



## **Bristow confident ahead of ISPS Handa NZ Women's Open hosted by Christchurch**

Cathryn Bristow would like nothing more than to become the first Kiwi golfer to win the ISPS Handa New Zealand Women's Open hosted by Christchurch but she is not getting ahead of herself.

The left hander from the Huapai Golf Club, who recently enjoyed a breakthrough win on the ALPG Tour when she claimed the Moss Vale Golf Club Ladies Classic with a superb eight under 65 in the final round in Wollongong, is keeping her expectations low as she prepares for the National Open.

Bristow will be among the leading Kiwi contenders for the title from February 17 – 19 at the Pegasus Golf and Sports Club north of Christchurch alongside World Number One amateur Lydia Ko who has finished 4<sup>th</sup> and tied 7<sup>th</sup> the previous two championships and Lynnette Brooky, who will make her debut in the event.

Bristow has renewed self-belief with the dominant nature of her recent win after “putting together the best two rounds she has ever played”.

“You always gain confidence when you win because you have to play well and do everything well,” said the 27-year-old.

“If you can draw on those experiences and emotions I felt to play better. I am definitely feeling very confident right now with how I am playing. Hopefully by the time I get to Pegasus everything will be firing.”

The key to her success on the ALPG Tour was staying relaxed and having little expectation ahead of the tournament.

“I didn't have a very good warm up that day and I just said to myself: “Okay you've got to play with what you have got on the day.

“I had lowered that expectation a little bit and it relaxed me and I was able to hit the ball properly. And my putter was on fire.

“I made pretty much everything that I looked at. That was good to get off to a good start. It put me into a good position for what I thought would be the second round and my plan was to build on that.”

Bristow defeated the likes of World No. 74 Nikki Campbell and LPGA players Sarah Kemp, Sarah-Jane Smith and Danielle Downey by four shots.

It followed her win at the Pennsylvania Classic in 2011 where she became the first Kiwi woman to win on the Future's Tour in the States.

Bristow agreed with Josh Geary's notion that very little separates the Nationwide Tour and the PGA Tour and said the same applies to the Futures Tour and the LPGA Tour.

“It is really nothing. From what I have seen we all hit it the same it is more the mental side of the short game that is the difference. They make more putts and it becomes a bit of a putting competition than anything else. That is really the only difference.”

She hopes her ALPG win is the start of a big 2012 where she looks to progress from the Futures Tour to the LPGA Tour and is looking for confidence to take her game to the next level.

It all begins at Pegasus a course which suits Bristow’s eye and the left hander is looking forward to returning to Christchurch to support the event after the earthquake last February.

“The thing I always think about is that we in the Square looking at the Cathedral and I said to my brother that I should have brought my camera. He said that we would be back next year and we can take it then. I always think of that moment and that we are never going to be able to get that picture now.

“I am glad to be going back. I am glad the event is going to be there and we can help in some small way to support the city. You don’t know what is happening down there but I am happy to be going back and a lot of the girls are supporting the event which I think is pretty important.

“I would love to win the New Zealand Open. It will be a great week no matter. But if it was to happen it would be the most important win for me personally to be able to say that I have won my own national championship.”

**For further information please contact:**

Peter Thornton, Media & PR Manager – NZ Golf

M: 021 482 788

E: [peter@nzgolf.org.nz](mailto:peter@nzgolf.org.nz)