

Eagle-eye Brooky saves a shot, puts NZ second



A SHARP-EYED Lynette Brooky kept New Zealand from falling to three shots behind Great Britain-Ireland after yesterday's second round of the world women's amateur teams golf championship at Marine Drive, Vancouver.

Brooky shot a one-over 73 which, combined with Lisa Aldridge's 72, took the Kiwis from third and four shots behind GBI to second and two back.

When her Canadian playing partner and marker Marie Josee Rouleau called out Brooky's score, she correctly had the New Zealander parring the short 11th hole.

The Canadian had left the scorer's tent when Brooky ran her eye over her card again and was startled to see that Rouleau had, in fact, written down a bogey four on the 11th.

Rouleau was recalled to the tent and amended the card. Had the four stood, then Brooky's score would have been adjusted to 74 and New Zealand would have fallen into a tie for second with Spain and France.

Brooky smiled with relief as she finished recounting the incident, because she knew that it could have taken a little of the polish off a great day for the Kiwis.

Aldridge set the standard by playing the back nine in three under par and improving by five shots over the last four holes on her first-round effort.

Susan Farron was the first New Zealander on the course and she continued to struggle, although her 78 represented a five-shot improvement on the first day.

"I feel like I am striking the ball well, but I am just not scoring," she said.

Aldridge began poorly and finished brilliantly. The first hole was nearly a disaster, her drive blocked out by a tree, her second in the rough, her third still short of the green and finally a two-metre putt for a bogey five.

"I made some brilliant ups and downs (for pars), but now I've got a headache. Every time I concentrate, I get a major headache" — a candid Lynette Brooky.

She immediately birdied the second but had three more bogeys with the more difficult back nine to come.

"I looked at the leader board and saw that we were one-over for the day and I thought I must be playing better than I thought," she said.

"I decided to get aggressive and it worked, much to my surprise."

Aldridge birdied the three par-fives coming in and played Thursday's horror stretch from the 15th in one under.

"I had to get my revenge," she said.

Still, she had to work for her par on the last with a three-metre putt. Her two-round total of 147, three over, tied her with Brooky in equal fourth on the individual standings, four shots behind Catriona Lambert (GBI) and Annika Sorenstam (Sweden), whose 68 took a shot off the course record which stood for 31 years.

Brooky was around par all day, with a birdie on the second which was almost an eagle, a bogey at the third, another bogey at the ninth and then bogeys at the 16th and 18th with a birdie at the 17th sandwiched in between. She knew her score had to count and she responded superbly.

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But it was for a good cause. Only Spain, with 144, scored better than New Zealand yesterday day and New Zealand coach Alex Mercer is confident that in today's third round Farron will emerge as one of New Zealand's counting players.

Great Britain-Ireland was looking like extending its lead, with Lambert under par midway through the back nine. But she bogeyed the 15th, 17th and 18th for a one-over 73. GBI is on 292, followed by New Zealand (294), Spain and France (295), Sweden (296), Australia (297) and the United States, defending champ, seventh on 298.

Vicki Goetze (US), the low scorer two years ago in Christchurch, recovered from Thursday's 78 with a 71, but she didn't get the support she needed from her team-mates. NZPA

By Kevin Savage

"I SAID to Sue 'I'm going for a birdie' and as soon as the ball started to borrow and Sue's mouth open, I knew it was going in."

That's the way Lynette Brooky saw her final 40 foot birdie putt which climaxed a wet, wet day at the NZI national women's golf foursomes championships at Tauranga yesterday.

Brooky, who defends her national matchplay title next week, teamed with Susan Farron to win the foursomes title.

Both made their New Zealand senior representative debut during the victorious Tasman Cup tournament at Mount Maunganui this week.

Brooky did not need to sink such a long putt for yesterday's win. She knew that they held a two-shot buffer.

"But I went for it," she said.

And the putt provided a spectacular finish to what was otherwise a very testing day for the golfers — thanks to the steady drizzle which drenched the

course.

All the golfers found birdies hard to come by. Instead, bogeys and double-bogeys were more the order of the day.

One Jennepher Glenn of Hamilton ensured that many will remember the spelling of her name as well as the day itself by holing-in-one at Tauranga's renowned Knoll, the 12th.

What could have been more significant was the eagle chip which Australian Rachel Hetherington holed from a bunker at the 17th during the morning's