

MISGA BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, March 8, 2005
Walden Country Club

Attending:

Board Members: **Div. I**, Paul Keiser, Dick Dale; **Div. II**, Tom Tarpley, Tom Taylor; **Div. III**, Ralph Starkey; **Div. IV**, Earl Gayler, Dick Hunt; **Div. V**, Paul Phillips, Phil Tilghman; **Div. VI**, Bob Nicholson, Lloyd Stimson.

Officers & Committee Chairs: Bill Brown, Dick Crone, Chuck Ebbecke, Charlie Fieldhouse, Byron Keadle, Jim Mitchell, C. J. Myers, Arnold Sims, Peter Sorge, Gary Sorrell, Howard Taylor, Ken Wallgren, Dan Williams.

Opening Remarks: As the windy rain turned to swirling snow, **President Paul Keiser** called the meeting to order early at 9:45 AM thanking our host **Bob Nicholson** for arranging the meeting logistics. Paul welcomed each of the new Board Members, new Officers and Committee Chairs, remarking that everyone at the meeting was a volunteer whose work was important to the good operation of MISGA.

Officer Reports:

Secretary- The reading of the minutes of 12/9/04 at Elks Club as recorded by **Dick Hunt** were waived. Because the minutes of Board Meetings are published on the MISGA website and are available for review before each meeting, the minutes are read usually only if there are any corrections needed or if any Board Member has not been able to access them on the website before the meeting.

Treasurer - Gary Sorrell distributed the proposed 2005 MISGA Budget and the current status as of 3/7/05. The proposed 2005 Budget was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

President - Distributed the 2004 MISGA Annual Report showing 331 golfing events with 29,506 total golfers; they spent a grand total including qualifiers, State Finals, and Pro-Ams of \$952,955: \$397,649 for carts, \$393,165 for food, and \$161,836 for prizes. Improvement in the timing, completeness and the accuracy of the Annual Reports will be stressed later this year.

President - Appointed **Ken Wallgren**, the Chairman of the Plans & Policy Committee, to form an ad hoc Budget Committee for 2006 to consider all the unfunded/under funded programs discussed in the meeting at Elks Club last December.

New Business:

President - Reminded Division Directors and Committee Chairman to keep their remarks brief and to the point at the Reps Annual Meeting at Chester River on April 11, 2005 because there are only two hours allotted for the entire meeting (whereas this meeting turned out to take three hours).

The President also asked all Officers and Committee Chairs to develop a proposed budget for their activity as he plans to do for his office which will include items such as awards regularly given at the Reps Annual meeting.

Division Reports

Div. I Dick Dale reported on the status of the Spring Fling. Advanced registration is running below prior years with only 73 applications received to date. Additional information sheets and applications were given out with a request to remind Club Reps of the event; applications are due by Saturday, April 2nd.

Dick also mentioned a discount card being issued for a \$50 one time fee to allow the holder to play at many clubs in his area at no cost except for carts. After some discussion, it seemed this is not unusual in other MISGA areas but because few private clubs participate and because of many other restrictions on the cards use, there seemed to be little threat to MISGA.

Div. II Tom Tarpley reported that the Club Histories in the Division were finally done; there has been interest expressed by some clubs to join MISGA but he's skeptical they can meet MISGA requirements; finally, Piney Branch is renovating their clubhouse so Mixer lunches this season may not be up to past expectations.

The Division II Training Seminar will be at Hunt Valley later this month; and he has started a process to determine a new name for the Fall Bash.

Div. III Ralph Starkey reported that all preparations were completed for the Annual Reps Meeting at Chester River for Monday, April 11, 2005.

Div. IV Earl Gayler reported that the Division's Training Seminar was well attended in January; and that confirmation letters for the 2005 Mixer schedule had been sent out.

Div. V Paul Philips reported he is new to the Reps job this year and Phil Tilghman is the new Assistant Rep; they are focusing on new membership this year. The seasons Mixer schedule is complete and each Club has a Handicap Committee.

Div. VI Bob Nicholson reported his Division has a full slate of Officers, including Asst. Director, Handicap Chair, Associates Chair, Webmaster, and Treasurer. The Division's Training Seminar will be held next week.

Committee Reports

Associates: Charlie Fieldhouse reported by email earlier on the status of membership: in summary, he reported at end of year, 4,186 members in 58 clubs, a decline of almost 6% from last year. This report on associates segued into a lengthy discussion of whether the 1996-2005 MISGA History should be printed in hard copy, on CD's, or only on the MISGA website. After much discussion on the costs and benefits of various options, the Board voted against publishing the next ten year edition of the history in hardcopy. Historian, Bill Brown offered to provide the next history in hard copy at cost to any associate who may request it. Charlie also announced the final meeting of the Past Presidents History Committee on March 24th at Walden to advise the Board on the final disposition of 30th year history.

