

MISGA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 27, 2002
Argyle Country Club

President **Sam Hall** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

In attendance were: **John Babyak, Chuck Ebbecke, Don Ewalt, Charlie Fieldhouse, Sam Hall, Paul Keiser, Jim Lee, Bob McCready, Bob McMinn, C.J. Myers, Bob Nicholson, Sam Nisbet, Nick Parker, Arnie Simms, Tom Tarpley, Ken Wallgren, Dick Walsh, and Dan Williams.**

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2001 had been distributed by e-mail and extra copies were presented at the meeting to those who had not received them. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Tarpley distributed a financial report covering activities through February 27, 2002. The report indicates that the Treasury has a balance of \$22,409.81. **Tom** commented that he has been working with Auditor **Sam Nisbet** to correct some minor discrepancies in his bookkeeping. He also noted that Salisbury Pewter, which has traditionally supplied the pewter prize plates for MISGA, has now requested cash before processing orders, rather than payment on delivery. This prompted **Jim Lee** to suggest that we look at some other type of prize. **Sam Hall** noted that the pewter plate prizes are specified in the Guidelines, but that this could be changed if necessary and suggested that this be taken up under New Business.

Vice President's Remarks:

Ken Wallgren followed up on the "Tournament Caper" which had been discussed at the last Board Meeting and declared that the situation has been resolved. All associates who were due a refund have been paid, and the MISGA Treasury has properly accounted for all funds. The lesson learned is to properly account for all tournament funds and make any necessary refunds before submitting the final accounting of the tournament to the Treasurer.

President's Remarks:

Sam Hall reported that the Directors and Assistant Directors had met informally at Crofton Country Club on January 15. As a result of those discussions, it was concluded that MISGA is in good shape with no major problems. Areas which need attention include: groups at Special Events which act as "cliques" rather than participating openly with the other attendees, lax compliance with the rules of golf, etiquette and the USGA Handicap Program, the issue raised by some member clubs who don't wish to play at certain other clubs and scheduling issues raised by DC-area travel problems.

In addition, **Sam** stated that during his Presidency there will be 1.) No daily e-mails, 2.) A 24-hour waiting rule on problem resolution and 3.) Consensus decision-making. In order to accomplish this he asks to be kept informed as to MISGA issues and problems via e-mail, copies of correspondence, etc.

Division Reports:

Div. I-Arnie Simms reported that a four-year program of improvements to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge will result in traffic problems when traveling to the Eastern Shore. The current plans will close eastbound traffic totally between 9 and 9:30 a.m. every day. **Arnie** suggests arriving at the Bridge by 8:30 to ensure getting across promptly, and reminded all that this will affect the Reps Meeting in April. **Arnie** reminded the group that we had considered inviting reps and assistant reps to attend Board Meetings on a rotating basis, and recommended that we take action on this. Several Board members agreed with this approach, and it was agreed that Div. I and Div. V should invite a rep and assistant rep to attend the May 22 Board Meeting. **Paul Keiser** reported that there are already 90 entries for the Spring Fling as opposed to only 12 at this time last year. He credits the early mailing for this increase and noted that the total participation can be increased to 256 if necessary.

Div. II-Dick Walsh announced that Division II will be revising its scheduling matrix to make sure that member clubs are not stuck with more than one "long distance" mixer per year. This year's Board Bash will again be held at Carroll Valley on Sept. 11 and 12 with the Board meeting to be held Sept. 10 at the same location. **Dick** has put Events Guidelines on the website for easy reference. He then asked for approval for the host or chairman of an event to make the decision as to whether prizes should be awarded in cash or by pro shop credits. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was presented by **Ken Wallgren** and seconded by **Bob McCready**, giving the chairman of the Board Bash authority to decide whether prizes should be awarded in cash or by pro shop credits. The motion passed. (Note: this motion was specific to the Board Bash only, not to Fall Frolics or other events.)

Div. III- Dan Williams reported that his Division will hold its next Reps Meeting on March 12 at Crofton. A major item of business will be to lay out guidelines for the conduct of the Pro Am Tournament which Div. III has been running for several years. He offered to make these guidelines available to the other Divisions and was encouraged to do so. This year's Div. III Pro Am will be held at Chart well on October 8. On the same date, Div. IV will hold its Pro Am at Kenwood.

Div. IV-Ken Wallgren reported that the Division had held its very successful Holiday Party in December and has also completed its Training Seminar. A new Tournament Chairman for the Division has also been named.

Div. V-Bob McCready informed the group that his Division's Training Seminar had been attended by every club in the Division. **Bob** reports that he is optimistic about this year's activities in view of the six new and energetic Club Reps who will be working in the Division this year. **C.J. Myers** asked whether Divs. I, II or V were planning to conduct Pro Am Tournaments this year. Div. II reports difficulty in finding someone to run the event. Div. I said it would conduct one, in some form, while Div. V responded that it would not hold one this year.

Committee Reports:

Associates: John Babyak reported having received club dues from four clubs, including the two new clubs approved at the last meeting. Since many roster changes occur in the next few weeks, no update was prepared for this meeting. The total associates count stands at 4,654 with 58 member clubs. Since the last meeting, Bethesda, in Div. IV, has resigned from MISGA.

