



Belgium's Lara Tadiotto successfully defended a two-stroke overnight lead to secure the Ladies' European Tour title in the Mauritius Open on the windswept Legend course at Belle Mare Plage on Sunday.

The 33-year-old Tadiotto had laid the foundations for her victory in the opening two rounds, launching her challenge with a three-over-par 75 on Friday and following up with the only level-par round of the tournament in difficult conditions on the second day.

A one-stroke lead over four players – Melodie Bourdy, defending champion Lora Fairclough, Isabella Maconi and Silvia Knaubel – after the first round was extended by a further stroke in round two.

The final round on Sunday saw Fairclough close the gap on the front nine and then take a slender lead.

But at the crucial 14th hole, Taddioto sunk a 40-foot putt for birdie while Fairclough missed a six-footer for par.

After that, Taddioto maintained her slender one-stroke advantage and when Fairclough three-putted the 16th and 17th for bogeys, the title was in her grasp.

However, a pulled drive at the final hole forced the Belgian to reload and from her second drive, Tadiotto put a three-wood approach on the green.

Fairclough had the slight advantage but a two-putt for par was answered by a two-putt for bogey by Tadiotto and the title was hers.

"I am really pleased for Lara," said a gracious Fairclough at the presentation ceremony. "She played well and deserved her victory."

Tadiotto responded by saying that she was thrilled by her success:

"I have won in Belgium but not outside the country, so this is a pleasing success for me.

"It may have been a small field but the competition was strong and to win here was important to me."

Third-placed Bourdy enjoyed a good tournament although her temperament in the final round probably cost her chance of a higher placing, while the expected challenge from Lynn Kelly failed to materialise.



Final scores: 223 L Tadiotto (Bel); 225 L Fairclough (Eng) 76 73 76; 227 M Bourdy (Fr) 76 73 78; 229 L Kenny (Sco) 77 76 76; 231 I Maconi (It) 76 74 81; 247 C Foong (Can) 86 82 79; 252 S Knauber (Ger) 76 90 86; 254 K Fisher (Eng) 85 80 89; 257 L Wright (Eng) 80 89 88; 266 S Hunter (Eng) 87 88 91.