

Kiwi golfers feel at home in rain at Vancouver.



RAIN in Vancouver yesterday delighted the locals suffering watering restrictions and also Lynnette Brooky of the New Zealand women's amateur golf team.

Brooky had hoped for rain since those are the only conditions the Kiwis have experienced for the last few months, and that knowledge showed as they handled the wet better than most in the first round of the world championships at Marine Drive.

The Wellingtonian, playing in the championship for the first time, steered New Zealand into a tie for third place, four shots behind Great Britain and Ireland.

Her 74, which tied her for third in the individual standings, and a 75 from Lisa Aldridge represented solid golf on a day when the steady rain was combined with a dawdling pace of play which saw rounds taking an

average 5½ hours. The third New Zealander, Susan Farron, was unrailed early in her round when a difficult lie in the bunker on the par three fourth exploded into an eight.

Farron found it difficult to get back her rhythm but she soldiered on for an 83.

GB/I is on 145, followed by Australia (148) with New Zealand and France tied on 149. Defending champion United States had a poor day to be on 152.

For a while New Zealand stood clearly on top of the board with both Brooky and Aldridge two under.

Aldridge birdied the second from two metres and the seventh from four metres, a long four where she would quite happily have accepted a par.

Her putting stroke, which saved her from three bogeys on the front nine, deserted her on the way in and she had only one birdie, at the short

14th, and six bogeys, four of them in succession from the 15th.

"It could have been a good round," Aldridge said. "The putts just didn't drop like they did on the front nine. But I'm really happy, I hit the ball solidly."

Brooky made the fastest start of anyone with a birdie from three metres on the first and another from inside a metre on the second.

What surprised Brooky was that she holed the putts since she was shaking so much from nervousness. "I thought that if I was going to sink putts when I was shaking, I might as well keep shaking."

Brooky turned even with par, double bogeyed the 12th when she drove out of bounds and birdied the 16th when she chipped in. Like Aldridge, she bogeyed the 18th, a long par four playing into the wind for most of the day.

"I felt nervous all the way," she

said. "At the 16th I drank a gallon of water I was so dehydrated through nerves."

Brooky played conservative golf, taking things carefully on this tight tree-lined course. "I'm so happy," she said of her score. "We will all have our turn."

To the Canadian press, she said: "I still believe we are the team to beat."

The Canadians, anxious to make a good impression at home, struck further trouble when Gayle Bothwick, withdrew because of a migraine and was replaced by Mary-Ann LaPointe, who a day before had been dropped from the team after Lori Kane had won her court case to be included in the playing three.

The Canadians finished the day 16th, 12 shots behind GB/I.

The day's low score belonged to Catriona Lambert (GB/I), a two-under 70.

Reuter

Last tee off for Brooky

LONDON - New Zealand rookie professional Lynnette Brooky tees off in her last tournament of the season in Europe tomorrow, having confirmed her ability to be in the tour's top ranks.

The 27-year-old Wellingtonian has secured eighth place in her previous two tournaments — the Claretto Open in Hamburg last weekend and the Dutch Open.

In 13 European competitions, she has missed the cut only twice — in her first two starts. She also fin-

ished 14th in the British Open.

Speaking from Sicily where she was preparing to play in the Italian Open, Brooky said she had decided to miss the last two European tournaments of the season and return to New Zealand for a break.

She plans to have a complete rest from golf for a week, before having some coaching to get her swing ready for the Australian Masters and Australian Open in November.

With \$NZ344,000 prize funds for each of those tournaments, she is

aiming for top 10 placings in both.

She then plans to play five tournaments in Asia, before returning to the European tour next year.

Brooky, who has no regrets about turning professional, represented New Zealand in the amateur world championships in France last year, is lying 44th on the European order of merit. She's earned \$31,990 on the European tour so far.

With the top 80 qualifying for the tour next year, she is assured of her card again. NZPA

Kiwi golfers settled and hoping for happier times

NEW ZEALAND'S top three women's golfers can erase any lingering disappointments from last year's Espirito Santos world tournament with a powerful display at the Queen Sirikit Cup teams' event which begins near Perth today.

The trio of Lynette Brooky, Lisa Aldridge and Susan Farron form a strong combination for the 12-team Asia-Pacific tournament on the testing Vines resort course.

All three formed the backbone of New Zealand's team at the Espirito Santos in Canada last year.

Brooky said the Canadian experience had forged a closer bond between them. "We had a few problems in Canada but we're happy here and hopefully we'll do well," Brooky said. "We're thinking positively about it. We've been playing together for a bit now and I guess if we're going to win a tournament, this has to be the one." — NZPA