



# A Report On The 9th World Deaf Golf Championships

7th of October 2012 Opening Ceremony  
9th - 12th of October 2012 Competition

Tsu Country Club, Mie Prefecture





The 9th World Deaf Golf Championships 2012 In Japan  
TSU Country Club MIE pre. JAPAN  
9th - 12th October 2012  
FINAL REPORT

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# A Report on the 9th World Deaf Golf Championships

## 1. Foreword

The very first World Deaf Golf Championships to be held in Asia were very successful. I would like to express my deepest gratitude, once again, to the participants from every country who all demonstrated such hard-fought games, to the Directors of the World Deaf Golf Federation who supported the Japanese organizing committee in every way, to the Tsu Country Club who hosted the Tournament, to the Hakusan Village who kindly provided accommodation facilities, to all the volunteers who supported the Tournament and participants with undivided attention, to all the international sign language interpreters who bridged communications with such skill, and to each and every media who agreed to cover the Tournament. I thank you all.

It took four years to prepare for the Tournament and we experienced a considerable number of twists and turns. However, thanks to the members and organizations mentioned above, the Championships ended without incident and we are now savoring a feeling of satisfaction, fulfillment and a sense of relief. The following is our Report, after analysis, of the successes and the issues. We hope that the World Deaf Golf Championships will go from strength to strength in the future and that they will continue to attract the attention of deaf golfers of every country and of the golfing world as a wonderful world golf event.

Chikara Mishina  
Tournament Director  
The 9th World Deaf Golf Championships



## 2. Progress toward the Championships

### ① How it was decided to hold the Championships

It was at the 7th Championships held in 2008 in Perth, Australia, that it was decided to hold the 9th World Deaf Golf Championships in Japan.

Prior to that, opinions were voiced amongst the deaf golfers of Japan that we should invite the World Championships to the country. Chairman Masanori Kojima of the Japan Deaf Golf Association was uncertain as to whether we should hold it or not. We would have liked to, but we were not confident. What should we do...? It was Chairman Koike of the Tsu Country Club who Chairman Kojima sought advice from at that time. They discussed the possibility of Tsu CC being the venue for the Tournament as it had the experience, having hosted national events for people with disabilities 16 times in the past.

Chairman Koike immediately approached Mishina and sounded out the possibility of holding the Tournament in Japan. He asked Mishina to investigate the feasibility of holding the event and to prepare a presentation in Perth to invite the Championships to Japan.

Mishina is greatly experienced in organizing Pro Tournaments in Japan as well as being involved with overseas tournaments such as the European Tour. Mishina approached Seiichiro Yoshii, who has years of experience, having organized nearly half of the Women's Pro Tournaments held in Japan, to become a member of an organizing committee. Mishina accepted the offer providing that a preparation team for the Tournament could be formed. This is how it started.

The first thing Mishina did with Yoshii was to plan a presentation in Perth. Shiori Koike of Tsu CC joined them to prepare the material. Masanori Kojima, then President of the Deaf Golf Federation of Japan, made the presentation at a meeting in Perth.

The fact that it would be the very first Championships to be held in Asia seemed to have a big impact. At voting time, ten out of fourteen votes were cast in favor of holding the 9th World Deaf Golf Championships in Japan.



### ② Invitations for important posts of the Tournament

The first task was to select and appoint Tournament Directors in order to prepare for the Championships. We approached Mr. Tomohiko Asaka, who is related to the Imperial family (the symbol of Japan), to be the Tournament

Honorary President. Mr. Asaka is not only an old friend of Mishina, but he is also an Honorary Chairman of Tsu CC. Mr. Asaka's name is well known throughout Japan. In seeking support for the Tournament, he is a person people are willing to co-operate with, because with him they feel a sense of security. For Honorary Chairman, we approached Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, who is a former Prime Minister and a current member of the House of Representatives. He is a great figure to attract co-operation from the region. It was only natural to invite both Mr. Kojima, the Chairman of the Japan Deaf Golf Association, and Mr. Arne Lundquist, the President of the World Deaf Golf Federation, to be Tournament Presidents. Mr. Chiharu Igaya, who we asked to be a Tournament Vice President, became an indispensable figure for the Tournament. He was previously a Vice President of the International Olympic Committee and was a silver medalist at the Cortina d'Ampezzo Olympic Games 1956. Mr. Igaya was able to offer advice on matters such as the protocols of welcoming overseas players, how to offer hospitality and how to obtain the support from relevant Ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Through Mr. Igaya we were able to receive the Olympic level of advice for staging the Tournament in Japan. Mr. Igaya also has a profound knowledge of golf and experience in hosting tournaments. Having him on board was a big help.

As another Vice President we sought Mr. Takeo Koike, Chairman of the Tsu Country Club, the host course of the Tournament, who we put to so much trouble.

### ③ An Organization for deaf golfers in Japan

When it was decided to host the Tournament, we first improved the organization for deaf golfers within Japan and then negotiated the preparations for the Tournament with Tsu CC.

The main activity of the existing Japan Deaf Golfers Federation had been to hold competition level tournaments for amateur golfers. We changed it to an NPO corporation which had an official corporate status. The Association was able to receive donations and to apply for public grants. In other words, it played the role of a preparatory organization able to host the World Championships. We required the Association to have a membership system for deaf golfers and made it compulsory for them to pay annual membership fees. The fees were used as basic funds for the Association's activities.



