Masters in February. Brooky said the prizemoney was secondary to the respect she had gained from players such as former world No 1 Laura Davies, who was second.

"Sitting in the clubhouse with these players congratulating me ... that's where I want to be, and I'm starting to show that I can do it," she said.

It capped a successful week for Kiwi women golfers, with Susan Farron and Renee Fowler finishing third and sixth respectively at a Players West tour event in the United States on Friday. However, Marnie McGuire's difficult year continued when she failed to make the cut at the Suntory Ladies Open in Japan on Saturday.

New Zealand golfer Elliot Boulton narrowly missed his first European Challenge tour victory today, losing in a two-hole playoff to Switzerland's Juan Ciola in the Austrian Open.

They tied on 17-under-par 263 after Ciola closed Boulton's two-shot overnight lead with a final-round 64.

Kiwi Marcus Wheelhouse was equal eighth on 271 — four shots behind high-profile Englishman Justin Rose, who made his first cut since joining the professional ranks last year.

Wellington's Stephen Scahill was equal 20th on 275.

Brooky in the big money

WELLINGTON golfer Lynnette Brooky picked up the biggest cheque of her career when she finished equal sixth at the Evian Masters in France.

Brooky won almost \$NZ65,000 — more than she earned on the entire European tour last year — for her one-under-par total of 287. She was eight shots behind winner Catrin Nilsmark of Sweden, one of several top US LPGA tour players in the event, the richest on the European circuit.

Brooky was the highest finisher of those

who play solely in Europe. She shared the lead during the third round on Saturday until disaster struck at the 13th hole.

She made a triple-bogey seven after hooking her tee shot under a bush, taking a penalty drop, missing the green and then three-putting.

It capped a successful week for Kiwi women golfers, with Susan Farron and Renee Fowler finishing third and sixth respectively at a Players West tour event in the US on Friday.

— NZPA