

Bob Andrews Interview

By David Meador

Following the legacy of Boswell, Lazaro and Pat Browne, President, Bob Andrews of Tallahassee, Florida, a Vietnam wounded warrior, ushered in still further milestones. Like the sudden appearance of a long awaited 4th of July parade, our march through time took on a totally different look starting in 1998. This was the year in which President Bob Andrews headed up the first World Championships, played at Green Leaf CC in Orlando, Florida. At this point Bob and several other Blind Golf Association Presidents came together in earnest to form the International Blind Golf Association. Funded by an extraordinary Japanese businessman, all 13 countries followed up with seven Biennial World Championships over the next 14 years.

Partnership became the game. President Andrews soon saw that our media opportunities, our story, and our ability to secure grant funding would be enhanced with a greater number of players. He and a courageous Board of Directors that extended membership to qualified golfers who were severely vision impaired. Membership had been reserved for totally blind only for the preceding 50 years. Although our cultures initially clashed, we eventually found extended capabilities built on a generous multi-year grant by Lions International, and by innovations introduced by Presidents Jim Baker, Phil Blackwell, and our first ever woman President, Sheila Drummond.