

Brooky gets golf 'grand slam'

WELLINGTON'S Lynnette Brooky completed the "grand slam" of New Zealand golf when she won the Mellsop Cup stroke-play championship on the Balmacewen course in Dunedin 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 a final round 80.

Lisa Aldridge (Paraparaumu Beach) finished third on 305 while 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 yesterday which helped Brooky to win while other players faded in the windy but fine conditions.

Brooky birdies raise hopes

NZPA Tauranga

Debutantes Lynnette Brooky and Susan Farron set up an opportunity for New Zealand to gain their first Tasman Cup golf victory over Australia in 23 years at Mt Maunganui today.

Both Brooky, the national champion, and Farron had vital singles wins yesterday as New Zealand fought back to tie the cup contest at six-all.

New Zealand, who trailed three-one after the morning foursomes, had an opportunity to take a lead into the final day of reverse foursomes and singles.

But No 1 Lisa Aldridge missed a 1.8m birdie attempt on the final hole to halve her match with the Australian No 2, Tracie Hale.

In the other afternoon singles Auckland Annette Stott lost to Ericka Maxwell, 3 and 2.

The sparks came from the young New Zealanders, especially Brooky, who nailed three birdies in four holes midway through the match to convert a one hole deficit into a winning three-hole lead against the Australian Commonwealth team member, Jane Shearwood.

Brooky's 6m putt on the 12th was the longest of her birdie attempts in the match-winning hot run.

Farron's victory came with more sweat. No more than one hole separated the Manawatu player from South Australian Anne-Marie Knight. But while Brooky was dominant in her match in the mid-stages, Farron missed five putts inside 3.6m to allow Knight to stay in the match.

The Australian, who won the New Zealand junior title last year, had to produce an outstanding bunker shot to halve the 16th, and the match remained all square after the pair traded par-

fours on the 17th.

Ironically after missing earlier birdie attempts, Farron calmly slotted a 12m putt across the green on the 18th, while Knight lipped out with her match-saving putt.

The Aldridge-Hale match followed similar lines, but the Paraparaumu Beach player gave up a one-hole advantage when she double bogeyed the 17th. Her missed birdie attempt on the final hole meant she, and New Zealand, had to be content with halving.

In the morning Stott and Kerry Starr blew a four-hole advantage after 10 holes to lose to Australia's No 1 pairing of Shearwood and Maxwell 1 down.

However, Brooky and Aldridge came back from a two-hole deficit with telling putts on the 17th and 18th to halve their match with Hale and Knight.

Australia took a commanding lead in the junior match.

Brooky sets her sights on even bigger challenges

THE Australasian golfing playground is no longer big enough to challenge the region's leading women's amateur player, Lynnette Brooky.

The 25-year-old Wellingtonian has set her sights on Europe and, in particular, the European and British amateur championships.

She leaves on Sunday for Italy and the European event confident she will acquit herself at a level of competition a cut above that offered in Australasia.

After the European tournament starting in Torino on July 22, she has a start in the British amateur championships in Gullane, Scotland, from August 20.

Sandwiched between these two commitments is the British professional strokeplay championships at Woburn, England. She will compete as an amateur in the qualifying tournament on August 10.

Brooky takes with her impeccable credentials and a run of form that have made her the dominant figure in the Australasian amateur game.

In her last four major tournaments, Brooky has steamrolled her way to four titles. The latest of her victories came in last month's New South Wales strokeplay championships. Before that, she was the leading individual at the 12-nation Queen Sirikit Cup tournament in Perth.

That performance included a final-round three-under-par 69 on the Vines links — the first time par has been bettered by a female on the testing Western Australian course.

For good measure the stocky, determined Brooky earlier walked away with the Australian strokeplay crown.

Many would be content to rest on their laurels, safe in the knowledge that such a rich vein of form confirmed their standing.

Not so Brooky. She has an itch to test herself against the best competition available.

"I've always said that providing my form in New Zealand was good enough I'd like to test myself in Europe," Brooky said.

"I think it'll be awesome. It'll

be a different world," said Brooky, whose rapid rise to prominence in the past 12 months has seen her overtake the left-hand Lisa Aldridge as New Zealand's leading player.

"It's really an exploration exercise; a matter of testing my ability against the Europeans."

Brooky has once before fronted up against the elite European women — and she fared well.

She was the eighth leading individual at last year's world amateur teams championship in Canada when New Zealand confirmed its global strength by finishing third.

A broad-shouldered, powerful player who enjoys good distance off the tee, Brooky believes a lot of her success is due to a "casual" approach once she is on the course.

Observers say her mental strength is unmatched in the women's ranks in New Zealand.

Brooky believes that her ability to accept the good with the bad has helped her to overcome mid-round crises.

"Mentally I just accept things as they happen and get on with it. Everyone wants to win but you can't allow yourself to get depressed if your form is not that hot."

"Golf is a game in which luck has a big say."

A player could do much to help herself, though.

"I've always made a point of introducing myself to the girls who win tournaments I'm in. I make a point of having a chat with them and I'm not interested in what new dress they happened to buy that particular week."

"I pester them for knowledge. How they reacted to such and such a shot, where they think they won the tournament..."

That thirst for knowledge has pushed Brooky to leave the relative security of Australasia for the challenge offered by Europe.

She will be comforted by the company of her parents, Frank and Margaret, without whose help the trip would never have taken place. — NZPA.