#### ④ Regarding the host course, Tsu CC

We decided that preparations should start a year before the event. The selection of accommodation facilities was the first priority. We inspected various facilities within 30 minutes of Tsu CC but had difficulty finding suitable facilities that could accommodate approximately 150 people. We knew the Hakusan Village, a rival course of Tsu CC, had the right-sized facilities, but we anticipated and worried that they naturally would not hire them to their competitor. However, Mr. Fukuda, President of the Hakusan Village, happened to be acquainted with Mishina so we decided to talk with him. We discussed the possibility of using Hakusan Village to accommodate players, to hold a World Federation General Meeting, to arrange transfer services for players and to hold a party, even though the host course was Tsu CC. At first, Mr. Fukuda was uncertain when he was told his rival course was going to host the Tournament. However, he accepted by saying, "We will co-operate if it is the World Championships. It is good for Mie Prefecture." Five coaches from Hakusan Village plus two from Tsu CC made it possible to transfer players between their accommodation and the course. The problem was solved. From an operational point of view, we would like to recommend using resort-style facilities, such as at the 7th Perth and the 8th Scotland Championship venues, where the accommodation facilities and the golf courses were combined. We understand that the venue for the next, 10th, Championships is a complex facility, so it should be easier to manage and operate the Tournament.



#### ⑤ Very tight operating funds for the Tournament

The next crucial issue for us was how to raise operating funds for the Tournament. The first thing we were able to do was to collect donations. The method we used was to save the proceeds from seven or eight tournaments held throughout a year which were hosted by a new organization, the Japan Deaf Golfers Association, as well as the proceeds from other regional tournaments held in Japan. We also made Association-related golf goods and sold them at each tournament. Golfers' necessities such as caps, polo-shirts and balls were sold and the proceeds saved. Furthermore, we asked deaf golfers to become involved in activities to raise funds and to continue them for four years. People from the Japan Deaf Golf Association who took charge and worked so hard were Chairman Masanori Kojima, Vice Chairman Matsumoto, Director Nobumitsu Tatsumi, Atsushi Morishita and others.



We also applied for a grant from the Japan Sport Council, a public organization. Amounts are set according to a scale of tournaments. Using our ingenuity, we prepared an application form in painstaking detail, hoping to receive as many grants as possible. The people in charge of this task were Seiichiro Yoshii, Toshimune Sumiya, a golfer with disabilities, Yutaka Yamada, and Kingo Sawada, another Vice Chairman of the Association. As a result of their efforts, one million and several hundred thousand yen was received for domestic tournaments being held one year before the World Championships, and an amount of four million and four hundred thousand yen was confirmed as granted for the World Deaf Golf Championships.

As the Tournament drew closer, members of Tsu CC as well as local residents started donating towards the Tournament and we realized how significant the co-operation was from the host golf course.

## ⑥ How hard it was to recruit volunteers

We decided on ways to recruit volunteers and worked hard to make the meticulous arrangements required for the Tournament. These required our best efforts.

We decided to gather volunteers mainly from local people who were able to commute and first asked members of Tsu CC and people with disabilities who had been involved in annual tournaments.

However, the majority of people could not speak or understand English and were reluctant to become involved. It was the same situation with game volunteers, but Osamu Watanabe, who had been a volunteer for tournaments for the disabled, patiently recruited volunteers, believing they could do it even though they could not understand English. In the end, more than 200 volunteers were gathered. Furthermore, Morihiro Matsumoto, a member of the Tournament Committee, involved Kaoru Tsukuda who was formerly an English teacher in the local area of Tsu City. Tsukuda successfully recruited many retired English teachers as volunteers. An additional 250 volunteers were gathered from people connected to clergymen of local churches. In total, 450 volunteers assisted the Tournament. These volunteers transferred players to and from the Airport. We were able to guide people from the Centrair Airport, the Port, and the Kansai Airport to their hotel. The volunteers and coaches also took every player back to the Airport.



### ⑦ Regarding the vital role of the Tournament Committee Chairman

We invited Mitsuyu Iwatsuru, Chairman of the Tsu City Golf Association of Tsu City, which was under the umbrella of the Japan Golf Association, to be the Tournament Committee Chairman. Iwatsuru has a profound knowledge of golf rules and numerous acquaintances who have experience as committee members for professional and major amateur tournaments. Thanks to his selection of committee members, we had people who would be able to make prompt judgments. With clear judgments and instructions, an elite team of more than 20 members including Fumio Numata, Vice Chairman, and Committee members, Kenji Kato, Morihiro Matsumoto, Yukako Nomura and others, resolved any issues before they became serious problems. It was vital to have experienced committee members to ensure smooth progress of the games and thorough enforcement of the tournament rules.

We think the Tournament itself did not have any major problems, and the games ran smoothly. There were uncertainties over Lateral Water Hazard and OB Zones for one part of the course and there were players who made incorrect judgments, but these issues were resolved soon enough without them turning into something serious. There were, though, many slow players. It was seen as important that each player made an effort to improve their playing speed.

### ⑧ Preparation of items for the Tournament

It was necessary to prepare and make various items for the World Deaf Golf Championships. These included a web site, a logo, scoreboards, national flags, placards of each country, signposts, boards for starting orders, name tags for players, tee marks, pin flags, illustrations of hole layouts, scorecards, programs, a stand for group photos, a winner's podium and signposts for the Party venue.





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The first task was to design and develop a web site. Without delay, we made an effort to place on the web site information relevant to each country, together with Tournament details. In charge of developing the web site were Mr. Akio Watanabe and Ms. Sayuri Ariga of L Design, one of the prominent web site designers in Japan. Staff members of L Design assisted us throughout the Tournament by staying at the course to promptly update the web site with the latest player scores and the pairings for the following day, as well as posting the final scoreboard. They played a key role in providing immediate updates.



