

MISGA Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 17, 2001
Prospect Bay Country Club

President **Charlie Fieldhouse** called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. He asked that the minutes reflect MISGA's gratitude to **Jim Bell** for covering the cost overages at last fall's Sea Brook fall fling.

In attendance were: **Bill Brown, Chuck Ebbecke, Don Ewalt, Charlie Fieldhouse, Sam Hall, Sam Hastings, Dick Hunt, Jim Lee, Bob Ludwig, Bob McCready, Bob McMinn, C.J. Myers, Nick Parker, Duke Rowdon, Arnold Simms, Tom Tarpley, Ken Wallgren, and Dan Williams.**

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the Annual Rep's Meeting held April 9, 2001 were reviewed, and on a motion by **Arnold Simms**, and **Charlie Fieldhouse**, were approved. **Chuck Ebbecke** requested that the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2001 be amended to more accurately reflect the discussion of minimum and maximum numbers of Clubs within a Division. This had been reported under "**New Business**". The original minutes read as follows: "... Divisions consider the minimum number of clubs to be 8 and the maximum 16 and that reorganization **only** be considered when club levels fall outside these limits." **Chuck** pointed out that the discussion which lead up to this report emphasized that the number of clubs was only one of several criteria which affect a Division's need to re-organize. Further, the process by which a Division can be re-organized would be initiated by a request from the Division Director to the Board. It was agreed that the minutes of the February Meeting should be amended by removing the word "**only**" from the sentence.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Tarpley reported that he has almost completed the transfer of all funds from our former bank accounts to the new accounts he has established. He distributed a report which describes our current budget and balances. **Tom** also pointed out that two clubs still owe their 2001 club dues. His report was approved.

President's Remarks:

Charlie Fieldhouse praised **Arnie Simms** and **Paul Desmond** for managing an excellent Spring Fling. The non-golfing ladies were well cared for and the golfing and dining events went smoothly. **Charlie** expressed his hope that we will be able to work out a contract with the Ocean City Yacht and Golf Club which will permit future events to be held there. He noted that **John Babyak** and **Dick Walsh** were unable to attend today's meeting, and further that our Past President **Dick Allchin** had suffered a stroke while vacationing in Florida.

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Vice President's Remarks:

Sam Hall also commended **Arnie** and **Paul** for the Spring Fling, and mentioned that the venue was great, with two courses and everyone playing at the same location. He also opined (partly in jest) that his own results (two wins in two days) indicate that there is a problem with handicap reporting, as outlined by the report of the Rules and Handicap Committee. **Sam** also expressed his hope that Committee Chairmen would be able to serve again next year, to assist in providing continuity for the organization.

New Business:

Chuck Ebbecke noted that there is a shortage of Club Rep's Handbooks and asked that new binders and inserts be prepared. After some discussion of whether the budget could stand the cost, and how many should be produced, it was moved by **Ken Wallgren**, and seconded by **Arnie Simms**, that we produce one binder and two sets of text for each member club. **Bob McMinn** will be responsible for providing these.

C.J. Myers noted that we give awards annually to retiring Directors and Committee Chairmen, usually a pewter plate with a MISGA medallion. He noted that the medallions were not included in this year's awards, and was assigned to follow up with Salisbury Pewter to insure that the medallions will be included in future awards. **Bob McCready** agreed to provide a copy of Salisbury Pewter's catalogue to **C.J.** Samples of a 4-inch cast aluminum coaster with a golfing theme were passed around by **C.J.** who proposed that these could make a good alternative to the traditional plate awards. No conclusion was reached as to whether this would be offered in the future.

Charlie Fieldhouse displayed pocket I.D. patches which had been prepared for Past Presidents of MISGA at Charlie's expense, and asked whether the same type should be prepared for all Board Members. After some discussion, it was agreed on a motion by **Sam Hall/Arnie Simms**, that we should purchase 10 more Past President patches plus one each for the current President and Vice President, who will be expected to pass them along to their successors. **Don Ewalt** suggested that we ought to develop and make available a golf cap with the MISGA logo. He will follow up and report at the next meeting.

Division Reports:

Duke Rowdon reported that Division I is doing just fine, with the season off to a good start. **Arnie Simms** commented on the Spring Fling, pointing out that attendance reached 200 where he had hoped to reach 240. Last minute cancellations and a change in the date may have contributed to the shortfall. **C.J. Myers** asked whether more attendees came from Divisions I and V or from Western Shore Divisions and was told that Western Shore clubs were the larger share. Formats for the event were also discussed.

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Division Reports (cont.)

Charlie Fieldhouse indicated that everything is O.K in Division II.

Sam Hall reported that **Byron Keadle**, Patuxent Greens Rep has had surgery and while he is recovering, his place will be taken by his Assistant Rep, **Earl Gentry**. Division III's Pro-Am tournament is on track, and there may be room for two or three teams from other Divisions.

