

MISGA Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 12, 2002
Tantallon Country Club

President **Sam Hall** called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. He thanked **Lloyd Stimson** and **Bob West** from Tantallon for hosting the meeting. **John Babyak**, Associates Chairman, introduced **Bob Dernoga** from Prospect Bay who will take over from **John**.

The following Board and Committee Members were in attendance: **John Babyak, Bill Brown, Bob Dernoga, Paul Desmond, Chuck Ebbecke, Don Ewalt, Charlie Fieldhouse, Sam Hall, Dick Hunt, Paul Keiser, Jim Lee, Bob McMinn, C.J. Myers, Bob Nicholson, Nick Parker, Arnie Simms, Peter Sorge, Ken Wallgren, Dick Walsh, and Dan Williams.**

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September 10 meeting had been prepared by **Chuck Ebbecke** and had been distributed by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as prepared.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer **Tom Tarpley**, although unable to attend the meeting, had prepared a report of MISGA finances up through December 2, showing a balance on hand of \$24,740.38, and comments regarding the 2003 budget. These were read to the meeting and the report was approved.

Division Reports:

Div. I-Arnie Simms inquired of the other Division Directors as to whether the Division Annual Report is circulated to Club Reps. All responded that the report is intended to help club reps in their dealings with club management, by showing the amount of fiscal clout MISGA has, and copies are provided to all who can use them. An apparent conflict in Tournament dates and rain dates will be resolved by the host Division Directors. Div. I now has its own active rules and handicap committee. The Division has investigated the need for defibrillators at golf courses and recommends pushing club management to make them available. Div. I reps voted to retain club rep independence with regard to the 90% handicap rule for mixers. **Paul Keiser** reported that last year's Spring Fling attracted 64 women golfers, a number which continues the upward trend. Revenues to the host club were more than \$29,000 and next year's event is scheduled for May 5 and 6.

Div. II-Dick Walsh asked for updated Division and Committee personnel information, to post on the MISGA web site. His Division will host the Board Bash on September 17, with Board Meeting to precede it, and for the first time will have a Pro Am tournament on Sept. 29 at Holly hills.

Div. III-Dan Williams announced rep training seminar on Jan. 6 at UMD, and Pro AM on Oct. 7 at Crofton.

Div IV-Ken Wallgren set rep training seminar for Jan. 2 at Manor, and Pro Am on Oct. 14 at Montgomery.

Div. V-Don Ewalt reported a good year with increased revenues for Division V. The Bay Club, with two 18 hole courses, has applied for MISGA membership. With continuing growth on the Eastern Shore, **Don** recommends immediate consideration of an additional Division. Rep training will be conducted on Jan. 20. **Sam Hall** asked whether Bay Club should be admitted with what looks like a minimal membership or we should wait until they have grown. **Don** replied that it appears they will be an excellent addition to MISGA.

Committee Reports:

Associates-John Babyak provided his last summary report, showing a gain of three clubs, but a fall off in associates membership. **Bob McMinn** and **Dan Williams** commented that this may be a demographic issue which we are all facing. The issue of how many issues of the full roster are necessary was raised and discussed. **Bob Dernoga** indicated that the three criteria for issuing a roster should be 1.) club and division convenience, 2.) MISGAGRAM mailing requirements, and 3.) Board needs. **John Babyak** pointed out that the mailing lists are updated for the MISGAGRAM even if a new roster is not printed. The question of how many issues of the Roster are necessary, and whether there need to be changes in the By-Laws was left open until the next Board Meeting.

Events-Pete Sorge received many compliments on his running of this year's two fall flings. **Pete** reported that over 120 golfers participated in Sea Trail and Sea Brook. Good tours also tempted a few lady golfers away from playing. Next year will again include two fling sites, Fripp Island and one other. Negotiations are the key to setting final locations and **Pete** would like to have the flexibility to select the best sites based on that.

General Counsel-Al Isaacs was unable to attend the meeting, but **Sam Hall** reported that he had reviewed the MISGA Insurance Contract, found it acceptable and recommended that it be continued.

Historian-Bill Brown noted with relief that he finally has a complete committee, representing all Divisions. He asked that Past MISGA Presidents be appointed to provide guidance to the committee. **Bill** is also concerned as to the role of his committee in archiving MISGA documents.

Membership-Paul Desmond noted that we have been aggressive in signing up new member clubs, almost all of which are located on the Eastern Shore. This emphasizes the need to consider re-organization. **Paul** also asked the Board for assistance in setting the objectives of the Membership Committee. This year's Florida Fling will be at the Admiral Lehigh Resort in East Fort Meyers Florida, but probably for the last time. At this time, 43 of the 65 rooms reserved have been sold.

MISGAGRAM-Dick Hunt announced that Jim Mitchell of Walden will be taking over the job effective with the next issue. **Dick** thanked the Board for helping to provide interesting material for the MISGAGRAM, and asked them to give **Jim** the same excellent support. Deadline date for the February issue is Feb. 1, and Jim's e-mail address is JWM324@comcast.net. **Sam Hall** congratulated **Dick** on his 5 and ½ years of work and improvements to the MISGAGRAM.