To design the logo, we asked Mr. Nobuyoshi Shimaguchi, a well-known Japanese golf artist. He is an old friend of Mishina, and a popular artist known for his posters for Japanese Professional Tournaments and paintings of various golf courses. We accepted his suggestion when he said he had long been nursing an idea for the World Championships. His idea was used for the Tournament poster. The meaning it represents was "golfers from around the world enjoy various communications through golf." We are confident we had a very good poster. Using this logo, Mr. Toshiyuki Araki, who has been involved in editing work for over 30 years, took charge of producing the poster and editing the Tournament program. He did a wonderful job, making the very best of the ideas created by Mr. Shimaguchi. Unfortunately, Mr. Shimaguchi, who was so pleased with the success of the Tournament, passed away on a golf course on the 18th of November, about one month after the World Tournament finished. This poster was the very last work by Mr. Shimaguchi.

Mr. Shimaguchi's logo was used on all materials and mementoes.

We asked the experienced Mr. Satoshi Matsuda of UNI-CON Agency to be in charge of boards, such as scoreboards, and national flags. He devised, using flags, an easy way for players to find their own names. The tee marks became very popular as they had symbols of traditional Japanese culture printed on them appropriately for Men, Ladies and Seniors. We understand that almost all players took home tee marks. It was a delightful success.

UNI-CON Agency and Sekainohata Co. Ltd. promptly provided flags of each country and even set up poles for the flags. At this Tournament, we felt once again how important the role of national flags was. They indeed changed the normal atmosphere of the golf course to one of it being the host course of the World Championships.



Regarding the course layout, we received requests from players of every country for a hole by hole layout before the Tournament. However, we took fairness into consideration and asked that they wait until the Tournament. These requests showed the high level of interest in the Tournament. Printing the course layout took much time and effort, as we had to ask the Golf Professional of Tsu CC to measure hole by hole distances so many times.

We developed and produced the scorecards following numerous discussions with the Technical Director of the World Federation.

## ⑨ Tournament sponsors and support from R&A

A year before the Tournament, we were so delighted that six companies became sponsors, and R&A, an overseas organization, offered their co-operation several months prior to the Tournament.

One of the sponsors was Bridgestone Sports Co. Ltd. All the golfers know that the company is a manufacturer of golf balls and golf clubs. Bridgestone provided golf balls with the Tournament logo for all participants.



The second sponsor was Under Armour. It is an up-and-coming company that manufactures sportswear. Under Armour provided all participants with a polo shirt.



The third company was Pilot Corporation. The company is a worldwide maker of fountain pens. As a part of their social contribution, Pilot provided boards so that people could communicate with deaf players by writing. Thanks to these, the conversations between volunteers and game officials went smoothly. The company provided about 50 boards.

The fourth sponsor was Imuraya, a nationwide food manufacturer from the local Mie Prefecture. The company provided "Sports Yo-kan", which helps to replace lost energy and salt.



The fifth sponsor was Kushimoto Clinic. The Clinic took charge of the medical room as a volunteer. It also provided five sets of whiteboards which played a vital role as information boards for participants.

The sixth sponsor was Septem Products Co. Ltd. which provided all the participants with the latest sun block cream.

Finally, R&A provided £ 10,000 in support of participants. R&A, as the head of world golf with its HQ in Scotland, governs international golf rules. Has R&A ever supported a World Tournament? This means the head of world golf expressed their support for the World Deaf Golf Federation. The support reflects the progress that President Arne Lundquist and others have made in gaining support for the Championships. The R&A money subsidized the playing fees of all the participants. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to R&A for their kind gesture.

## ⑩ Facilities

The Tsu Country Club provided the golf course. In terms of layout, Tsu CC takes pride in its course being one of the most difficult in Japan. However, after its long history of 20 years, there were parts of the course where the original beauty had been lost. We discussed this and came to agreement that we should show the course at its very best for the players from around the world who would be looking forward to playing at Tsu CC. The designer of the course was Masashi Ozaki, one of the leading golf players in Japan. As a result, the layout of the course hazards, particularly bunkers, are worth playing for those who enjoy a challenge. The course layout does not allow players to easily finish under par. We requested that players be shown every beautiful corner of the course, while keeping its challenges. Acting on our requests, the Green keeper, with Chairman Koike and Vice President Nobuhiro Kojima, took responsibility for the task and the result was a course with fairways and roughs on which players could hit true shots, while its greens were smooth and picturesque. We believe it was a first class host course.



As accommodation, we asked the Hakusan Village to provide hotel and lodge facilities. It is a major resort located about 30 minutes by car from Tsu CC. This is a leading Japanese golf resort with two 18 hole golf courses, hot spring spas and restaurants. The total number of guests was well over 200, including players and their families, officials and sign language interpreters. Naturally, preparations for breakfasts and dinners had to be arranged, which required considerable work. Mr. Masaoki Fukuda, President of the Hakusan Village, together with his staff, co-operated well and endeavored to meet our requests. We are very thankful to these staff members.

