

Strokeplay win wraps up grand slam

NZPA Dunedin

Lynnette Brooky completed the "grand slam" of New Zealand golf when she won the Mellsop Cup strokeplay championship on the Balmacewen course yesterday.

Brooky (Manor Park) won the matchplay title in 1990 and last year paired with Susan Farron to take the foursomes.

She started the final round one shot off the pace and scored a one-over-par 73 in blustery conditions for a four round total of 298, six shots ahead of defending matchplay champion Loraine Lambert, of Australia, who crashed with an 80 in the final round.

Lisa Aldridge (Paraparaumu Beach) finished third on 305. Local hopeful Shelley Duncan (Otago) came fourth one further stroke back.

Brooky was inspired when Philip Tautarangi took the lead in the Air New Zealand Shell Open championship on Saturday.

"I admire Philip a lot and I have been motivated by his recent run of successes," Brooky said after her win.

But it was getting some good putts at the right time on Saturday which helped Brooky to win while other players faded in the windy but fine conditions.

The scoring was not good on Saturday morning with the experienced Robyn Todd (Invercargill) taking the first-round lead with 74.

Aldridge and Annette Scott (Muriwai) were two shots behind on 76 while Brooky was in a three-way tie on 77.

The afternoon belonged to Shelley Duncan (Otago) who enthralled the local gallery with a run of birdies on her way to 71.

This gave Duncan the top qualifying spot for the matchplay which starts at Balmacewen tomorrow.

Hat trick — Brooky claims strokeplay

By Bill Trewern

Lynnette Brooky (Manor Park) completed the "Grand Slam" of New Zealand golf when she won the Mellsop Cup strokeplay championship on the Balmacewen course yesterday afternoon.

Brooky (24) now has her name on the top three trophies. She won the matchplay title in 1990 and paired up with Susan Farron to take the foursomes last year.

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Brooky finished six shots ahead of defending matchplay champion Loraine Lambert (Australia), who crashed with an 80 in the final round.

Lisa Aldridge (Paraparaumu Beach) finished third on 305, while Dunedin hopeful Shelley Duncan (Otago) came in fourth one stroke further back.

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The afternoon belonged to Shelly Duncan (Otago), who enthralled the Dunedin gallery with a run of birdies on her way to 71.

This gave Duncan the top qualifying spot for the matchplay, which starts at Balmacewen tomorrow.

It placed her on 151 with Brooky and Lambert in the lead at the halfway stage. Four players were breathing down their necks on 153.

Duncan failed to repeat her form yesterday morning and finished her third round with a disastrous triple-bogey on the final hole for 81.

She was one of many players who fell by the way in the third round and the championship developed into a battle between two players.

Lambert took the lead with a 73 yesterday morning, while Brooky was the only other player to handle the winds with a 2-over-par 74.

The pair were six shots ahead of their nearest rivals — Aldridge and Rachel Hetherington (Australia).

Brooky started with three pars and tied the contest when Lambert bogeyed the par-4 third hole.

But then Brooky drove into the lateral water hazard on both the fourth and fifth holes.

She double-bogeyed the fourth to go one stroke behind, but salvaged a par-5 on the fifth by sinking an eight-metre putt.

This put her two behind the Australian, who birdied the hole, getting up and down from a from a greenside bunker.

Both players bogeyed the dog-leg sixth hole and after a run of pars Brooky turned two behind Lambert.

But the next three holes provided the turning point of the championship with a four-stroke swing in favour of Brooky.

Lambert's approach to the 10th green finished in the right-hand bunker and she failed to get up and down.

Brooky took advantage and dropped a three-metre putt for

a birdie-3 to square the contest.

Lambert was under pressure at the Glen hole but she recovered from a greenside bunker, while Brooky's birdie putt shaved the cup.

Brooky hit a magnificent 6-iron to within a metre of the cup at the par-3 12th hole and Lambert finished through the green.

Brooky made a birdie while Lambert had two chips and one putt to trail by two strokes with six holes to play.

The pressure was mounting and Lambert swayed on her teeshot at the 13th and blocked it well right.

Brooky encountered tree trouble after her second shot but managed to go three ahead by sinking a tricky three-metre downhill putt for a par.

Lambert reduced the margin to two at the dog-leg 14th hole when Brooky overclubbed.

But time was running out for Lambert and she never looked comfortable over a two-metre putt for her par at the 15th green.

Brooky held the lead of three strokes through the next two holes and when she hit a good drive, 5-wood and two putts for a birdie-4 up the final hole the title was decided.

Lambert duffed her teeshot into the trees, chipped out, missed the green with her fourth shot and eventually two-putted for a double-bogey 7.

This dropped her well back and she gained second place by a single stroke from Aldridge.

Brooky grabs one-stroke lead

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynette Brooky shot an excellent two-under-par 73 to take the first-round lead at the British Columbia women's golf champs in Vancouver, Canada, yesterday.

Brooky's 73 was one shot better than fellow New Zealand squad member Lisa Aldridge, who is tied for second place.

The remaining two New Zealand wo-

men, Susan Farron and Kerryn Starr, are slightly off the pace after respective rounds of two-over 77 and three-over 78.

However, both players still did well enough on the well-bunkered Shaunessy Country Club course to be placed in the top eight with two rounds to go. — NZPA