A SURVEY OF THE ATTACHED FACILITIES AT GOLF COURSES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES, IRELAND, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND

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[Introduction] We previously reported the status and prospects of attached facilities to golf courses in Japan (Horie, et al., 2006), where we demonstrated that most golf courses in Japan had attached facilities such as a restaurant and a pro shop, and that many were planning to build an exercise gym or a jacuzzi in the future. Based on these findings, the present study was designed to clarify the status and management of attached facilities to golf courses in foreign countries.

[Methods] In this study, a similar survey was performed in a total of 1,887 golf clubs in England (110), Scotland (310), Wales (119), Ireland (240), Australia (708), and New Zealand (400). The survey was performed from September 1 to 31, 2006 by mailing questionnaires. Responses were obtained from 213 golf clubs with a recovery rate of 11.3%.

[Results and Discussion] The attached facility most common to the golf courses surveyed was a bar (86.0%). Subsequently, common facilities included: restaurant (56.1%), function room (46.7%), pro shop (43.9%), others (12.1%), and tennis court (6.5%). Major facilities mentioned in others were kitchen, game (snooker) room, driving range, and camping area for visitors. Among attached facilities more common to these golf courses, a bar was available at 100.0% (Ireland and Wales), 82.8% (Scotland), 82.9% (England), 85.9% (Australia), and 85.2% (New Zealand) of them. A restaurant was available at 100.0% (Ireland and Wales), 75.9% (Scotland), 77.1% (England), 37.2% (Australia), and 44.4% (New Zealand) of them. A function room was available at 61.5% (Ireland), 20.0% (Wales), 34.5% (Scotland), 57.1% (England), 55.1% (Australia), and 33.3% (New Zealand) of them. For each of restaurant (p<0.001) and function room (p<0.05), a significant difference in availability was observed between countries. Among others, significant differences in availability were also found between countries for accommodation facility (p<0.05) and pro shop (p<0.01). As attached facilities planned to be opened in the future, bar as well as accommodation facility (9.3%) were the most common, followed by function room (8.9%) and pro shop (8.4%), though the response rates were low. Thus, many of these facilities planned to be opened in the future were largely the same as those already available. This suggests that these facilities may be essential to golf courses in the relevant countries. In a future study, we would like to identify the causes of those differences in the availability of ancillary facilities between countries with regard to history, culture, and economy.