

MISGA BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, August 25, 2005

Elk's Club, Salisbury Md.

ATTENDING

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

Officers & Committee Chairmen: **Secretary**, Chuck Ebbecke; **Treasurer**, Gary Sorrell; **Associates (& ad hoc History Committee of Past Presidents)**, Charlie Fieldhouse; **Audit**, Howard Taylor; **Events**, Pete Sorge; **Historian**, Bill Brown; **Membership**, Arnie Simms; **MISGAgram**, Jim Mitchell; **Mixers**, Dan Williams; **Policy & Planning**, Ken Wallgren; **Rules & Handicaps**, Jim Brittingham; **Tournaments**, Dick Hunt for C. J. Myers; **Webmaster**, Byron Keadle.

Host: Don Ewalt, Past President, Past Director Division V.

Guests: John Kennedy, Rep at Sussex Pines and newly elected 2006 Asst. Division Director for Division I; and Doran Christensen, Associates Chairman for Div. V

OPENING REMARKS

Paul Keiser introduced Past President and host, Don Ewalt, who welcomed all and announced lunch and golf arrangements. After Paul asked all participants to introduce themselves, he announced **the next Board Meetings will be on October 18, 2005 at Manor Country Club in Division IV and on December 9, 2005 at Maple Dale in Division I**, thus completing one Board Meeting in each of MISGA's six divisions for the year. Paul also announced the appointment of a new Board Officer, Jim Ewalt from Tantallon in Division VI as the new MISGA General Counsel.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary, Chuck Ebbecke confirmed the email addresses of all Board participants. He offered to mail hard copy items by US Postal Service to any who wanted them but no one did. He reminded everyone to please review the minutes of the previous meetings on the MISGA website before Board meetings to save the reading of the minutes at Board Meetings. The reading of the Minutes of Holly Hills on June 7th were waived and approved as published on the MISGA website.

Treasurer, Gary Sorrell handed out a financial report comparing year to date actuals against the budget plan, highlighting variances particularly in dues, travel and awards. With the exception of three clubs in Division III whose dues were still outstanding, his report contained no surprises in light of recent Board actions on travel reimbursements and awards.

President, Paul Keiser thanked Green Hill and Phil Tilghman for hosting the very hot, but successful ABCD Tournament.

OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for Admission of New Clubs: To allow for his early departure on personal business, Arnie Simms went first to present clarified guidelines on the procedures for admitting new clubs into MISGA. These are not strict criteria or standards for admission but guidelines to be considered by the Division Directors in proposing a club to the Board for admission. Significant deviation from the guidelines should be brought to the Board's attention along with the reasons for the deviation. After a very lengthy discussion, the guidelines were approved without dissent with the added notation that MISGA actively seeks and welcomes new clubs to apply for membership. [A digital version of the new three page Guidelines is to be sent to the Webmaster for recording and posting on the MISGA website.]

Cost of Printing of MISGA History 1996-2005: Charlie Fieldhouse, as Chair of the PP Committee, reported on the costs of printing the third ten year update of the MISGA history under various formats. The Board approved without dissent a full color printing for each Associate to be distributed through the Club Reps with the provision that additional bids be sought with the assist of Gary Sorrell, the MISGA Treasurer.

Use of Forward Tees: Tom Tarpley introduced the issue of using forward tees for an aging population, many of whom have difficulty in dealing with forced carries or exceptionally difficult holes.

After much discussion the general consensus was that it depends on the golf course being played and the Club Rep should have the freedom to decide what to do to keep these elders in MISGA. The problem of using forward tees for only some players is that it may allow them up to a 500 yard differential from the regular tees but require only giving up one handicap stroke!

Options include: everyone moving forward only on the more notorious holes; or perhaps the Rep could flight the field from the regular tees; or maybe play A/B from regular and C/D from forward tees. These are only some options; we need to try them all and listen to our members especially those who have been voting with their feet by not showing up.

So the wise judgment of the local Rep is critical in considering how to keep our older and aging players who love golf but simply can't begin to compete with the distance of a 10 to 15 year younger gorilla. The Board's Consensus at this time was to experiment at your club while Dan Williams (Mixer Chairman) writes an item for the MISGAgram on various options for Club Reps to try.

NEW BUSINESS

Admission of Hog Neck: Acting quickly on the previously approved guidelines for admission of new clubs, Fenton Martin clicked off how Hogs Neck and Division III had met each requirement of the guidelines and made a motion to accept Hog's Neck into MISGA. After a brief discussion, the Board unanimously approved the admission of Hog's Neck into MISGA.

Amended Bylaws: A motion by the Rules & Handicap Committee and the Policy & Planning Committee to clarify MISGA's compliance with the USGA handicap system was quickly and

unanimously approved. It requires all players in any MISGA event to have a valid USGA handicap index maintained and computed at their home club. MISGA Associates who fail to maintain a valid USGA handicap at an approved USGA course may not be allowed to play in a MISGA sponsored event. The Bylaws in Sec. C Admin the Code, #1 now reads:

MISGA and its Associates shall comply with the USGA Rules of Golf, the USGA Handicap System as well as local rules of the host club, and any rules of the Tournament Committee. MISGA Associates must have an established, valid USGA handicap index maintained and computed at their home club.