Ken Wallgren noted that Division IV will also be holding a Pro-Am tournament, on October 18 at Argyle, with **Chuck Ebbecke** in charge. Three Division IV clubs are now conducting their mixers under strict time limits, and have had good experience with the program. After three timed events at Hobbit's Glen, no team was late.

Bob McCready indicated that all is well with Division V. He also praised the Spring Fling and its managers. **Bob** has found the program prepared by the Rules and Handicap Committee to be excellent and is using it regularly.

Committee Reports:

Events: **Sam Hastings** had nothing new to report. **Charlie Fieldhouse** asked the Board's opinion on whether Fall Flings should be run with 4 straight days of golf or as a 5 day event with a day off in mid-week. **Paul Desmond** had polled those who attended the Florida Fling, and found that 97% favor a day off, even at a four day event. **Duke Rowdon** noted that the Virginia Beach Fall Fling will be a four day event and stated that it had been his request that it be held as a three day event, and preferably occurring after the other events at Sea Trail and Sea Brook. It seems that plans for Virginia Beach are too far advanced to allow the timing and duration to be changed.

Legal Counsel: **Bob Ludwig** announced his intention to retire from the position of Legal Counsel, effective June 6, 2001. **Bob** has enjoyed the job, but hearing loss has made it increasingly difficult for him to perform his duties as well as he wishes. The Board praised **Bob** for his years of service and wished him well. **Sam Hall** will undertake a search for a new Legal Counsel.

Historian: **Bill Brown** stated that all is well with the History Committee. He asked that Divisions III, IV, and V please provide representatives to his Committee, and stated that he is prepared to remain as Chairman until the next History is ready for publication.

MISGAGRAM: **Dick Hunt** announced that the next issue is at the mailing house and should be received early next week. That issue, (May) wound up being over 1 ounce

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because of the inclusion of Fall Fling announcements, plus major photographic coverage of the Spring Fling. To make up for the additional costs of mailing, **Dick** requested Board approval to change the next two issues from first class to third class mail. The motion to do so (**Ebbecke/Rowdon**) was unanimously approved. The August issue will contain the announcement for the Florida Fling, and hopefully, the results of Division Qualifier Tournaments. Cutoff date for articles and photographs will be August 1st.

Policy and Planning: C.J. Myers reported that his Committee had two issues for Board consideration and action. First, was the recommendation that MISGA amend its constitution to make it clear that MISGA abides by USGA rules, particularly with respect to non-conforming equipment. After some discussion, **Ken Wallgren** and **Duke Rowdon** moved that the existing language in Section C., item 1. of the By-Laws be amended to read; "MISGA and its Associates shall comply with the USGA Rules of Golf....." This motion was approved. Second, **C.J.** reported that the Committee has Completed its work on the survey regarding the need for Division Qualifying Tournaments, and is seeking Board approval to distribute it. On motion by **Williams/Hall** this was approved.

Tournaments: Jim Lee announced his correct e-mail address; jameslee@erols.com. Tournament information has been distributed to Division Tournament Chairmen, as have quotas. Locations for State Tournaments in 2002 are: ABCD, Crofton; 2 Man Team, Montgomery Country Club.

Membership and Participation: Paul Desmond stated that there are no new club applications pending, and that we will lose one club next year when Ocean Pines reverts to a single MISGA club again. Participation in mixers appears to be down versus last year in Divs. I and V. **Paul** asked for feedback from the other Divisions to see if this is a widespread problem. The Board has agreed to recognize the Club Rep with the highest percent of participation in mixers, awarding a plate similar to those given to retiring Board members. The winter fling will again be held at the Admiral Lehigh resort near Fort Myers Florida, with costs expected to increase about \$20 per person, and the announcement to be sent in the August MISGAGRAM, with response on a first come first served basis.

Board Elections: Charlie Fieldhouse asked the Board to reconsider the method by which Board Presidents are elected, and the term of office they are to serve. He raised this issue because of the situation which will face Division II when their turn to fill the Presidency next arrives. At that point, they will have new inexperienced Division Officers who will serve. **Charlie** suggested that elimination of the historic "rotation" between Divisions, and lengthening the President's term to two years would help to correct the problem. Discussion of the two year term was generally unfavorable; the existing rotation from Division to Division was favored by most speakers on the issue.

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The prevailing view was probably expressed by **Sam Hastings**, who stated that the real direction and continuity of MISGA is set by the Directors and Committee Chairmen, with the President being only one vote among ten. In addition, **Sam** favors the rotation system to insure that no Division feels left out. Similar views were also expressed by **Paul Desmond, Sam Hall, Don Ewalt and Dan Williams**. In conclusion, **Charlie Fieldhouse** stated that there would not be a change in the method of electing a President.

MISGA Web site (www.misga.org):

Charlie Fieldhouse noted that the money to register our web site was donated by a member. **Ken Wallgren** will notify the treasurer when the next yearly payment is due.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 11, 2001 at Montgomery Country Club.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob McMinn
Secretary