

GO GIRLS!

Brooky takes classic

by Kevin Robertson

LYNNETTE Brooky overcame an afternoon slump in which she dropped five shots in five holes to win a drama-charged Aristocrat Mollymook Women's Classic at Hilltop on Sunday.

Brooky finished with an even par 69-75-144 after two rounds to edge out fellow New Zealander Kylie Pratt by a stroke.

Pratt carded consistent rounds of 72-73-145 for her one-stroke margin over promising Queensland youngster Katherine Hull, playing only her second ALPG event, who scored 76-70-146.

Brooky had to produce all the fighting qualities she showed to win her Austrian Open in 1988 and two French Open titles (in 2002 and 2003) as she recovered her composure after having words with a spectator.

The unpopular fan was ordered off the course by club president Ron Chambers after he tried to tell Brooky how to play her shot to the 15th green.

Brooky late apologised to her playing partners for "having words" with the man.

The damage had been done.



It's hi fives for Friday's Bannisters Beachside Challenge winners Lynnette Brooky (left) and Tamara Hyett after a tense finish to the inaugural nine-hole event. Lynnette Brooky also won this year's Aristocrat Women's Classic at the Hilltop.

She carded a double bogey seven after a hook into the bullrushes, a penalty, and an over-cooked approach to the green.

But a 12-metre putt for birdie at the 16th and par golf on the last two holes helped make up for dropping several shots, including troubles on the green at the 12th and 13th.

At the presentation, Pratt congratulated Brooky and said she had been monitoring the leader's troubles in case she had to prepare for a play-off.

Brooky (69); Joanne Mills (NSW) and Corinne Dibnah

(Qld) each 70; and Kerryn Starr (NZ) and Rebecca Stevenson (Qld) 71, all broke par on Saturday but only Hull was in the red on Sunday with her 70 which featured some spectacular scoring on the last five holes, including an eagle.

Karina Oerum and Tamara Hyett each won \$1000 in The Times Shootout for the best shots at the 18th green after Saturday's first round.

Danish-born Oerum, who now lives in Australia, was delighted with her prize. Although not as spectacular, it brought back memories of her hole-in-one at the 1993 Singapore Open for which she

won a Mercedes Benz.

TOP CHALLENGE

Brooky and Hyett were two under par when they won the first-ever Bannisters Beachside Challenge over nine holes at Mollymook last Friday afternoon.

The winners had to play nearest-the-pin three times before they established a clear margin over Rebecca Stevenson (WA) and Nadina Taylor (Horizons Resort).

Dibnah and Kate Nolan (Vic) finished a stroke behind the leaders in what was hailed as a successful new event to the pro-am program.

Johnson is left a bridesmaid

Women's Golf

By Claire Middleton
in Arras

LYNNETTE BROOKY, the New Zealander who has been saving up for her wedding, can now afford to invite all eight of her siblings after clinching the French Open title here yesterday.

She started the final round one shot ahead of England's Trish Johnson and that was how it stayed after both fired impressive five-under-par

first player to defend a title on the Evian Tour since Sherri Steinhauer won successive British Opens in 1998 and '99, finished on 14 under par.

When Johnson birdied the par-three 10th hole she looked to have the momentum, but a two-shot swing at the 13th, where Johnson's second flew over the green, put Brooky in the driving seat.

To add to Johnson's disappointment, Norway's Vibeke Stensrud birdied the last to claim a share of second place, costing the Englishwoman both money and precious

"I'm feeling about as gutted as it's possible to feel because of one huge mistake," said Johnson. "I played well but I knew I'd get a flier at the 13th, so why I took a six-iron I have no idea."

Brooky, who has six brothers and two sisters, wobbled off the tee on the closing holes but managed three consecutive up-and-downs. Johnson, meanwhile, was also left rueing the fact that having come back into top form, there are no tournaments until the Evian Masters late next month.