Audit: Howard Taylor noted several instances of faulty documentation for expenses particularly for Division Expenses, a need to standardize accounts to facilitate annual comparisons, and closer coordination between the Associates Chairman and the Treasurer. Most important his findings pointed to the need to give much greater attention to accounts at major state tournaments and trips. Bottom line for event chairs: follow the MISGA manual.

History: Bill Brown reported by email earlier with a complete description on the status of the next 10 Year History of MISGA, detailing specifically what needed to be done to complete the project. Missing Club Histories continue to be a problem.. Bill again offered to print out copies of the new history on request.

Membership: Arnie Simms found a club inviting non-MISGA clubs & members to play in MISGA Mixers. A resolution may fix this at the next Annual Reps Meeting with a proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws (see Agenda for 4/11 Annual Reps Meeting already sent out).

MISGAGRAM: **Jim Mitchell** said we will have three issues this year. The deadline for information for the next June issue is May 15th. In a plea for information, Jim stressed he is the Editor of the 'GRAM while Board Members and Reps are the Reporters. The President reinforced his request by requesting that three Division Directors prepare a column for the MISGAGRAM on the following schedule: May 15: Div. I, III & V; Sept 15: Div. II, IV, & VI. The President also referred to the P&P Committee his proposal to have four 'Grams a year in January, April, July and October with deadlines on the 15th of the preceding month to incorporate the results of events and announce upcoming events. There was further discussion about the most cost effective way to mail the 'Gram which will be resolved after the meeting and reported at the next meeting in June.

Policy & Planning: **Ken Wallgren's** motion to reconcile Bylaws and Guidelines to specify 128 golfers in events was passed unanimously; his motion on the selection of a Vice President as modified in A (2) was approved to include, "In the event a Division has two candidates eligible for the office of Vice President, the Division is responsible for selecting which person shall be elected to this office." A final item, establishing an Events Committee and Assigning Events to specific divisions in Bylaw Section VI. I was approved as:

- Div. I Spring Fling
- Div. II Fall Bash
- Div. III Annual Reps Meeting
- Div. IV A Fall Frolic
- Div. V Winter Fling
- Div. VI A Fall Frolic

Rules & Handicap: **Dick Crone & Jim Brittingham** also submitted a report on the increasing number of clubs which have established a handicap committee as a result of the committee's efforts over this past year.

MISGA Constitution & Bylaws require conformance to USGA Rules. Therefore, in the future, Clubs without an active Handicap Committee may be excluded from MISGA events and may be barred from all MISGA Tournaments. Coincidentally with these MISGA efforts, the USGA has directed State Golf Associations to enforce its requirements by January, 2006 in order to receive USGA approved handicaps (required for all MISGA play).

Tournaments: **C. J. Myers** reported that MISGA has established coordination with Middle Atlantic Section, PGA of America (MAS/PGA) on our Pro-Ams this fall. The \$350 PGA fee will be included in the participant's fees. (9/26/05 Pro Am at Prospect Bay and a possible Pro-Am in Div I in July or August do not expect to meet the criteria of MAS/PGA.) C.J. discussed his survey of low handicap MISGA players (250-300 of 4,500) to determine how to encourage them to play in events by awarding low gross and/or flighted prizes. He requested each Division Director to provide him with the date and place of the two qualifiers to be held in their Divisions. He also needs the cost of the finals at Holly Hills and Greenhills to alert all the Division Tournament Chairmen. A motion to enforce the 8 stroke differential in the qualifiers was approved unanimously.

Webmaster: **Byron Keadle** reported the transition into the job was smooth, the Leadership Roster on the website will be handed out in hard copy at the Annual Meeting, and he welcomes suggestions, comments and corrections all. Please let him know of changes to the Leadership Roster ASAP.

Past Presidents (History): **Charlie Fieldhouse** announced the history was in final stages and the last meeting of the ad hoc committee will be on March 14th.

Mixers: **Dan Williams** chairs a new ad hoc committee established to increase participation in Mixers and making them more enjoyable. He is sorting through all the issues of slow play, handicaps, formats, etc. He plans to provide early on a list of two and four man games and their variations.

Events: Peter Sorge is still considering Sea Trail, Litchfield, Seabrook and Amelia Island for the fall trips. He thanked his committee for their help in updating the guidelines for events and supporting raising them to the status of policy. After reviewing each of the updates and changes, the Board approved the changes and their designation as Policy. The final approved policy is now available on the website.

Adjournment: Paul Keiser reminded the Division Directors that Division I, III and V are to submit items for the 'Gram by May 15th, and Divisions II, IV and VI by September 15th. He also stressed that the Annual Reps meeting at Chester River is only two hours long and that all Directors and Committee Chairmen are to keep their remarks brief and to the point. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Ebbecke

March 24, 2005