

Brooky hot at cold Chepstow

By LYNN McCONNELL
Sports staff

Battling a heavy head cold in wintry conditions, Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky hit the best score of the day to share the lead after two rounds of the Welsh Women's Golf Open today.

Brooky, looking for consistent placings in the top 10 of fields during the British women's professional tour, carded 71 to go with her first-day 77 to be in a six-way tie for the lead.

"It started out as a birdie, bogey, birdie, bogey day, but I came home with a birdie, birdie, eagle," she said.

Brooky is determined not to be fazed by her position, or to put pressure on herself.

"My ambition has been to get top-10 placings. I hope I can stay up here - it is a pretty strong field," she said.

"But I just want to let things happen. There are holes here which you could easily have double bogeys on. The entries to the greens are very narrow.

"I would like to win, but if I do win it will be because everyone else has made mistakes."

The course at Chepstow is still in winter-like condition and on the first day conditions were freezing.

"Yesterday I had on two skivvies, a sleeveless and my wet-weather gear and I was still frozen," she said. "The sun was out today but it was still cold.

"Conditions on the course are

not too good. There is placing in use and you really needed it on the fairways. In the rough you get a really bad lie and that is where I had my bogeys."

Her head cold has made it hard to concentrate.

"It's been so annoying at times. I have had a continuous running nose and I have been stopping playing shots in order to blow my nose.

"It hasn't helped that the rounds have been slow as well."

It wasn't until she started the back nine that Brooky began to feel her game was coming right.

"I felt then that I was finally hitting the ball. I changed my attitude and that helped.

"Earlier I was conscious that holes were potential bogey holes and when thinking like that at one hole, I actually had a double bogey.

"But I snapped out of that, found a much freer flowing drive and came home well.

"My putting has been really good. I put in a 25-footer [7.6m] and a five-footer [1.5m] for my last two birdies and a 15-footer [4.6m] for my eagle," she said.

● Greg Turner of New Zealand shot 68 to trail the leader by three shots in the first round of the Italian Open today.



Brooky "frozen".

Brooky aims to make it tough for fellow pros

By KENT GRAY

LYNNETTE BROOKY is hoping a date with her swing doctor Alex Mercer will ensure she is not the perfect host of the New Zealand Women's Golf Classic at the Hutt club in February.

Brooky arrived home in Wellington yesterday after another solid Ladies European Tour campaign suffering badly from jetlag.

But she will soon board a plane for Sydney to work on her game with former New Zealand coach Mercer ahead of the Cloud 9-sponsored NZ Women's Classic.

The \$650,000 February 22-25 tournament is the brain child of Brooky and her friend and caddy Gail Allport and has attracted a glitzy field including England's former world No 1 Laura Davies.

Brooky's popularity in Europe will see at least 11 of Europe's 12 victorious Solheim Cup team play in Wellington. Six of the losing United States team are also confirmed, including Dottie Pepper and Juli Inkster who won the Samsung World Championship in California at the weekend.

But, while Brooky will do her best to entertain her friends off the course in February, she is determined to make it tough for them on it.

She is happy with her game after finishing 40th on the European Tour with £18,600 (NZ\$57,500) in earnings. It included a season's best seventh at the British Open in August and a meritorious sixth placing (and sixth

individually) with Marnie McGuire at the World Cup of Golf in Limerick, Ireland, last month that went virtually unnoticed in New Zealand.

"I was quite rapt with that [her World Cup performance] but I hear it didn't get much of a mention here," Brooky said.

"I'm not playing too badly but it will be good to see Alex [Mercer]. I haven't seen him since the start of the year and it will be good to iron out a few things."

Brooky said the women's classic had been well received in Europe. Also confirmed for February is newly-crowned British Open winner Sophie Gustafson (Sweden) and Canadian No 1 Lori Kane.

Tournament director Frank Burgess has not given up hope of luring current world No 1 Karrie Webb (Australia) and No 2 Annika Sorenstam (Sweden) either, though both players' agents are asking for appearance fees which have not been allowed for in the tournament's budget.

"The players are all looking forward to coming to New Zealand to see what it is like and are pretty rapt that three years after Gail [Allport] and I came up with the concept that Frank Burgess has come up with a substantial purse," Brooky said.



Brooky