

News by Anders Hillding, WDGf Secretary Layout and Photos by Arista Haas, WDGf Director

WDGC 2010 @ St. Andrews

Turning the Dream into a Reality...



Most golfers dream about going to St. Andrews in Scotland, the home of golf. The experience has been fantastic for the World Deaf Golf Federation to have a World Deaf Golf Championships in St. Andrews! The Scottish Hosting Committee worked four years for this day.

They attempted to bid for the 2008 WDGC but the members at the General Meeting in Sweden chose Australia over Scotland. In 2006, they were better prepared and won the 2010 bid. That is when the dream was set in motion to become a reality for Deaf Golfers.

The Hosting Committee

The Scottish Deaf Golf Association was the host of the event, and David Wilson led the Organising Committee. They hired Stephen Minto of Sportworks UK to deal with the logistics of the championships including day-to-day operations, registration, events, and transportation.



Stephen (standing) watches the final round with assistant, Ali (sitting).

TORRANCE - TOP CLASS COURSE BUT PROVED CHALLENGING FOR THE GOLFERS

The Championships were played on the Torrance course at the Fairmont Hotel, just outside St Andrews. This was an excellent choice because the golf course is a top class and a championship course. This was the second time the WDGC was played on a links course and the links course is an open golf course at the seaside with deep "pot" bunkers that caused problems for the players.

The results were very good given the course was difficult and the very British weather that tested the players' skills. Cold, windy weather with occasional showers were alternated with sudden bursts of sunshine. The final day had a very nice weather with some sunshine and warmer temperature but a bit windy.

FINAL RESULTS - SCOTSMAN EWAN, AMERICAN STOCKTON, & CANUCK HOFFMAN ARE CHAMPIONS

Scotland dominated the Men's Tournament. David Ewen played in a class of his own and won with a total of 300 strokes, 10 less than his fellow countryman Steven Cafferty. Hans Elgaard of Denmark came in third with 311 strokes. Not surprisingly, Scotland also won the Men's Team Tournament with 1287 strokes and Australia and England came in 2nd and 3rd with 1291 and 1299 strokes respectively.

In the Ladies' Tournament, Melissa Stockton of USA won with her 363 strokes. Patty Sue Ploya of USA and Susan Hamilton of New Zealand were tied second with 368. Susan was awarded third place due to the count-back of the tied scores. With 728

strokes, USA is the winner of the Ladies' Team Tournament. The Irish team had 773 strokes for a second place followed by the South African team with 835.

The top three in Men's Senior Tournament were Kenneth Hoffman of Canada with 332, Robert Cundy of Canada with 336, and Alan Wilton of Ireland with 339 strokes.

The Championships was a success with a total of 114 participants from 15 nations! This WDGc also marks first participation by Netherlands and Germany.



RESULTS FROM GENERAL MEETING & THE FUTURE

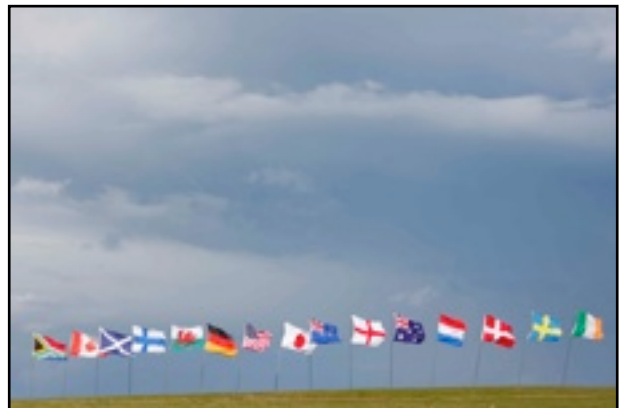
At the General Meeting, the WDGf members approved a proposal from the Board to reduce the handicap limits in all classes.

HANDICAP LIMIT CHANGES		
<u>CLASS</u>	<u>2010 HCP</u>	<u>2012 HCP</u>
Men	15	12.4
Ladies	24	22.4
Seniors	18	16.4

This would lead to a possibility of lower entry numbers; thus, turning away any participant in the future does not become an option. The quality of the competition will also be better, which leads to shorter round times. Groups took more than six hours to play Torrance Course, causing the final day's schedule end later than planned time of 18h00. Several golfers, who finished earlier, and fans did not get their chance to see the champions raise their arms. The golfers and fans had to prepare for 19h15 bus rides to the closing ceremony banquet.

Long round times and some other minor issues in planning led to reminders from the WDGf Board, but Wilson and Minto solved these problems in a very good manner without too much concern for the participants.

The Scottish host had chosen the Fairmont for the accommodation, which is a first class hotel in the immediate vicinity of the golf course. A cheaper alternative was available at New Hall, a hotel at the St. Andrews University campus – a ten-minute bus ride from the Torrance course.



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The soaring costs was one of the downsides of the event, many participating countries shook their heads when they saw the accommodation costs and entry fees. This can be partly explained by the fact that it is expensive in St Andrews and an MOU with the hotel to “lock” prices could have been signed within four years prior to the event. For the future WDGCs, the Board must ensure that the costs do not become too expensive. This should be achieved through inspections at the WDGC sites.

The WDFG Board is proud of the work that has been accomplished during the past four years. The Board created two important documents: the WDFG Constitution and the WDGC Rules of Competition. The Rules document described in detail how the World Deaf Golf Championships should be arranged.

The fact that nearly all of the Board was unanimously re-elected shows that WDFG members have great

confidence in the work they do. Gavin Balharrie of Australia replaced the veteran in the Board, Robert Cundy of Canada. Cundy has been on the Board in 1995 to 1998 and 2002 to 2010. He also was one of the five founding members of the WDFG in 1994. For this achievement, Robert was awarded with an Honorary Member title at the closing ceremony.

The closing ceremony was magnificent, and was held at the Hall of Fame at the famous Old Course Hotel in St Andrews.

Now, the new Board is looking at the future, to the World Deaf Golf Championships in Japan 2012 and in the United States 2014. Under the leadership of Arne Lundquist, the Board will continue to develop the WDFG into a stronger organization. An MOU will be created with the WDGC host. This document, in more detail, describes the rights and obligations of both parts.

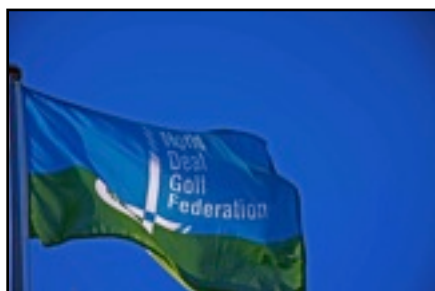
PHOTOS @ WDGC 2010 - MORE ON PAGE 4



From l to r: Cedric Touzard, South Africa; Tokihiko Tajima, Japan; Ross Speirs, Scotland - 2nd Round.



Markku Mustonen, Finland, studies his line of putt on the 1st hole in the 2nd round.



DEAFLYMPICS 2017 POSSIBLE?

The Board will start negotiations with the ICSD for the inclusion of golf into the Deaflympics. Perhaps, we can see the World Deaf Golf Federation's flag flying at the 2017 Deaflympics? It will be just as big as playing golf in St. Andrews!

NEXT EDITION:
December 2010



Newcomer Gustav Whalgren of Sweden studying the green.



German and Dutch fans cheering for German and Dutch golfers completing their first WDCG.



Masanori Kojima sharing a laugh with his teammates. He is the chairperson of the 2012 WDCG in Japan.



The Scottish bagpiper walks along the parade of golfers during the opening ceremony.