

MISGA BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members 11 of 12 Board members were in attendance; they were:
Division I, Dick Dale & John Kennedy; **Division II**, Tom Tarpley & Tom Taylor;
Division III, Ralph Starkey; **Division IV**, Earl Gayler & Dick Hunt; **Division V**, Paul Phillips & Phil Tilghman; **Division VI**, Bob Nicholson & Lloyd 'Stim' Stimson.

Officers & Committee Chairmen:

President, Tom Tarpley; **Secretary**, Chuck Ebbecke; **Treasurer**, Gary Sorrell; **Counsel**, Jim Ewalt;

Committee Chairs: Associates, Charlie Fieldhouse; **Audit**, Howard Taylor; **Events**, Peter Sorge; **Historian**, Bill Brown; **Membership**, Arnold Simms; **MISGAgram**, Jim Mitchell; **Plans & Policy**, Ken Wallgren; **Rules & Handicaps**, Dick Crone;

Tournaments, C. J. Myers; **Web Master**, Byron Keadle.

Past Presidents, Don Ewalt

OPENING REMARKS:

Tom Tarpley opened the meeting at 5:40 PM and asked folk to introduce themselves. He then made a special point of thanking, amid much vigorous applause, Byron Keadle and Charlie Fieldhouse for their successful use of the MISGA website in keeping us informed of all the vital and current information about MISGA.

Tom also congratulated Don Ewalt, a Past MISGA President, for finally winning an election in his hometown district of Salisbury, Maryland to more applause.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Secretary: Chuck Ebbecke's reading of the minutes of March 2, 2006 at Prospect Bay was waived. [The draft minutes are published on the MISGA website and a notice of their publication is sent to all Board participants months before each meeting. Because no changes were requested to the draft, the final version was published on the MISGA Website about three weeks before the meeting. Hence reading the minutes was waived.]

Treasurer: Gary Sorrell handed out a report on the status of 2006 expenditures to date indicating minor variances from the approved 2006 Budget. He noted a few Clubs have not yet paid their dues and a final report for the Spring Fling is needed to file IRS Form 990. Reports of all major MISGA events are now due within 120 days of the event. After significant work over the past year in sweeping up several years of delinquent IRS reports, MISGA is now in compliance with IRS requirements. Detailed procedures will be documented for future MISGA Treasurers to follow. Let it be noted for the record that

Howard Taylor (Audit) and Gary Sorrel (Treasurer) discovered this lapse and corrected it without any external prodding, especially from the IRS.

Gary will prepare a draft 2007 Budget proposal for the December Board Meeting and requests that all Chairmen submit their requirements by November 15th. The issue of reimbursement for mileage was raised by Dick Dale but after a brief discussion it was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting if Dick Dale requests it. (See below under New Business.)

Counsel: Jim Ewalt reported that we have not been sued by anybody and we have no lawsuits pending against anybody either, amid more laughter & applause.

OLD BUSINESS:

AED's: Tom Tarpley wrapped up his year long efforts on placing AED's at every MISGA Club saying it is now up to the Board to decide.

Each Division knows which Club has one, which would like to have one, and which would not.

Liability is not a show stopper, it's only smoke for the willfully ignorant to hide behind. MISGA has a two year negotiated contract to purchase an AED (around \$1,500) and providing training in their use (around \$500) from Medtronic's supplied AEDs.

On a motion, unanimously approved, the results of the survey of clubs will be made available to the Board at the next meeting. Then the Board will be asked to decide what the next step should be on this issue, including any cost sharing options with MISGA.

Tom asked Division Directors to review and update their clubs status for the next meeting.

Practice Rounds: A lengthy discussion of providing practice rounds at sites for State wide tournaments (ABCD & Two Man) resulted in reiterating the same policy of several previous Board Meetings. It is not feasible to provide practice rounds particularly at many clubs where only guests are allowed with a playing member (with a \$50 or more green fee). Even then guests may play only well outside a time when the clubs' own members have extensive priority tee times. MISGA tournament participants may ask the host MISGA Rep at the tournament site if they may be permitted to join in a previously scheduled MISGA mixer before the MISGA Tournament if they wish to play a practice round.

NEW BUSINESS:

Retain Mileage Reimbursements: Dick Dale mentioned that he felt mileage reimbursements for Division I meetings were excessive and exceeded his Division's periodic MISGA allotment. After a lengthy discussion about how the mileage rate is set by the IRS, he was informed that most MISGA Divisions do not reimburse for Division meetings and as a Division Director it is his call to decide the policy.