Mailing-Nick Parker who will also be leaving his post announced that the mailing system is being revised and streamlined, by using a printing firm and mailing house which work together. This minimizes the production time and should allow us to make fuller use of reduced rate third class mail. **Sam Hall** thanked **Nick** for his many years of work.

Planning and Policy-Bob Nicholson had no report to make, but stated that our General Counsel had reviewed the issue of Probationary Status for newly admitted clubs, and felt that the existing By-Laws do not have to be revised.

Tournaments-Jimmy Lee asked for the number of players who can be accommodated by the clubs hosting State Finals so that he can prepare Divisional allocations. He also needs to know costs and what

is provided at the event (lunch, range balls, etc.) so that he can prepare announcement letters. Next year, The Past President's Tournament will be hosted by Div. I, and the two man team by Div. 3.

Rules and Handicap-C.J. Myers requested the Board's consideration to pay the travel costs of a member of Cambridge, who while not a member of the committee, wished to attend the next USGA Rules Seminar. After some discussion, this was referred to the Division level.

New Business:

Sam Hall opened the discussion by distributing a copy of the MISGA Annual Report, noting that overall revenue was down slightly, and that Divisions I and V do not seem to have generated as much revenue from Qualifiers as the other Divisions. Discussion then turned to next year's Fall Flings, with **Pete Sorge** recommending that he be given flexibility to select the final locations based on negotiations and site visits. After some discussion of which locations would be favored by the Board, **Dick Walsh** amended **Sam Hall's** motion favoring Fripp and Sea Trail to one which calls for **Pete** to be given authority to negotiate the best deals in order of Board priority, starting with Fripp, then Sea Trail, and then Sea Brook. The amended motion was approved.

During the discussion of next fall's flings, **Paul Keiser** asked whether Virginia Beach was being considered. **Sam Hall** responded that the Board had decided to limit the Fall Flings to two locations until the number of attendees forced us to offer another week. Since the attendance has not yet reached this level, and since there are problems in finding a single suitable resort site in Virginia Beach, it was not being considered for 2003.

C.J.Myers had prior to the meeting, circulated a proposed By-Law change which would make the present ad-hoc Rules and Handicap Committee a permanent committee. The proposal consisted of two items, committee composition, and committee responsibilities. Alternative language was offered for item 2. responsibilities. **Arnie Simms**, seconded by **Paul Keiser** moved that the recommendation be approved, using version one of item 2. This opened the discussion of the proposal, and showed a difference of opinion as to whether the committee's responsibilities should be primarily education or enforcement. This discussion continued at length, until a lunch break intervened. After lunch the discussion resumed, and ultimately **Arnie** withdrew his first motion and substituted one which approved the establishment of the committee, but incorporated version two of the responsibility statement which reads: "2. It is the responsibility of this committee to ensure that every member of MISGA is made aware of the USGA Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System and to promote compliance with the handicap system." On a vote of 9 to 1, this motion was approved.

Ken Wallgren moved that the Board approve the purchase of Adobe Page Maker software on behalf of MISGA. This would enable the MISGAGRAM Editor to produce a document which would expedite printing and mailing, leading to cost savings. **Ken** stated that the price would be \$296 and the software would be in the care of the MISGAGRAM Editor. On a vote of 9 to 0 the purchase was approved.

Sam Hall has had complaints that some members are attempting to solicit business at MISGA Events, leading to unhappiness on the part of those who are being solicited. The MISGA General Counsel has reviewed the situation and reports that we do not have to tolerate this. **Sam** asked that the policy be made clear and announced in the MISGAGRAM.

C.J.Myers had two more recommendations from his Rules and Handicap Committee for Board consideration. The first recommendation was creation of Division Handicap Committees. After

discussion of this proposal, the consensus was that it's a good idea, but should be up to each Division whether to create a committee or not. The second recommendation was creation of a handicap monitor at each club. Since many clubs have established handicap committees and many clubs monitor MISGA scores and posting, the Board's decision was to leave it up to individual clubs whether to do this.

Sam Hall circulated a discussion paper regarding handicap allowances in four ball play, and moved that MISGA revise the allowances for Two Man Team Tournament and Qualifiers. **Dan Williams** amended the motion to mandate the change only at the State Final level and recommend it at Divisional Qualifiers. The amended version was approved. The final wording is: "As a condition of play in the MISGA Two Man Team Tournament, the handicaps of partners shall not differ by more than eight strokes. If this condition cannot be avoided, participants understand that their individual handicaps will be reduced by an additional 10 percent (in addition to the existing reduction to 90% for all participants). It is recommended that Division Qualifying Tournaments be conducted under the same conditions.

Election of Officers for 2003:

Ken Wallgren was nominated for and elected to the office of MISGA President. **Don Ewalt** was nominated for and elected to the office of MISGA Vice President.

Future Meetings:

Directors and Assistant Directors only, (no Committee Chairmen) will meet January 14 at Prospect Bay. The next full Board Meeting will be on February 12 at Chartwell

Respectfully Submitted

Bob McMinn, Secretary