### ⑪ Volunteers' remarkable work

Once underway, all volunteers shared a catchphrase of "Never make players who come to Japan from around the world feel uncomfortable." At first, we thought we would be able to recruit volunteers quickly and easily, as Tsu CC had previously hosted National Tournaments for players with disabilities. However, we came to realize that view was too optimistic. People were reluctant to become involved as the Tournament was labeled with "World." They were very conscious of the fact that it would not be easy work. Mr. Osamu Watanabe, who took charge of volunteers, would have spent many anxious days as he struggled to recruit them. Particularly for game official volunteers, people thought they should not accept the work casually as they lacked confidence in their judgments, which could affect a team's scores, this being a World Tournament. Mr. Watanabe and Mr. Morihiro Matsumoto decided to seek advice from an English teacher, Mr. Tsukuda. Teacher Tsukuda was previously a Principal of local high schools and he has a wide range of acquaintances in the local area. He asked his former students, former colleagues and others and was able to recruit more than 200 volunteers who could understand English. The total number of volunteers came to over 400 when combined with the golf volunteers gathered by Mr. Watanabe. We were confident we would be able to provide the visitors from every country with excellent service, and managed to deal with everyone's transportation safely. Coaches owned by Hakusan Village and Tsu CC, a total of seven, were used for welcoming and farewelling the visitors.



We asked Mr. Hayashi, an assistant manager of Tsu CC to be in charge of managing all transfers and travelling arrangements. At a time of pressure like this, we were convinced that people like Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Tsukuda, Mr. Matsumoto and Mr. Hayashi, who were talented in crisis management, would display their abilities.

## ⑫ A Medical Center

Even a player who is training on a daily basis can have an unexpected injury. Therefore, it was crucial to set up a Medical Center on site. It was Kyoko Kushimoto who was ready and willing to accept this task. She is a nurse and the wife of the doctor who practises at Kushimoto Clinic, the local orthopedic clinic. Kyoko was a super woman who could use sign language. She made arrangements with a local ambulance squad and an acute care hospital in case of an emergency. On the very first day the Medical Center was set up, a player suffering from a hernia was brought in and received an emergency operation in one of the rooms in the Club House. After that, the Center dealt with people with a cold, a fever, a ureteral calculus, a bruise and an ankle injury. It was extremely busy throughout the Tournament. Establishing the Medical Center was crucial for the functioning of the Tournament.

## ⑬ Sign language interpreters

Many interpreters assisted us. Yumi Sodeyama of the Japan Deaf Golf Association was in charge, and many of the very few international sign language interpreters in Japan gathered for the Tournament. One interpreter commented that it was to Yumi Sodeyama's credit that more than ten top international sign language interpreters were involved.



They did a great job at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, a General Meeting of the World Federation, a Board meeting and other events.

## ⑭ Secretariat

The Secretariat's work started three years before the Tournament. Mishina was both a Producer and a Director. Seiichiro Yoshii, Director, handled everything from official letters to miscellaneous matters on site. Yamada, Yutaka Sumiya and Toshimune Sumiya mainly took charge of Accounting. Kingo Sawada of the Japan Deaf Golf Association did the follow up of office work and Yumi Sodeyama covered communication with overseas countries.

Members of the Secretariat first went out to ask a number of companies for donations. They visited leading companies such as Ion Group, a leading company in Mie Prefecture which owns shopping malls, the Nippon Foundation, the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, Toyota and others, but it did not go well. They also requested help from administrative bodies like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, explaining the significance of holding a World Tournament. Of the local organizations, they asked the Mie







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Prefectural office and Tsu City for their support and also other relevant bodies like the Japanese Federation of the Deaf, Japan Sports Association for the Disabled and Mie Association for the Deaf. They also asked news media to cover the Tournament. Among the media approached were Kyodo News Service, Chunichi Shimbun Co. Ltd., Tokai Television, Mie Television, and Golf Digest.

Up until the Tournament was due to start, numerous letters arrived from participating countries, including enquiries and communication related to Registration. Most of Mishina's time was spent dealing with these enquires, and Yoshii was overwhelmed by the amount of correspondence every day. We followed our initial principle to self-produce the Tournament without using travel agents. We are sure this enabled us to deal with the finer detail and to better understand the needs of each country.

### ⑮ Course settings

Chairman Iwatsuru, Vice Chairman Numata, and members of the Tournament Committee worked together to set OB lines, to affirm each hazard line and to place stakes, making sure they conformed to the world standard course rules. These are areas that we do not normally make too much fuss about. However, for a World Tournament the course must comply with international regulations. Members were very nervous about preparing the course to avoid any problems during the game. This course preparation required much of their time and they worked on it together with the course maintenance staff until just before the Tournament. The preparation was completed successfully.

## 3. Progress of the Tournament

### ① Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was a formal occasion in the garden of the Tsu CC Club House surrounded by the national flags of each country.

Led by local junior golfers holding placards with country names, teams of players from each country filed into the venue led by representatives with their national flags. When the World Federation flag, the National flag, and the Tsu CC flag were all hoisted, players' faces were filled with pride and determination.



A speech from President Arne of the World Deaf Golf Federation was followed by the introduction of Chairman Masanori Kojima of the Japan Deaf Golf Association and other Tournament officials, a welcome speech from Mako Kushimoto, a junior from the local Tsu City, and a player's oath by Tetsuro Sodeyama, one of the players in the Japanese Team.



After the ceremony, a commemorative group photo was taken of all the participating players, as well as team photos.



Australia



Canada





Demark



England



Finland



Germany



Scotland



South Africa



Ireland



Netherlands





Sweden



USA



Japan



Board Members

## ② Opening Party (Sunday, 7th of October)

After the Opening Ceremony, we held a large-scale Opening Party in the restaurant of the Tsu CC Club House. A total of 190 people attended, including players and officials from every country, a member of the Diet representing his local electorate, the Governor of Mie Prefecture and the Tournament officials. The witty manner of the announcer, Kyoji Kikuchi, as the Master of Ceremonies, ensured we had an enjoyable time together.