Mixer Prize Distribution: Dick Dale pointed out that MISGA's policy of distributing prizes to one third of the field had not been properly documented the handbook (i.e. Guidelines) in spite of the minutes of May 2002 and a letter of 7/5/2002 from the Division I Director. *The May 2002 Board decision will be added immediately to the record of Board Decisions; adding it to the MISGA Guidelines along with a prize allocation table as proposed by Plans & Policy will be discussed at the December meeting.*

Master Mixer Schedule: Dick Dale requested that a master MISGA-wide mixer schedule for each club in each division be compiled so associates might play whenever they see an open date. After some discussion, it was agreed that clubs which choose to welcome any and all MISGA associates to their mixers could publish their schedules in an entirely opt-in/out program. Many MISGA clubs however have rules and schedules that prevent them from doing this.

Associates Issues: Charlie Fieldhouse reported on:

- The *Archives Committee* proposing all current and former Officers review their records and forward significant and memorable items to the Historian, particularly any hard copies of legal or government documents. *The procedures and requirements for storage are contained in an unsigned memo dated August 1, 2006, Archiving Data, addressed to Board participants and transmitted by email from Charlie Fieldhouse; they are attached to these minutes for reference.* There was no objection to this proposal.
- The *Leadership Roster* - noting that the Leadership roster is out of date the moment it is printed, Charlie proposed the Leadership Roster no longer be printed for the spring Annual Meeting. He was supported in this proposal by Webmaster, Byron Keadle and Plans & Policy Chair, Ken Wallgren. Ken noted he would raise a similar proposal for the MISGA Handbook later in the meeting. The primary point of publication of the roster will be transferred to the MISGA website. *The Webmaster will request updates from Division Directors prior to the Annual Meeting and Division Directors are responsible for ensuring his Division Club Reps have access to the latest Leadership Roster in preparing their mixer schedules.* There was no objection to this proposal.
- The *Associates Chairman Reports (13.1 & 10.1)* were discussed and by general consensus, Charlie was encouraged to continue to produce them.

Membership: Arnie Simms reported that Rattlewood in Division II had applied for MISGA membership and after the proscribed reviews and meeting all the requirements, he recommended acceptance into MISGA. [Since many of the Rattlewood members came from Westwinds, the issue of Westwinds continued membership in MISGA was left to another time.] *The Board voted to accept Rattlewood into MISGA.*

Tournaments: C. J. Myers presented the case for two men who at the last minute were not able to attend their State-wide Tournaments. Because of the financial structure used in these tournaments, their entry fees could not be returned by the individual tournament directors; that is, it had already been allocated to prize money, cart fees and dinners. C. J.

as MISGA Tournament Chairman recommended that these two men be reimbursed from the general MISGA treasury.

After a long discussion, it became clear that precise criteria for such refunds were too difficult to define in light of the notice that no refunds are available after a certain date. The Board was sympathetic in these two cases but reluctant to open its purse to all sorts of future claims.

Because refunds are always within the discretion of the Division Director's available Misga funds, *the Board voted 9 to 2 that refunds for failure to play in State Tournaments may not come from the general MISGA Treasury.*

DIVISION DIRECTORS

Division I: Dick Dale had about the same number of players as last year for the Spring Fling. Next year we may have to find new courses because one of the usual courses will be closed. The ABCD/Qualifier was cancelled for lack of interest. Membership is also down, perhaps because of cost and other options for low cost play in the area.

Division II: Tom Taylor reported their ABCD/Qualifier was not well attended either, perhaps because few know what ABCD means; also some do not like playing their own ball thru the entire round. The Div. II fall meeting is on 10/26 at Hunt Valley. The Summer Frolic has much better attendance with even more changes for next year. Next year dates are 9/12-13. After some discussion, it was agreed Board members will be notified earlier and a general invitation will be sent out in the MISGAGram.

Division III: Ralph Starkey said they had the same problem with the ABCD/Q and the 2 Man Team Qualifying events and they just may take sign-ups next year. We also have a declining membership but cutting out lunches does not seem to be a solution. Next year's Annual Meeting will not be at Chester River but at Prospect Bay (the 2nd Monday in April). The September Board Meeting will probably be at Carroll Valley next year but with the Tee Times starting around 10 AM and the Board Meeting around 3 PM or so.

Division IV: Earl Gayler reported that things have gone well. In response to a question, he said attendance was down a bit but by doubling up two visitors to a single host mixer we have filled the field and provided many associates with the chance to play, so overall participation is close to last years.

Division V: Paul Tilghman also reported membership was down in his Division and that scheduling has begun for next year.