DIVISION REPORTS

Div. I: Dick Dale reported that attendance for the 2005 Spring Fling was down slightly. Both banquet and room prices at the Clarion have become non-competitive, so we will not have a banquet in 2006 and we'll find better places for accommodations for next year.

Div. II: Tom Tarpley thanked all for the kudos on the Two Man Tournament at Holly Hills. He announced that **the annual Board Bash, now known as the MISGA Reps Invitational** currently has attendance of about 81. If, in the future, we cannot increase attendance by at least 20 or more, we may have to propose canceling this Division II sponsored event.

Div. III: Fenton Martin thanked the Board for approving Hog's Neck admission into MISGA, and reminded all of Division III's Pro-Am at Caroline CC on September 26, 2005. As MISGA's newest Division, the kinks of late Club dues and participation in ABCD/Two Man Tournaments will surely be worked out over time.

Div. IV: Earl Gayler had no report to much applause.

Div. V: Paul Phillips confirmed the ABCD Tournament went well at Green Hill, a flat Eastern Shore course where he plays far better than on the Western Shore of the Bay where the Two Man Team Tournament was held on the hilly, aptly named course of Holly Hills.

Div. VI: Bob Nicholson reported that interest in his Division's Pro-Am was poor and the event may have to be cancelled. An email will be sent shortly if the Division VI Pro-Am will be cancelled. Bob suggested that rather than having Division Pro-Ams we should consider Regional Pro-Ams.

Among many factors critical in scheduling a Pro-Am are: timing, when the Pros have open dates, usually in the fall; golf course venue, on how attractive a course is to both Pros and Ams; cost to the Ams in return for value, including the appearance fee for Pros, if any, and the resulting fee to their association. Each Division should understand that scheduling a Pro-Am is a complex task requiring early notification of the Pro's regional association through the MISGA Tournament Chairman.

However, Pro-Ams continue to be invitationals, and each Division hosting a Pro-Am continues to determine the terms of the event they decide to host.

[The next meeting will include an item under New Business on qualifiers, practice rounds, and combining Division Pro-Am Tournaments for the Tournament Chairman to lead.]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Associates: Charlie Fieldhouse listed clubs and club associate rosters which are very late in their payment of dues. He asked for consideration of bylaw changes to impose penalties to correct the problems; he also brought up problems with Division Associates Chairmen who do not distribute useable copies of his reports within their Division. The following discussion quickly deteriorated into a contest of who knew more about computers. The President directed him to meet with the Policy & Panning Committee and to propose appropriate remedies for all these problems at the next meeting.

Audit: Howard Taylor reported he was reviewing the accounts of recent fall & spring events.

History: Bill Brown said our major update of MISGA History 1996-2005 was in need of minor inputs from Clubs and Divisions to account for Reps and tournament changes this summer. The **due date for history update, approved by Division Directors, is December 1st** to meet the publication targets mentioned above.

Mixers: Dan Williams mentioned how the hot weather has resulted in the cancellation of many events and damage to many golf courses.

MISGAgram: Jim Mitchell said the September 'gram is at the printer right now, and the next 'gram will be out by January 1st, so submissions are due by December 15th with special input from the Eastern Shore Clubs, particularly the call for the Spring Fling. Jim is only the EDITOR and all of us must be the REPORTERS. Without reporters there will be no MISGAgram! Get it? Division Directors, Officers and Chairmen should mark their calendars for:

Due Dates for Submissions to the MISGAgram:

Dec. 15, 2005 Western Divisions special input

Mar. 15, 2006 Eastern Shore Divisions special input

Jul. 15, 2006 Western Divisions special input

Oct. 15, 2006 Eastern Division Shore special input

Dec. 15, 2006 Western Division special input

Events: Peter Sorge reported that registrations for the Fall Frolics were going well with some openings still available at Seabrook Island, SC and Amelia Island, FL. After some discussion, his question on the policy of admitting male guests who were not members of MISGA went unanswered, leaving him the prerogative as Tournament Director to use his own judgment. His request for volunteer help produced one staunch volunteer who will assist at next year's Fall Frolics at Sea Trail and either Fripp or Amelia Island.

Tournaments: Dick Hunt filled in for C. J. Myers and noted that both State Finals were successful and noted in MISGAgram articles. Trophies and silver bowls were being engraved and will be handed out at Carroll Valley in September to Paul Keiser, Tom Tarpley, Fenton Martin, and Earl Gayler for presentation to the winners. Again this year, one of the winners should be nominated to the Guinness Book of World Records for shooting a net 61 with a handicap of 21! This gentleman should be told that his performance was simply incredible!

2006 State Finals

- **Two-Man Team** **Manor - Div. IV Thursday, August 17, 2006**
 Rain date, Aug. 24th
- **Past Presidents** **Harbourtowne -- Div. III Monday, August 21, 2006**
 Rain date, to be determined

Please advise Club Reps of these dates in scheduling local and Divisional qualifying dates.

Web Master: Byron Keadle asked to please advise him of any updates to the MISGA website. The Web Site is only as current as we make it. Any changes in names or addresses for your Club Reps and Assistant Reps should be reported as soon as you know them. Byron's email is b.keadle@att.net.

Byron also handed out a CD with much of what is now on the web site to assist the Division Directors in the final update of the MISGA history. This CD should save many from waiting through a long download from the website. A click on the CD's MISGA logo may open up a titillating option for printing at home.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Ebbecke
MISGA Secretary
September 3, 2005