

Brooky eighth

■ New Zealand golfer Lynnette Brooky continued her fine season in Europe with another top-10 result yesterday. Brooky finished in a share of eighth place in the English Open at Chart Hills. She closed with a final round of two-under-par 70 for a 54-hole total of seven-under 209, five shots off the winner, Sweden's Maria Hjorth. Meanwhile, young New Zealand professionals Richard Squire and Clarke Osborne both missed out on final qualifying for this week's British Open. Squire finished with a two-under 142 for the 36-hole qualifier, eight shots off the pace, while Osborne shot a three-over 147, 13 shots from the top qualifier.

Golf: Lynette Brooky was rewarded for relaxing yesterday when she shot an opening round of 68, six under par, at the women's Spanish Open in Salamanca. "I have spent the last two years being far too technical - I couldn't do anything without thinking," the winner of the 1998 Austrian Open said. "This week I have decided just to get the driver out and hit it."

The New Zealander's round of seven birdies put her two shots clear of Spanish amateurs Emma Cabrera and Tania Elosegui, and three ahead of a group including Julie Forbes, from Scotland. Forbes finished in style, with five birdies on the homeward nine.

Yachting: Victory for New Zealand

Brooky ready to play with professionals

NEW ZEALAND golfer Lynnette Brooky will look at playing Australian professional tournaments as an amateur this summer.

Though the Wellington golfer said she is "looking" at joining professional ranks, she will not take the next step just yet.

Brooky shot a 72 on Saturday for a satisfactory end to a world women's amateur team championships in Paris she would probably rather forget.

The 26-year-old from Wellington wanted a solid showing at a world tournament she thinks could be her last outing as a New Zealand representative.

Aggressive golf, while trying to improve the team score, saw her shoot 76s on the first two days, then she had a genuine 76 on Friday and a solid 72 yesterday for a four-round total 12 over par.

"I'll probably look to do some Australian tournaments this summer but I'll have to get some sponsorship," she said. "I've got absolutely no money at all."

New Zealand were left to rue a bad third day when they finished eighth at the championships.

They were solid over three rounds but a collective lapse on Friday cost them. Their best counting score was a 76 and the drop cost them valuable places.

On the last day of the tournament, Brooky fired a par 72 and Kerryn Starr a one-over 73 for New Zealand's two counting scores, while Susan Farron had a six-over 78.

The Kiwis ended with a four-round total of 589, 20 strokes behind winners the United States.

They shared eighth place with Germany and Great Britain and Ireland, who made a late rally.

The United States rode on the back of Wendy Ward who shot 74 on Saturday after rounds of 69, 68 and 67, all course records.

Despite clouds over her eligibility as an amateur after declaring her intention to turn professional last month, Ward carried off the unofficial title of leading individual.

On Saturday she lost her course record to South Korean Se Ri Pak, who hit a sizzling 65 as the Koreans leapt into second place overall ahead of Sweden.

Spain and Australia, who had set the pace all week, fell to fourth and fifth respectively.

Coach John Griffin said New Zealand's final placing reflected the growth of women's golf internationally, rather than any fall-off by the New Zealanders.

"The winning score at the last world championships was 588 and we've got 589, so that's not too bad," Griffin said.

"My overall assessment is that this was a reasonable performance on this course, the standard overall has been high but it's really only the Americans who have murdered the course - in fact only one of their players has.

"It could be, too, that the standard of improvement of women's golf in Europe is moving ahead at a much greater rate than what the rest of the world comprehends. I don't think it's that we've lost ground, there's just more players in the field these days." — NZPA

Brooky storms to first round lead

New Zealand golfer Lynnette Brooky stormed to the first-round lead in the Caja Duero Open de Espana tournament at Campo in Spain today.

Brooky carded an aggressive six-under-par 66 to earn a two-shot lead over Spanish amateurs Tania Elosegui and Emma Cabrera.

The other New Zealanders had mixed rounds, with Gina Scott remaining in contention after shooting 72, but Catherine Knight requires a minor miracle to make the second-round cut after opening with 81.

Brooky made a bold beginning to the Evian Tour event, which she needs to win to gain an exemption into the \$US2.1 million (\$NZ4.46 million) Evian Masters in France, starting on June 12.

Her compatriot Marnie McGuire, who plays on the LPGA Tour in the United States, is competing at the Evian Masters and Brooky is very keen to join her.

She made the turn in 31 today after firing six birdies and one bogey, and followed with eight successive pars before another birdie on the 18th.

"I am going for it for this week," Brooky, 34, said.

"I need to win this week to get into Evian; this is what I have been dreaming about." — NZPA

first-round 70, but her one-over-par total of 217 left her 14 shots behind first-time tour winner Marina Arruti of Spain.

Palmerston North's Susan Farron missed the cut of 148 after rounds of 80 and 73.

Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky was unable to maintain the bright start she made in defence of her Australian Open title in Graz at the weekend.

Brooky tied for 42nd yesterday after closing rounds of 73 and 74 in the 54-hole European LPGA tour event. She had been in the top 10 after a