



World Deaf Golf Federation Report

Meeting with the 2012 WDGC host 2-3 November 2009

This is a report from the WDFG President Arne Lundquist, who was invited by the hosts of the 2012 WDGC to attend a golf competition for deaf and disabled at Tsu Country Club in Mie, Japan on 2-3 November 2009.

At the same time he made an inspection of the 2012 WDGC site.

What a welcome I got by the Japanese hosts! They were very professional. And I experienced a totally different and pleasant atmosphere at the Mie Country Club. This is a must for golf lovers!

The golf course had a very nice layout in a beautiful hilly landscape.

Together with the Directors I had a review of the golf course. One thing I found was that there were no red or yellow markings on the golf course. They agreed with me that they should change this before the World Deaf Golf Championships.

We read through the whole checklist. It went very well. The Directors wanted to discuss the checklist with the others in the host committee before they fill it in. They promised to send it back to me before 30 November. The host committee paid for almost everything, for my airline ticket and the hotel. The WDFG is very thankful for that!

The hotel was good, and there were frequent transport between the hotel and the golf course

The Tsu Country Club is a member of the Japan Golf Association. There were some persons from the Japan Golf Association present at the golf competition.

The President of the golf club has 140 employees. Oops!

The Director wanted to become a member of the WDFG board. If the WDFG members say yes, the Director could arrange to get some sponsors for the WDFG. I explained that the Director could not be a board member of the WDFG, but perhaps be co-opted or be a member of a special committee. We must discuss this thoroughly; this could be very beneficial for WDFG.

The Japanese Directors will come to the World Deaf Golf Championships in St. Andrews where we can talk more with them.

They were very proud to have a representative from WDFG present at their Championship. They introduced me everywhere, and I met many persons with high positions; the local government, the Japan Golf Association, Directors from Toyota and many other famous companies. I was very impressed.

The Golf Club and the WDGC hotel have typical Japanese hot-spring baths with hot water, very healthy and relaxing after the golf game. You can get massage if you pay extra.

No problem with golf carts. There are pulling trolleys for Men's and Ladies Tournament and golf carts for Senior's Tournament. There were also caddies available for hire.

If you are lucky you can see cute monkeys, I saw them twice. They have a little problem with wild boars. They are looking for worms at night, but never on the greens. We should be happy for that!

The best way to travel to Tsu is to take a direct flight to Nagoya, then it is only 30 minutes by ferry to the Tsu. If you fly to Tokyo you have to buy a very expensive train ticket. You have to change train several times and it will take 3-4 hours and it is hard to find your way when changing trains.

They celebrated the 15:th competition this year, and I was their guest of honour together with many other celebrities. The first day there was a competition for deaf golfers over 70 years, and the following day a competition for both disabled and deaf –136 players in all. Unbelievable but true. I came on 30th place in this great competition.

I was very impressed and learned much this week. This competition could serve as a model around the world. I myself will bring it up with the Swedish Golf Association.

My final words in this report will be a thank you to the Japanese 2012 WDGC host, the Tsu Country Club and all the others that made my stay in Japan to a memory I will never forget!

Arne Lundquist
WDGF President