The Party started with a performance by a traditional Japanese drum group from the local Mie Prefecture of which they were very proud. All present were surprised as the roaring sound of drums echoed throughout the venue, and their vibrating power seemed to overwhelm everybody.

What moved us all was a story by an Australian player, Tony Klimek, who told us about the beginnings of the World Deaf Golf Championships. There were players who shed tears during his story of making contact through fax with

representatives of each country for months and eventually establishing the Championships. Also, President Arne served as a Celebrant and a wedding ceremony took place for Tetsuro and Yumi Sodeyama as a surprise event. Players of all the countries gave warm blessings to the couple the Deaf Tournament had brought together. It seemed that these events impressed on everyone that the Tournament was held for the deaf players themselves. Also, a square card with a hand print of a Sumo wrestler was presented to all players so that they could experience something of the history of Japan's traditional national sport. The cards were provided by Mrs. Kyoko Kushimoto.



### ③ Practice Day (Monday, 8th of October)

Practice rounds were organized by country. There were some players who were taken aback by the unfamiliar Japanese surface, particularly those who were playing at Tsu CC for the first time. However, it did not take long for them to get a feel for it, as they were such gifted players from around the world.

On Practice Day a Medical Tent was set up with Kyoko Kushimoto as Chief Medical Attendant. Two players suffering from cold symptoms, three with lower-back pain and one with knee pain came this day for medical examinations. Also, in the evening, hearing checkups for some selected players were conducted by Dr. Fujita of the local Fujita Nose, Ear, and Throat Clinic, and all passed without problems.

### ④ First Day of the Tournament (Tuesday, 9th of October)

The first day finally arrived with fine weather. The heat of late summer was more severe than usual this year and it was slightly humid, but the players started off in good spirits. From a competition point of view, the play time was very slow, due to unfamiliar differences in elevation compared to courses in players' home countries. There were parties who took more than six hours to finish 18 holes. No time penalties were incurred for slow play. Regarding rules, there were areas where Lateral Water Hazard lines were hard to see and some players were confused. The Tournament Committee gave an explanation in detail which everyone understood and accepted. After that, we received few further queries.

On this day, the Medical Tent dealt with two players with knee pain, three with lower-back pain and one with a swollen leg.





### ⑤ Second Day of the Tournament (Wednesday, 10th of October)

On the second day, players showed better form as they became more familiar with the course. One player after the other posted good scores, and we were surprised by the high skill level demonstrated by teams from all countries.

In the afternoon of the second day, a solemn Japanese tea ceremony was held in the Club House lobby by local ladies attired in Kimono so that the traditional aesthetics of Japanese tea could be experienced. The arrangements were made by Mrs. Iwatsuru, the wife of the Tournament Committee Chairman. We believe it was a unique occasion players could not experience in their own countries.



Also in the afternoon, President Arne and other Directors visited a local School for the Deaf and mingled with students.



On this day, a player suffering from an inguinal hernia came to the Medical Tent. A doctor performed a hasty operation in one of the small rooms in the Club House. On top of that, three with knee pain, one with plantar pain (an equipper came to repair shoes), two with headaches, two with colds and one with lower-back pain came to the Medical Tent.



### ⑥ Third Day of the Tournament (Thursday, 11th of October)

On the third day, naturally, more players began to feel weary and asked for carts. To use a cart, a doctor's Medical Certificate was required. Many players came to seek advice and left with their shoulders drooped in disappointment when they found out they could not use a cart. Considering the undulations of the course, we felt sorry for them. However, the rules could not be changed and had to be applied to all of the players impartially. We dealt with this resolutely.

The Medical Tent tended to one player with general physical weariness, three with lower-back pain, one with knee pain, one with shoulder pain, three with headaches and one with both a headache and nausea. Also, one of the Japanese players, Usui, had symptoms of a ureteral calculus, and was suffering from severe pain. He withstood the pain during the



game with the help of painkillers and after finishing his round he was taken to hospital for surgery. The following day, he played as if nothing had happened.



In the evening, the World Deaf Golf Federation's General Meeting and a Dinner were held in the Club House. In attendance was Mr. Mark Cooper of the World Deaf Sports Federation as a special guest.

### ⑦ Final Day of the Tournament (Friday, 12th of October)

We felt the final day came very quickly. All players of Men, Ladies and Senior Divisions demonstrated determined play, and the event was developing perfectly for the final day of a World Tournament. What we felt on this final day was that the World Deaf Golf Championships would surely see the rise of younger generations. As it was a four day event, players, both men and ladies, required stamina. Players who had the advantage of longer drives generally finished higher in the rankings. It is no exaggeration to say that the differences in physical strength of men and ladies, contributed to their final scores. In the Senior Division, players such as the Japanese Team managed to hold top ranks until the third day because of their technique. However, that situation was reversed at the end, due to the differences of physical strength. It illustrated that you cannot win without both technique and physical strength, particularly on a demanding course such as at Tsu CC. This was shown in the outcome of the Tournament in that the winners of both the Men and Ladies Divisions were in their twenties. We are certain the World Deaf Golf Championships will continue to be exciting at and after the next Tournament in the USA.





The Medical Tent on this day was visited by one player with lower-back pain, one with both a headache and dizziness, one with blisters from shoes, one with throat pain, one with upper arm pain and one with general physical weariness. The Medical Center played a vital role during the Tournament. Players are very much obliged to Mrs. Kyoko Kushimoto, and to the doctors who took turns at being in charge each day of the week.

### ⑧ Closing Ceremony

The venue for the Closing Ceremony was the Tsu CC Garden where the Opening Ceremony had been held. After speeches from President Arne and Mr. Mark Cooper, a Commendation Ceremony was held.