Division VI: Bob Nicholson noted that turnouts for the qualifiers ABCD & Two Man tournaments were excellent because they were held at the more desirable clubs. The Division's Pro-Am this year is jointly sponsored by Div.VI & Div. II and there is now a waiting list. This is another hint to double up to fill the field. Bay Hills may have to drop out because of declining membership and Marlborough is also on the edge such that the Division Director may have to bring their termination before the Board at a later date. The reason for raising this issue at this time is to warn you and your Club Reps in scheduling mixers with them for next year.

President's Comment on Pro-Am Schedules: Please, when scheduling Pro-Am's in the future, announce a rain date and any refund policy if the rain date becomes necessary .

Committee Reports:

Associates: Charlie Fieldhouse said his report on Membership had been sent to the President; the President agreed to subsequently send it on to all Board Participants.

Audit: Howard Taylor reported on there were no new audits since the last meeting and because of mailing problems the Spring Audit is still open. Dick Dale did note that the surplus was sent to the Treasurer which was the principal finding of last year's audit.

Events: Peter Sorge announced he has a coordinator for Fripp Island and more than 80 have signed up for that event. Amelia Island is sold out with a waiting list. Prize money for these events is very good for these events due, in part, to a very successful raffle for certificates at Amelia Island. There will be four courses at Amelia with a chance for a fifth round if you arrive to play on Sunday.

Historian: Bill Brown clarified the request by the archives committee: please look through your records and the committee anything you believe might be of interest to the Historian. Rather than have the committee comb through boxes and bags of records, individuals are asked to perform the first sift of material. Arnie Simms seemed to have the only supply of hand-me-down records from previous officers and he will review what he has.

Membership: Arnie Simms had nothing new now that the revised guidelines for club membership have been published on the MISGA website. He noted the several year decline in membership has brought several clubs below the required membership level. Arnie will present some thoughts of the causes and possible fixes to this problem at the next meeting.

MISGAgrams: Jim Mitchell announced the deadline for the next issue of the MISGAgram is September 15 and Divisions II, IV, and VI are responsible for submitting items & photos. It will be published on October 1st. The cutoff for the December issue will be November 15th and Divisions I, III and V will be responsible for content.

Plans & Policy: Much like the problem of keeping the Leadership Roster current, Ken Wallgren raised the issue of keeping the MISGA Handbook up to date. Insert pages of updates are usually handed out at the Annual Meeting in April and when those pages accumulate a new edition on the Handbook is usually reprinted. But even then the Handbook is almost always out of date as subsequent Board decisions are made throughout the year. Ken will present a proposal to make the website's version of the Handbook the current controlling version and perhaps not print hardcopy at all.

Rules & Handicaps: Dick Crone reminded us that his committee had distributed the USGA Handicap Manual to each Officer and MISGA Rep at the Annual Meeting at Chester River. That Manual explains a simple procedure for rating a course from an unrated set of tees. It should be useful in Senior play when other than regular, rated tees are used.

Dick then reported that he and Co-Chair Jim Brittingham offered form letters to Division Handicap Chairmen and Informal Handicap Club Contacts which could be sent to those who regularly do not post scores.

Jim has monitored posting behavior in Divisions I, III and V and in the MISGA State Tournaments; he discovered a good number of participants had no posted their scores, particularly those playing in the MISGA Tournaments.

Now that education and monitoring has gone on for several years, the Board must face next year the issues of: 1) setting up Club Handicap Chairmen and 2) of imposing sanctions for those who clearly abuse posting rules.

Tournaments: C.J. Myers reported that both State Finals were successfully held this year. For next year, please note the following and schedule qualifying rounds to fit:

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| <u>Two Man Team</u> | Shawnee - Div. I | Tuesday, August 7, 2007 (Rain date 8/14) |
| <u>Past Presidents</u> | Tantallon - Div. VI | Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007 (Rain 8/29) |

Two Man Teams must be members of the same MISGA club and 1st two places will receive trophies, instead of Pro Shop credits. [The requirement of same club membership will be discussed at the next meeting.]

Past Presidents players will receive 100% of handicap and low net & gross winners will receive trophies instead of Pro Shop credit.

Division II will host the Two Man Team State Tournaments in 2008; and Division V will host the ABCD Tournament. Please be prepared to name the host clubs at the next Board meeting at Holly Hills this December 2006.

Web Master: Byron Keadle works hard to update the Leadership Roster on the website. He requested updates be sent to both Charlie Fieldhouse, Associates Chair, and to him (as Web Master) and that all updates include the email address for all Leadership changes.

Closing: With some of our spouses sending dark signals about the lateness of the dinner hour, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Ebbecke, MISGA Secretary

September 23, 2006