

2019 BLIND GOLF JAPAN OPEN

The Japan Open was played at the Hakonekohan Golf Course, which is located in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, the oldest and one of the most popular national parks in Japan. Hakone is 80km west of Tokyo.

On the first day of the event, the game was stopped due to the hard rain but resumed and completed. It was instead perfect weather for golf on the 2nd day.

39 Japanese and 14 overseas golfers participated and I believe everyone enjoyed the golf and fellowship. Unfortunately, 2 players retired up on the 1st day and 1 on the 2nd day.

Main trophy winners were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| - Overall Japanese Champion (Net) | Mark Eschbank |
| - Gross Champion B1 | Kenji Goto |
| - Gross Champion B2 | In Chan Cho |
| - Gross Champion B3 | Mark Eschbank |
| - Ladies Champion (Net) | Yumi Yamamoto |
| - Ladies Champion (Gross) | Yasue Utsugi |
| - Stableford | Sadanobu Asano |
| - Stableford (Ladies) | Jenny Abela |

The award banquet was a great success with singing by Dr Handa, and Mr Ron Anderson, who was the first blind golfer Dr Handa met 30 years ago.

We all hope to meet again here in Japan in 2 years.

Kyoichi Sugiyama