

Minutes of MISGA Annual Meeting
April 11, 2005
Chester River Yacht & Country Club

Call to Order

President **Paul Keiser** called the meeting to order at 10 AM and thanked Division III Director, **Fenton Martin**, and Club Rep, **Jim Sood**, for the excellent meeting arrangements at Chester River, noting that this is the 30th Annual Reps Meeting and the 30th Birthday of MISGA. This annual meeting has been held seven times at Chester River, rained out the last two years, but thanks to Fenton's arrangements the day was exceptionally bright and warm. (Everyone enjoyed a fine round of golf after the meeting and lunch.)

Invocation

Tom Tarpley, the Vice President and Director of Division II opened the meeting with the invocation.

Opening Remarks

To mark MISGA's 30 birthday, **Paul Keiser** recalled what the world was like when MISGA began in 1975:

- Jack Nicholas won the Masters; Tom Watson won the British Open; Lou Graham won the US Open; and Tiger Woods was born.
- The Steelers won the Super Bowl; Cinnci beat Boston in the World Series.
- Gerald Ford was President; gas was 44 cents a gallon; a postage stamp was 13 cents.
- MISGA dues were \$10 per Club plus 10% of prize money per mixer; now it's \$50 per Club, and next year in 2006, will be \$10 per associate.

Introductions

Paul introduced MISGA Past Presidents: **Paul Desmond**, **Charlie Fieldhouse**, **Ken Wallgren** and **Don Ewalt**; and delayed by Bay Bridge traffic, **C. J. Myers** who appeared later.

He then introduced each of the Division and Assistant Division Directors, who make up the **2005 MISGA Board of Directors**:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Assistant Director</u>
Div I	Paul Keiser (Pres)	Dick Dale

Div II	Tom Tarpley (VP)	Tom Taylor
Div III	Fenton Martin	Ralph Starkey
Div IV	Earl Gayler	Dick Hunt (out of town)
Div V	Paul Phillips	Phil Tilghman
Div VI	Bob Nicholson	Lloyd Stimson

The State of MISGA

President Paul Keiser presented his assessment of the state of the Association by noting that MISGA is in good shape; we have 58 clubs and over 4,200 associates. The Annual Report showed there were over 30,000 participants in MISGA events last year with revenue of over \$96,000. While this is about the same as the previous year, our usual expected growth was dampened largely by the fact that several larger clubs were closed for major renovations and upgrades. We are looking forward to increases in both areas of finance and attendance in the coming year as these clubs slowly come back online.

Secretary's Report

The reading of the minutes of April 12, 2004 were waived. **Chuck Ebbecke** reminded everyone the minutes are available for review before every Board Meeting on the MISGA website. Or, associates without access to the internet may request a mailed copy in advance of all Board Meetings should they want to review the official record of previous meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Tarpley, standing in for **Gary Sorrell**, reported that the Division Directors were requested to forward the 2005 budget to each Club Rep.

He pointed out that the following Clubs have not yet paid their Club Dues: Hunt Valley, Talbot, Montgomery CC, Green Hill, Deer Run, Bay Club and Marlborough. He then reported on the current budget of \$25,351.77 for 2005. As the retiring Treasurer, he suggested amid much laughter that any questions be directed to Gary, the new Treasurer, at the next meeting.

Division Directors' Reports

Div. I Dick Dale reported on the status of the Spring Fling in Ocean City where the number of participants is substantially down (115 vs. 153 last year) probably because of the cut last year in MISGAgrams with the accompanying applications. In response to surveys, the Fling will add a third day at Bay Club which almost half of the participants have chosen to play.

Div. II Tom Tarpley reported some growth with new and improved club buildings and course renovations; the training seminar was successful; **Carmi Sayler** from Glade Valley is doing well; advice to all, stop smoking; the **new name for the old Board Bash is the MISGA Reps Invitational** to be held this year on September 14-15, 2005 at Carroll Valley. All Reps with their spouses are invited to this event. Next year the dates will be September 13-14, 2006.

Div. III Fenton Martin, the host for this meeting, was delighted to announce after two years of rain, we would not play water polo but golf after lunch.

Div. IV Earl Gayler had no report and sat down quickly to much applause.

Div. V Paul Phillips introduced a new Club Rep for Ocean City, Will Hall. Everything on the eastern shore is going well; this past winter they were able to have 14 WISGAs (WinterISGAs?) matches in contrast to only 3 last year. He wisely failed to predict the effect this milder winter may have on the corn and tomato crop, or the crab, oyster, or rockfish catch.

Div. VI Bob Nicholson, reported on their training seminar, dates of tournament qualifiers, and the Pro-Am at Tantallon to which all other Divisions are warmly invited.

Committee Reports

Associates: Charlie Fieldhouse, in a report sent on internet showed: 58 clubs; with 4,211 associates as of the end of the year.

Audit: Howard Taylor was out of town but reported the books are in good order; however we need to improve reporting on events/trips.