Events: Charlie Fieldhouse announced that he had prepared CD's containing information about proposed 2002 and 2003 events and given copies to **Sam Hall** and **Ken Wallgren**. The report on the Florida Fling is not yet available, but **Charlie** noted that there were some areas of Events guidelines which were not followed at the Florida event. These included lack of name tags, rooming lists or pairing

sheets. Also noted was an apparent lack of understanding of the MISGA dress code and some examples of “cliques” in terms of seating at the meal functions. To correct this latter problem, **Charlie** proposes that seating at future Frolics and Flings should be specific for at least two days to encourage mixing among the attendees. This proposal was generally approved by Board Members who commented. Finally, **Charlie** indicated that a number of other Florida sites are being evaluated as future replacements for Lehigh Acres.

MISGAGRAM: Nick Parker noted that the closing date for the next MISGAGRAM will be May 1. About 52 copies of the current issue were returned because of bad addresses and **Nick** distributed these to the appropriate Divisions.

Policy and Planning: Bob Nicholson announced that his Committee recommends that annual Rep Training Seminars be mandated in the By-Laws, and that guidelines for their conduct also be prepared and published. Dick Walsh suggested that the guidelines might be too lengthy for publication in the Handbook and offered to put them on the website, where they are readily available for download and could also be amended from time to time without the need for re-publication. A motion to mandate seminars in the By-Laws and post guidelines on the website was made by **Dick Walsh** and seconded by **Arnie Simms**. The motion was approved and will be noted in the History of Board Actions. **C.J. Myers** suggested that the Guidelines section of the Rep’s Handbook should be amended to include a reference to the Training Seminar guidelines which are available on the website. The Policy and Planning Committee’s second recommendation related to the issue of compliance with USGA Rules. The Committee, having researched the question, decided that MISGA is already bound by USGA Rules and thus there is not a need for action at this time.

Tournaments: Jim Lee presented a list of revised Division allocations for this year’s state Tournaments (ABCD and Two-Man Team). He also asked for further guidance as to what sorts of individual prizes might be offered, if not pewter plates. No definitive answer was forthcoming yet.

Rules and Handicap Committee: C.J. Myers reported that his Committee has not yet met and needs members assigned from several Divisions. The main thrust of the Committee’s activities will be on Handicap reporting accuracy. In support of this **C.J.** would like to attend with one or two Committee members, a USGA Handicap meeting to be held April 3rd in Wilmington. To this end, he requested approval for expenses of up to \$300. On the motion of **Sam Hall** and **Arnie Simms**, this was approved. In addition, **Bob Nicholson** volunteered to attend.

Old Business: Charlie Fieldhouse mentioned that Fall Frolic and Winter Fling guidelines were reviewed by the Policy and Planning Committee last fall and wondered how the modified texts might look. **Dick Walsh** indicated that he had prepared and posted drafts of these on the website prior to publishing them in the Handbook. **Dick** further suggested that the MISGAGRAM could be kept on the website and read there. This would possibly offer a major cost savings if members could be convinced to forego hard copies.

New Business: Sam Hall asked the Policy and Planning Committee to review the issue of e-mail distribution of the MISGAGRAM. **Arnie Simms** reported that his Division is conducting a survey of its associates to see how many have access to e-mail. **Ken Wallgren** suggested that e-mail and hard copies run in parallel for a year before making a decision. **Don Ewalt** asked for guidance on the MISGA logo hats he had been asked to pursue. He has found a source for hats at \$15-\$16 each with part of that cost being set up charges for the MISGA logo. **Sam Hall** asked **Don** to hold off until we can survey the membership at the Annual Rep’s Meeting. **Chuck Ebbecke** suggested that our projected budget

shortfall indicates that we should look for additional revenues. He suggested that club dues be raised from \$25 to \$35. **Dan Williams** commented that raising individual associate dues would be an easier way to offset the shortfall. **Sam Hall indicated that we had discussed this earlier and agreed that the shortfall was acceptable for this year and should be looked at again next year.** **Charlie Fieldhouse** asked that we re-visit and clarify our policies with regard to widows and guests attending MISGA Events. He feels that widows should be invited on a space available basis without the need for a current associate to sponsor them. He also feels that inviting non-MISGA couples might encourage them to join MISGA. After some discussion, **Dan Williams** and **Tom Tarpley** proposed and seconded a motion to allow widows of MISGA Associates to attend MISGA events on a space available basis. The motion passed. The issue of whether to invite non-MISGA couples to attend was tabled. **Sam Hall** mentioned that he has learned of one club in Division III which is posting mixer scores as tournament scores for handicap purposes. He asked the Division Directors to make sure that their clubs understand that this is not correct. Blind Draw procedures were discussed briefly, and it was decided that there need not be a MISGA policy on this issue. **Chuck Ebbecke** pointed out that MISGA's insurance premium has increased substantially this year and suggested that we ought to shop the policy. **Sam Hall, Chuck Ebbecke, and Don Ewalt** will serve as an ad-hoc committee to review the insurance package and pricing.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58. Our next meeting will be the Annual All Representatives Meeting at Chester River Country Club on April 8, 2002.

Bob McMinn, Secretary