

Town champ tops county golfers at Met Open final

By Jeff Capellini
Staff Writer

While the majority of Fairfield County players watched their hopes fade into yesterday's afternoon sky, Greenwich's Lisa Griffin seized an opportunity.

The Greenwich Women's Town Golf tournament champion and Greenwich Country Club member shot a 2-over-par 75 yesterday, finishing alone in fifth place at the Women's Met Open at Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Griffin's 75 yesterday was an improvement on Monday's opening-round 79. Her two-day total of 8-over 154 left her eight strokes behind tournament champion Eve Marie Lux of Dutchess Golf and Country Club. Lux, who held a four-stroke lead after Monday's 4-under 69, ballooned to a 77 in the final round and barely held on, defeating Old Westbury Golf and Country Club's Marjorie Jones on the first playoff hole.

Griffin and Lux were the only two amateurs to place in the top 12. Grif-

fin said on Monday she would have been happy with par in yesterday's round. She didn't quite make it, but was equally satisfied.

"I was happy about today. It worked out well," Griffin said in a telephone interview last night. "I went 1-over on each side."

Griffin's lone birdie of the round came on the par-5 third hole. She hit her driver, then 3-wood and lofted her third shot 80 yards with her 10-iron to within five feet of the pin. She said she played one of her more consistent rounds on a very difficult golf course.

"I didn't have to save par too much," said Griffin, who is the only six-time winner of the Greenwich town tournament. "At Fenway you want to keep the ball below the hole, but I had a few problems when I put it above it. My chips, though, were good today. I didn't have to scramble. It's definitely the short irons and putting at Fenway."

She said it was easy to misjudge Fenway's difficult, undulating

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greens.

"The sidehill putts were difficult," she added. "You have to aim eight inches above it. They are more difficult to read. If you misread them, you'll slide by."

Griffin said she tries not to get caught up in winning or being the best. Her main goal is simply to enjoy herself.

"I always have a good time out there and never take it too seriously," said Griffin, who played the British Amateur in June and made the stroke-play cut before losing in the second round of the match-play competition. "I think it is detrimental to be too serious. It puts unnecessary pressure on you. You want to stay focused, but still have a good time."

Griffin finished second at the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match-Play championship

the week of June 18-21 at Cherry Valley Country Club in Garden City, N.Y. She plans to compete at the WMGA Stroke-Play Tournament July 23 and 24 at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y.

Greenwich Country Club assistant professional Terri Migliaccib, who was tied for fourth heading into yesterday's final round, struggled, finishing with an 83 and a two-round total of 158. Burning Tree Golf Club's Shirley Budden slumped from an opening-round 78 to an 83 in the final. Sterling Farms Golf Course (Stamford) head professional Angela Aulenti also shot 83 and finished with a 159.

Bruce Memorial Golf Course assistant pro Renee Murphy improved on her opening-round 83 with yesterday's 7-over 80. Susan Wallace of Tamarack Country Club shot an 89 and finished 24 strokes back.