Mens Individual



Ladies Individual





Seniors Individual



Team Mens Winner



Team Mens Second Place



Team Mens Third Place



Team Ladies Winner





Team Ladies Second Place



Team Ladies Third Place



Team Seniors Winner



Team Seniors Second Place



Team Seniors Third Place

Winners and winning teams of each Division were awarded trophies. The Japan Deaf Golf Association presented a fan from a long-established shop in Kyoto, Hakuchiku-do, to each of the individuals, from winner to third place. In addition, Certificates were presented to the top six places. To conclude the Closing Ceremony, President Kojima of the host country Japan returned the Tournament flag of the World Deaf Golf Federation to President Arne, who then handed it over to Mr. Darrell Hovinen, Tournament Director of the next Tournament which is to be hosted in the USA.

The Tournament was blessed with fine weather for four days and there were no major incidents. We could see the Tournament ended on a positive note.

We sincerely thank everyone involved who offered their huge support.

## ⑨ Farewell Party

After the Closing Ceremony, the venue changed to the Banquet Room of the Hakusan Village COCOPA Resort Hotel, where a Farewell Party was held to enjoy the last get-together before parting.







First of all, President Arne praised the great play demonstrated by players from each country. He expressed his gratitude to the volunteers who assisted with the Tournament and to the officials involved in the administration of the event. After that, plaques as proof of friendship were presented by Chairman Koike of the host course to President Arne, Tournament Committee Chairman Iwatsuru, Teachers Tsukuda and Watanabe representing all the volunteers, and Mishina representing management.

The Farewell Party ended after entertainment was performed by the local volunteers and comments of appreciation were expressed by a representative of each country.

With this, the official events were completed.

The 9th World Deaf Golf Championships 2012 ended without incident. Players of each country pledged to meet again at the next Tournament in the USA.

## 4. Looking back on the Tournament, points for improvement, expectations and recommendations for future tournaments

### ① PR

Kyodo News Service, the largest news agency in Japan, supported us. However, reporters and staff were needed to cover the London Olympic Games, and a smooth rotation could not be provided. As a result, the publicity prior to the





Tournament did not go as well as hoped. Only Golf Digest, the local Mie Television and the Chunichi Shimbun gave PR prior to the Tournament. The lack of PR definitely contributed to our difficulty in collecting donations. However, when the Tournament started, NHK provided reports, and after the Tournament various newspapers and golf magazines carried articles.

## ② Fundraising

As the World Deaf Golf Tournament is a four day event, it requires the production and organization of items such as scoreboards, tee marks and scorecards. Also, there are many golf courses in Japan that do not possess trolleys, and Tsu CC was no exception. Technically, hole layouts should have been available, but were not. As a result, quite a lot of funds were spent on producing these items. Poles for national flags had to be newly prepared as well.

The area that proved the most difficult was fundraising for the production of these items. At first, we asked the local Mie Prefecture, and several nationwide companies run by persons from the Nagoya area to become sponsors, but we could not get their approval easily due to the economic depression and other such matters.

Therefore, we approached and invited various organizations relevant to the deaf and Tsu CC to collect personal donations, and also asked the Japan Sport Council for a grant. In addition we made Tournament memorabilia and souvenirs and asked these organizations to sell them.

We started planning the fundraising in earnest two years prior to the Tournament. In hindsight, we should have started as soon as we knew we were going to be the host and made earlier contingency plans.

## ③ Participating countries and the number of players

It was unfortunate the total number of participating countries fell from the original 15 to 13. It was also disappointing that the number of participating players was less than 100, far less than the number originally expected. This could not be helped, as it was related to the circumstances of the countries and the personal situations of the deaf golfers. We believe it would have been a more exciting Tournament if around 120 players had participated, which is an optimum number for smooth administration.

In particular, too few ladies participated, and each country needs to plan a strategy to rectify this in the future.

Also, it seems that the popularity of golf amongst the deaf in Asian countries is still very low. We can understand there are circumstances contributing to this, such as the economy of each country. Is it necessary for us as the World Federation to make plans to spread golf amongst deaf people, to establish an organization in regions like Asia where Deaf Associations do not exist, and to establish golf as a sport for deaf people?

Should we aim to spread golf amongst the deaf, making the best use of its characteristics, such as its specific character of "getting competitive in everything"?

## ④ Aim for a Tournament the locals can support

The volunteer work done by the local people contributed greatly. The Tournament becomes a very exciting event when it is supported by a team of locals, the host course and the administration working together. It is crucial to make sure that the normal activities of the Deaf Association of each country and supporting activities by the host course and the local people are actively carried out.



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Also, it seems important to promote the local notable products and companies in various ways during the Tournament. For instance, it would be good to make a corner to introduce local specialties, and a space where people can meet and communicate with players from around the world.

We trust the next Tournament in the USA will be an exciting event.



