

Mixed emotions as Kiwis finish third

VANCOUVER

A finish in the top 10 was a realistic goal and to finish ahead of such nations as the United States, Australia, France, Japan and Canada was a tremendous effort.

The weather seemed to favour the New Zealanders, with a strongish wind blowing which Farron, Aldridge and Brooky are accustomed to, coming from Palmerston North and Wellington.

But they never really fired and they couldn't hole the critical putts as the Spaniards did.

Farron had the only birdie on the front nine, from five metres at the par-three sixth after using her driver on the 172-metre hole.

She turned two over and had two more bogeys coming in.

"I think we showed a lot of guts," the Palmerston North bank teller said.

"I felt really relaxed and I was in the right frame of mind."

Her Spanish playing partner, Estefania Knuth, holed just about every key putt, including one of 13 metres for par on the 10th and then from four metres at the 18th for the birdie which put her team one ahead of Great Britain-Ireland.

Brooky was also uncomfortable with the slow pace of play with yesterday's round taking 4½ hours, more than an hour slower than the practice rounds.

Brooky found enough to play an important role in New Zealand's bronze medal performance. Five over after nine holes, she dropped only two on the tougher second nine.

With France the danger and the Swedes sneaking up, Brooky birdied the 17th from 2m and parred the last from about the same distance for her 78.

"I knew Lisa (fellow Wellingtonian Lisa Aldridge) had dropped away and I tried to make myself play shots and go for birdies. It didn't come off."

Manawatu's Susan Farron was the power of the team for the second day running with her four-over 76.

Aldridge was frustrated by French playing partner Delphine Bourson's slow play as well as her inability to hole a putt. She finished with 80.

One shot off the lead after three rounds, the New Zealanders finished on 597, eight shots behind Spain, which won by one from Great Britain-Ireland.

In the end, the Kiwis paid for their slow start on the final day. Brooky and Aldridge each three-putted twice in the first three holes and after nine holes victory was out of reach and the battle was on for third.

But the whole exercise can be treated as a victory by New Zealand women's golf, which lacks the playing numbers, funding and playing opportunities of many of the nations it beat. To finish ahead of such nations as the United States, Australia, France, Japan and Canada was a tremendous effort.

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Annika Sorenstam (Sweden) was the low individual with 287, one under par. Brooky (301) was equal eighth, Aldridge (305) 18th and Farron (310) equal 27th.

— NZPA

Brooky hangs in as NZ takes bronze

VANCOUVER. — Wellington's Lynette Brooky played an important role in New Zealand's bronze medal performance in the world women's amateur golf championship yesterday.

Five over after nine holes, she dropped only two on the tougher second nine in the fourth and final round.

With France the danger and the Swedes sneaking up, Brooky birdied the 17th from 2m and parred the last from about the same distance for her 78.

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● New Zealand's Janice Arnold shot one-under 72 today to finish near the leaders in the women's British Open at Woburn in Bedfordshire.

Arnold's consistent scoring over the three rounds gave the 30-year-old from Morrinsville a three-under total of 21, a share of eighth place and a cheque for £6120 (\$NZ19,490).

American Patty Sheehan won to become the first woman to win the United States and British Opens in the same year. — NZPA