

Brooky all the better for her Weetabix

SUNNINGDALE Golf Club sounded to the excitement of British victory in the Weetabix Women's British Open on Sunday as Karen Stupples from Kent produced one of the most memorable rounds of golf to secure the title, **writes Fred Parsons.**

It was a record breaking victory for the 31-year-old - her 19-under-par 269 total over 72 holes equalled the Open record set by Marrie Webb at Sunningdale seven years ago. She also became the first British champion since 1991 and became just the third British player after Laura Davies and Alison Nicholas to win a women's major title.

Stupples had led over the first two days but was over-aken as Australian Rachel Hesken and American Heather Dowie took the initiative after Saturday's third round.

But an amazing birdie-albross start on Sunday set the seal and later revealed her thought was: "Crikey, it could be my day."

And so it was, despite a falter in the par-five 14th, where with just a one-shot lead she was on the green in two, but three-putted. Stupples, though,

showed her strength of character as she made three birdies in a row to clinch matters.

Fortunes were different for New Zealander Lynette Brooky, who has a local connection in that her base here is at Wexham Park GC.

Supporters from the club turned up on Friday to cheer her on as she overcame some earlier misfortune to rattle in three birdies to go into the weekend one over.

But the contours of the Sunningdale greens are notoriously difficult to read, and Brooky, like many other of the top internationals, found it tough working out the line.

She said: "I'd been playing well on the European Tour and wanted to relax and get the ball rolling on the greens. But it's tough when the putts don't drop in."

"After a good run on Friday, I didn't get the breaks on Saturday to move up the leaderboard."

"Still, I have really enjoyed it - especially making the cut after missing it twice before here. It was a great atmosphere tournament in which nobody played badly."

It was good to watch how



Yeah: Lynette Brooky at Sunningdale

Karen Stupples stroked the long putts and they went in. It was a fairytale for her and a really brilliant finish."

Brooky's caddy and long time manager Gail Allport has been a great support.

So too has her coach, Wexham Park professional Martin Heys, who has been working on some alterations to her swing.

Heys said: "Lynette needed to get more yardage, so we've been working on a more relaxed swing and a good release. She's a dedicated golfer who works hard to eliminate mistakes."

Heys has coached Brooky for three years and has caddied for her, including in the French Open this year where she hoped to win the title for the third year running.

He said: "She was leading early on but slipped back. I helped her to mentally adjust and she battled back to finish ninth. That was important."

Brooky appreciates the facilities at Wexham Park, especially the short-game practice area. She said: "I enjoy the friendly atmosphere at Wexham - it's a good base for me."

And she was there at 7am on Monday practising her putting before jetting off to play in the

Swedish Open. Brooky believes strongly in the Ladies European Tour, which is now getting better recognition. And she is 17th in the moneylist and with her determination it surely won't be long before she's a big winner again.

● ON Saturday, Wexham Juniors took on Hennerton Golf Club and had a very successful 5-1 victory.

Junior captain Howard Salt (handicap 9) won 3+2 against Andrew Rolfe (11); Michael McIntyre (11) won 2+1 v Mark Seaton (11); Mathew Kilgour (16), won 4+3 v Rod Leigh (Capt, 12); Julian Salt (19) won 4+3 v Vincent Porter (13); Sean McIntyre (20) won v Oliver Brown (18); Alex Cahill (23) lost on the last hole to Michael Crither (24). Michael Crither saved Hennerton a white wash with the last put of thematch.

There was also two reserves:

Luke Fogarty (21) won 7+6 against Thomas Prentice (19), both boys from Wexham.

● On Sunday, the Kim Wingrove Memorial Trophy was won by Matt Kilgour (14) with 45 points, with Ian Burton (11) second on countback from Phill Gristwood (15) both with 39 points.

GOLF

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Brooky 'happy but sad'

LONDON. - Wellington golfer Lynette Brooky isn't sure whether to laugh or cry at finishing second in the German Women's Open at Hamburg yesterday.

The 29-year-old had a chance to win the tournament when she was putting on the 18th green with a two-stroke lead.

But Brooky, in her second full season on the European women's tour, three-putted the hole and went into a playoff with Australian Joanne Mills, who won with an eagle at the second extra hole.

It was Brooky's second runner-up cheque in Europe. The £10,150 (\$NZ26,250) was her biggest payday this year and moved her into 10th on the Order of Merit.

But Brooky, a double national amateur champion who has yet to taste victory as a professional, also knows she let slip a rare chance to win a tournament.

"I'm happy but I'm also sad," said Brooky today. "That was a good chance for me. I guess I can't be too upset but I am sad because I know I blew it."

Germany's wet weather, which has

caused severe flooding in eastern areas, also affected the Hamburg tournament.

Brooky had to putt out on the 18th yesterday in pouring rain and gale-force winds. She said that affected her as much as the nerves which gripped her as she tried to win on the final green.

One putt and the victory was hers. Two and she would tie with Mills.

"I was thinking 'Come on, give the crowd something to yell about,'" Brooky said. "But then the ball went round the hole - I guess I hit it a bit hard but the wind didn't help me."

"Then we went into extra holes. We played the 18th and both had birdies and I thought 'God, this could happen 50 times'. We played the same hole again and I was on the green in two, but then she chipped in."

"If anyone says to me now that golf is an easy game I'll say No way - I know that from being through the wringer."

Her manager, Gail Allport of Lower Hutt, joined her for the German tournament and carried her bags in all four rounds. - NZPA

TOP 15 GOLF RANKINGS

Leading world golf rankings issued today (US unless stated):



	Pts
1 Tiger Woods	11.00
2 Greg Norman (Australia)	10.28
3 Ernie Els (South Africa)	10.20
4 Colin Montgomerie (Britain)	9.88
5 Nick Price (Zimbabwe)	9.52
6 Tom Lehman	8.55
7 Steve Elkington (Australia)	8.36
8 Masashi Ozaki (Japan)	7.83
9 Mark O'Meara	7.48
10 Phil Mickelson	7.24
11 Fred Couples	6.77
12 Justin Leonard	6.77
13 Brad Faxon	6.76
14 Nick Faldo (Britain)	6.73
15 Jesper Parnevik (Sweden)	6.63

- Reuter