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**WORKING FOR GOLF**

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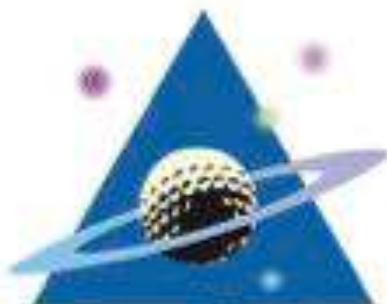
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# The 9th 9th to 12th Oct. 2012 World Deaf Golf Championships

TSU Country Club MIE pre. JAPAN



Cooperated by

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## 2012 WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

TSU COUNTRY CLUB – JAPAN

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MENS TOURNAMENT

RANK	COUNTRY	NAME	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1	 AUS	Jack Mcleod	70	70	71	79	290
2	 DEN	Hans Elgaard	77	73	73	80	303
3	 AUS	Jack Besley	78	74	79	74	305
4	 SWE	Gustv Wahlgren	78	77	74	79	308
5	 CAN	Alexandre Ouellet	79	76	77	81	313
6	 SWE	Andreas Nilsson	79	80	80	78	317
7	 CAN	Dale Proctor	80	80	75	86	321
8	 USA	Justin Tokioka	86	78	74	85	323
9	 DEN	Soren Clausen	77	83	82	84	326
	 SWE	Robert Nyman	79	82	86	79	326
11	 ENG	Micheal Burris	77	83	86	81	327
	 JPN	Tetsuro Sodeyama	90	77	83	77	327
	 USA	Dano Aldaz	76	89	83	79	327
14	 CAN	Jonathan Rose	82	82	88	78	330
15	 DEN	Lasse Emil Nielsen	86	79	78	88	331
16	 AUS	Mark Aird	87	81	80	85	333
17	 AUS	Luke Ellis	76	90	83	87	336
18	 ENG	Martin Anderson	79	86	84	88	337
19	 GER	Peter Scheel	82	87	87	83	339
	 SWE	Jonnie Hammenfors	80	84	87	88	339
21	 AUS	Andrew Honeysett	78	84	85	94	341
22	 FIN	David Barber	85	83	87	87	342
23	 DEN	Jannik Kusk	86	98	80	80	344
	 SAF	Cedric Touzard	82	85	89	88	344



RANK	COUNTRY	NAME			R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
25		IRE	Don	Conway	87	88	83	88	346
		USA	David	Wantuck	84	86	86	90	346
27		JPN	Masahiro	Usui	82	85	95	86	348
28		SCO	Mark	Lothian	85	94	84	86	349
29		JPN	Shuichi	Murai	87	87	85	91	350
30		ENG	Richard	Le Page	91	83	81	96	351
		SWE	Hans	Sjodin	80	89	87	95	351
32		ENG	Jason	Albutt	90	86	91	86	353
33		USA	Darrell	Hovinen	85	90	92	87	354
34		JPN	Yasuhiro	Yoshida	95	87	84	91	357
35		SAF	Given	Holose	93	88	88	92	361
36		IRE	Peter	Dalton	90	86	94	93	363
37		ENG	Micheal	Roberts	82	106	86	94	368
		JPN	Hisashi	Yamagiwa	86	92	91	99	368
		SCO	Cameron	Bryson	87	102	90	89	368
40		CAN	Jason	Wilkie	90	99	93	87	369
41		IRE	Philip	Quearney	89	97	95	91	372
42		AUS	Philip	Malm	100	94	91	88	373
43		IRE	Geoffrey	Mccormack	89	94	94	98	375
		SCO	Ian	Kennedy	101	93	91	90	375
45		JPN	Noriaki	Yanagida	97	97	94	94	382
46		USA	Jed	Barish	89	100	95	99	383
47		DEN	Lasse Nicklas	Behncke	94	94	102	94	384
		JPN	Fusao	Nojiri	95	90	102	97	384
		JPN	Mitsunori	Sukegawa	92	104	90	98	384
50		IRE	Gary	Conway	101	92	92	100	385
51		SWE	Andreas	Hed	91	104	94	103	392
52		USA	Richard	Delvecchio	98	95	105	95	393
53		NED	Ralph	Blom	97	101	95	106	399
WD		ENG	Ben	Stephens	91	87	91	WD	WD
WD		SCO	Craig	Rayment	102	116	107	WD	WD

























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SENIORS TOURNAMENT

RANK	COUNTRY	NAME	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1	 CAN	Kenneth Hoffman	86	88	75	81	330
2	 JPN	Akio Watanabe	84	83	82	84	333
3	 JPN	Jun Oishi	84	84	84	87	339
4	 JPN	Nobukazu Kamo	86	84	87	86	343
	 JPN	Kaiki Ito	88	83	86	86	343
6	 USA	Timothy Dapp	82	85	89	89	345
7	 CAN	Robert Cundy	91	90	81	86	348
8	 AUS	Tony Klimek	93	87	82	87	349
	 USA	Michael Finneran	81	91	91	86	349
10	 CAN	Brian Johnston	90	98	77	91	356
11	 USA	Bill Stricklen	91	87	95	84	357
12	 USA	Gerald Isobe	87	86	92	95	360
13	 AUS	Kevin Hayden	85	89	90	98	362
14	 AUS	Wayne Parsons	91	96	90	88	365
15	 AUS	Paul Hammond	91	90	90	95	366
16	 JPN	Katsuji Kurahashi	95	96	92	87	370
	 USA	Patrick Cullen	93	86	90	101	370
18	 SAF	Raymond Graaff	101	88	85	97	371
19	 SAF	Herman Bear	92	98	84	100	374
20	 IRE	Reggie Carroll	101	97	92	102	392
21	 NED	Ferdinand Van Herp	100	99	98	105	402
22	 CAN	Denis Marchand	98	109	112	97	416


