Events: Peter Sorge announced a trip this fall to Amelia Island in early November, with negotiations still underway with Seabrook. Peter then walked through the policy changes approved by the Board on the Guidelines for Management of Events (Spring, Fall, and Winter Trips). The revised policy is available on the website. Peter also called for volunteers to assist in running the trips; so if you plan to go on any of these trips and can spare a little time in helping to check score cards, distributing prizes, or adjusting pairings let Peter or the person in charge know that you are willing to help.

Historian (& Past Presidents): Bill Brown (& Charlie Fieldhouse) covered the 1996-2005 History which is 99.9% complete and needs only updates of the Club Histories for the events of this year. He thanked everyone for the work done so far and asked them to review the draft on the MISGA website. Comments and suggestions are welcome. The Past Presidents committee is working on the best way to publish the History: whether on website only, or hard copy, in black & white, or color, on CD's, or any combination

thereof. The PP Committee (really, that's what they call themselves) will submit their recommendation to the Board at the next meeting in June.

Club Membership: **Arnie Simms** who had just returned from Florida had no report and received another loud round of applause.

Mixers: **Dan Williams** reported he has a few clubs trying out some ways to speed up play; he also encouraged the Club Reps to report such things as shooting their age, holes in one, things out of the ordinary for publication in the MISGAGram. He will also compile a list of mixer formats in addition to the old '2 best balls of the foursome' in order to vary the kinds of games we can use in mixers.

Policy & Planning: **Ken Wallgren** used his time to present the Board's Proposal to Amend the Constitution. After explaining the purpose of the amendment (that only MISGA associates, in Clubs that were members of MISGA, could play in MISGA events) the motion was carried unanimously.

Rules & Handicaps: **Dick Crone (West) & Jim Brittingham (East)** introduced the members of their committee and then announced the USGA's effort through the Regional and State USGA structure to strengthen and enforce compliance with the handicap rules. Specifically, each Club must certify they meet USGA criteria for the management of handicaps. Clubs failing to certify will not be able to provide their members with approved USGA handicaps. The Middle Atlantic USGA (Maryland & Virginia) has already set a deadline for certification; Pennsylvania and Delaware are expected to follow shortly. Club Reps should inquire at their clubs on the status of this USGA initiative. In the future, clubs without approved USGA handicaps will not be permitted to belong to MISGA, nor play in MISGA Tournaments and MISGA Mixers.

If you need any help with this complex effort, please call Dick or Jim or the handicap chair listed in the leadership roster of your division. We fully understand where MISGA fits in at most clubs and we can help you, and maybe even your club, to comply with these USGA requirements.

Tournaments: **C. J. Myers** thanked everyone for the success of tournaments last year and announced the two man team final this year will be at Holly Hills and the ABCD finals at Green Hill; he then announced the members of his committee in each Division. C. J. emphasized that for the final events this year, fine golf courses, timely scoring, sit-down dinners, etc. would all be top of the line. For the two man team tournament, following USGA recommendations, a spread of more than 8 strokes between partners would result in the use of 80% of handicaps for that team. [Two man team play in MISGA currently requires 90% use of handicaps.]

In closing, C. J. underscored the **Rules & Handicap report** made a few moments earlier, that in 2006, no player will be allowed in any MISGA tournament without an approved USGA handicap.

Website-Internet: Byron Keadle made a brief and concise report on the bane of the Web Master's job: "As soon as it's published, it's out of date." He asked to be notified of any changes to the **Leadership Roster** as soon as they are known. (The roster is used by many for many different reasons and is becoming a key link for communication throughout MISGA.)

Presentation of Awards

Paul Keiser then presented awards to the following:

Don Ewalt: 2001-2004 Div. V Director & President 2004

Tom Tarpley: Treasurer 2001-2004

Dan Williams: Division VI Director 2001-2004

Bob Nicholson: Chairman of Policy & Planning 2001-2004

Paul Desmond: Club Membership Chairman 2000-2004

Chuck Ebbecke: Division IV Director 2001-2004

Dick Walsh and Dick Hunt were not present for their rewards.

Discussion from the Floor

- What's the purpose of the new Mixer Committee?

To recommend how to make mixers more fun. This includes adding new formats of play from the old 'two best balls' format, speeding up play, reporting unusual events in the MISGAgram (for example, shooting your age, holes in one, least putts in 18 holes, or murder on the 18th hole) and fixing other gripes about mixers.

- Why raise associates dues from \$5 to \$10 in 2006?

The Board considered this carefully at its meeting last December and unanimously passed the increase. Paul explained his personal reasons for voting for the increase: the 30th Year History will be published soon and there are no funds to print hard copies which he believes many may want in hardcopy form; also postage for 1st class mail for the MISGAgram has increased and we need to restore a 4th MISGAgram; gas mileage reimbursement (@ 24 cents) is long out of date. Earl Gayler reminded everyone the dues have been \$5 since 1997, a full ten years from the proposed increase in 2006.

Adjournment

The 30th Anniversary cake arrived as the buffet luncheon was quietly being spread out along one side of the meeting room. The last of any discussion quickly wound down.

Promising a piece of the cake as dessert, the President called for a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and overwhelmingly approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Ebbecke

April 20, 2005