

Steady Little harvests title as Kiwi stumbles

By Dana Gee

Sports Reporter

Thanks to Jackie Little, the women's B.C. amateur golf crown will remain in the province.

The Vernon golfer topped the leader board after winning a sudden-death playoff hole against New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky at Vancouver's Shaughnessy Golf Club on Wednesday.

"It's exciting," said the 34-year-old Little, who notched a birdie on the par-5 No. 1 to beat Brooky, who bogeyed the 424-yard hole.

"It's a nice way to win. But even it had gone the other way, I still would be happy because I played my own game out there."

Little's two-round 146 gave her a three-stroke cushion over Brooky and Kiwi compatriot Lisa Aldridge heading into the final round. But Brooky quickly ate up that lead when she set the front nine on fire with a 5-under 33 to take a one-stroke lead onto the back nine.

"She played so well on the front nine. She went birdie, birdie, eagle (holes 3-5). I didn't even look at the score after that," added Little, who notched a final round 74 on the 5,739-yard track.

Brooky was on course to win the three-round event with a two-stroke lead with three holes remaining. Then the 24-year-old Manor Park, N.Z., resident fell prey

to a common affliction — nerves.

"I forgot all about my golf and just tried to get it done too quickly," said Brooky, who bogeyed Nos. 16, 17 and 18 — where she missed a two-foot putt for the title.

"Boy, sometimes I hate this game," laughed the personable redhead.

"I felt alright, then all of a sudden the nerves came creeping in."

Brooky, who has only played golf for five years, shot rounds of 73-76-71 to tie Little — who also missed a short putt for a bogey on No. 18 — at 5-under 220 and force the playoff.

Brooky led a strong New Zealand contingent at this year's event. Finishing up third and fourth, respectively, were Manawatu, N.Z.'s Susan Farron with a 224 total and Aldridge with her 227.

The tournament also marked the final qualifying round for the six-member B.C. team that will compete at the Western Interprovincial in Edmonton July 26-27 and the National Amateur championship Aug. 3-7 in Moncton, N.B.

Little will be joined by Tsawwassen's Holly Sanders, Tamara Dougan of Richmond and Kelly McLean from Langley. The two alternates are North Vancouver's Corrine Zajac and Noreen Brown of Vancouver.



Staff photo by Gerry Kahrmann

New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky had a brief bout of nerves that cost her the B.C. women's amateur title Wednesday at Shaughnessy.