## 2012 WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

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LADIES TOURNAMENT

RANK	COUNTRY	NAME		R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1		NED	Loentine Warringa	76	87	84	84	331
2		USA	Melissa Stockton	84	91	87	90	352
3		JPN	Yukie Asaka	89	97	90	93	369
4		AUS	Maree Evans	85	103	96	87	371
5		USA	Susan Zupnik	87	97	96	98	378
6		AUS	Jennifer Maric	97	92	96	98	383
7		SAF	Gail Klichowicz	98	94	104	105	401
8		USA	Mary Bachtel	94	109	96	103	402
9		CAN	Marilyn Beernink	113	102	96	102	413
10		SAF	Vanessa Mcilroy	102	101	109	103	415
11		JPN	Kazuko Iida	111	112	105	105	433
12		JPN	Miyuki Tomikawa	104	114	111	108	437
13		JPN	Satoko Yamagiwa	111	120	114	116	461
		JPN	Naoko Koike	114	111	121	115	461
WD		USA	Linda Bradford	101	105	113	WD	WD





**2012 WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
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**TEAM CLASSIFICATION RESULTS MENS**

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
	Mark Aird	87	81	80	85	246
	Jack Besley	78	74	79	74	305
	Luke Ellis	76	90	83	87	246
	Andrew Honeysett	78	84	85	94	162
	Philip Malm	100	94	91	88	0
	Jack Mcleod	70	70	71	79	290
						1249
2	<b>SWEDEN</b>					
	Andreas Nilsson	79	80	80	78	317
	Andreas Hed	91	104	94	103	0
	Hans Sjodin	80	89	87	95	167
	Gustv Wahlgren	78	77	74	79	308
	Jonnie Hammenfors	80	84	87	88	172
	Robert Nyman	79	82	86	79	326
						1290
3	<b>DENMARK</b>					
	Hans Elgaard	77	73	73	80	303
	Jannik Kusk	86	98	80	80	246
	Lasse Emil Nielsen	86	79	78	88	331
	Lasse Nicklas Behncke	94	94	102	94	94
	Soren Clausen	77	83	82	84	326
						1300

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
4	<b>CANADA</b>					
	Jonathan Rose	82	82	88	78	330
	Jason Wilkie	90	99	93	87	369
	Dale Proctor	80	80	75	86	321
	Alexandre Ouellet	79	76	77	81	313
						1333
5	<b>USA</b>					
	Dano Aldaz	76	89	83	79	327
	Jed Barish	89	100	95	99	0
	Richard Delvecchio	98	95	105	95	0
	Darrell Hovinen	85	90	92	87	354
	Justin Tokioka	86	78	74	85	323
	David Wantuck	84	86	86	90	346
						1350
6	<b>ENGLAND</b>					
	Jason Albutt	90	86	91	86	262
	Martin Anderson	79	86	84	88	337
	Micheal Burris	77	83	86	81	327
	Richard Le Page	91	83	81	96	164
	Micheal Roberts	82	106	86	94	262
						1352
7	<b>JAPAN</b>					
	Shuichi Murai	87	87	85	91	350
	Tetsuro Sodeyama	90	77	83	77	327
	Masahiro Usui	82	85	95	86	253
	Fusao Nojiri	95	90	102	97	95
	Noriaki Yanagida	97	97	94	94	94
	Yasuhiro Yoshida	95	87	84	91	262
						1381
8	<b>IRELAND</b>					
	Don Conway	87	88	83	88	346
	Geoffrey McCormack	89	94	94	98	375
	Peter Dalton	90	86	94	93	363
	Philip Quearney	89	97	95	91	180
	Gary Conway	101	92	92	100	184
						1448

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
9	<b>SCOTLAND</b>					
	Mark Lothian	85	94	84	86	349
	Ian Kennedy	101	93	91	90	375
	Craig Rayment	102	116	107	WD	WD
	Cameron Bryson	87	102	90	89	368
						NR





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**TEAM CLASSIFICATION RESULTS SENIORS**

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1	<b>JAPAN</b>					
	Jun Oishi	84	84	84	87	168
	Nobukazu Kamo	86	84	87	86	86
	Kaiki Ito	88	83	86	86	83
	Akio Watanabe	84	83	82	84	333
	Katsuji Kurahashi	95	96	92	87	0
						670
2	<b>CANADA</b>					
	Robert Cundy	91	90	81	86	176
	Kenneth Hoffman	86	88	75	81	330
	Denis Marchand	98	109	112	97	0
	Brian Johnston	90	98	77	91	167
						673
3	<b>USA</b>					
	Patrick Cullen	93	86	90	101	176
	Timothy Dapp	82	85	89	89	256
	Michael Finneran	81	91	91	86	167
	Gerald Isobe	87	86	92	95	0
	Bill Stricklen	91	87	95	84	84
						683
4	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
	Paul Hammond	91	90	90	95	181
	Kevin Hayden	85	89	90	98	174
	Tony Klimek	93	87	82	87	256
	Wayne Parsons	91	96	90	88	88
						699

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
5	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>					
	Herman Bear	92	98	84	100	374
	Raymond Graaff	101	88	85	97	371
						745



**2012 WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
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**TEAM CLASSIFICATION RESULTS LADIES**

Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	TOTAL
1	<b>USA</b>					
	Mary Bachtel	94	109	96	103	96
	Melissa Stockton	84	91	87	90	352
	Susan Zupnik	87	97	96	98	282
						730
2	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
	Maree Evans	85	103	96	87	371
	Jennifer Maric	97	92	96	98	383
						754
3	<b>JAPAN</b>					
	Yukie Asaka	89	97	90	93	369
	Kazuko Iida	111	112	105	105	210
	Miyuki Tomikawa	104	114	111	108	104
	Satoko Yamagiwa	111	120	114	116	0
	Naoko Koike	114	111	121	115	111
						794
4	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>					
	Vanessa McIlroy	102	101	109	103	415
	Gail Klichowicz	98	94	104	105	401
						816