

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Paul Desmond

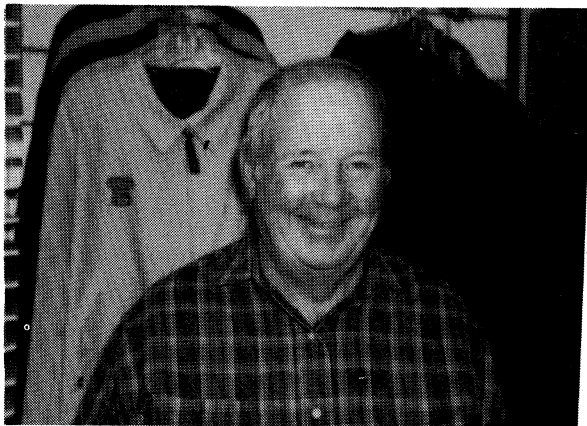
It is an honor to have been chosen as leader of this great organization. I would like to congratulate my predecessor, George Shenk, for his accomplishments in leading MISGA in 1998.

Our organization consists of more than 4600 members from 50+ golf clubs in MD, DE, PA, and VA. We have become quite a force on the local golf scene.

Our efforts in 1999 will be aimed at increasing participation in our mixers as well as in the Fall Frolics. I believe we need to make the ad hoc committee, dealing with participation, a permanent one.

Special thanks to George Shenk for his counseling and to the board who conducted the business of MISGA so effectively during the course of the year.

I look forward to joining with the Reps. at our annual meeting April 5th at Chester River.



Paul Desmond, Our New President.

What other people may find in poetry, I find in the flight of a good drive. Arnold Palmer.

Never break your putter and your driver in the same round - or you're dead. Tommy Bolt

MISGA'S Newest Club

Garrison Lake Golf Club is delighted to be accepted as a member of MISGA. We are located 3 miles south of Smyrna, Delaware on US 13 and only 1 hour from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Our front nine opened in 1963 and our back nine in 1996. Our course was designed by Edmund Ault and built on the farm of Charlie Ewing. We have hosted 4 Delaware Opens, 5 Delaware Amateurs and were voted the No. 2 public course in Delaware.

We have four sets of tees. Although we can be a challenging course from our blue tees (7028 yds, 125/73.1), we can be an enjoyable one from the gold tees (5982 yds, 116/68.0). The regular or white tees (6595 yds, 123/71.2) and ladies or red tees (5460 yds, 126/71.6) complete our foursome. All of our fairways are tree-lined, many are undulating; our greens are a good size (some are flat, some not) and water comes into play on 4 holes on our back nine. (see photo)

We look forward to having you play us. Our toll free number is 1-877-546-5745, our fax number is 1-302-653-5625. Our web site is www.garrisonlake.com.

Dick McCarty



Garrison Lake Golf Club

Recording Tournament Scores

Ms. Saponaro of the USGA was contacted regarding whether or not MISGA mixer scores would be posted as tournament scores. She noted that there are five conditions which must be met before the USGA considers a competition to be a tournament event.

- A competition must be organized and conducted by a committee in charge of the competition.
- The competition must identify a winner.
- Scores must be based on a stipulated round.
- Events must be played under the Rules of Golf. The fact that most mixers are played using "preferred lies" does not diminish this condition.
- Scores from events which are not significant in the traditions, schedule, formats or membership of the organization should not be counted as tournament scores. Routine events are not counted as tournament scores; significant events are. Ms Saponaro said this clarification was added to the definition of tournament scores this year because "organizations all over the country were counting every event as a tournament." She suggested that MISGA mixers are routine events because they are what we do on a regular basis throughout the golf season. She noted that if every club were to count every mixer as a significant event, the number of tournaments held each year in MISGA would number in the several hundreds. Moreover, players who participate primarily in mixers would have a majority of tournament scores in their scoring record. Ms Saponaro said this is not what the USGA had in mind when it established procedures for tracking exceptional tournament play. Tournament status, she said, is to be reserved for those traditional events which occur annually, not weekly or daily.

Ms. Saponaro believes that, while MISGA mixers do meet the first four conditions, they do not meet the "significance test" recommended by the USGA to be considered tournament events. Her opinion is that mixer scores should not be posted as tournament scores.

The MISGA Board of Directors endorsed this opinion and MISGA policy is changed so that tournament scores are posted only for traditional events such as: MISGA Past Presidents Tournament; MISGA Two-Man Team Tournament; and the division qualifiers for these tournaments. Mixers are now considered routine events and scores achieved in them are not to be posted as tournament scores.

Sam Hall

Letter to the Editor

I was interested in the article in the fall issue of the MISGAGRAM concerning complaints of some members that the same people keep winning the better-ball tournaments. The article compared the results of a few recent tournaments and concluded that the competitions were equitable. This analysis was based on very limited data. The USGA has analyzed thousands of tournaments and has statistically proven that handicaps should be adjusted to 90% of normal for a better-ball partners tournament. I have never played in a regional tournament but my guess is that this 90% guideline is not being followed. If so, the people that are commenting about unfair competition have a legitimate complaint. The USGA data indicates that a team with two 20 handicappers has TWICE as much chance to win as a team with two five handicappers if 100% handicaps are used instead of 90%.

The MISGA guidelines do not follow USGA guidelines for routine weekly ABCD events. The USGA says that the handicaps should be 90% for best two balls of four events. I have not found that to be offensive since all the teams, including mine, have equal opportunity. However; as a 15 handicaper I do not feel that I contribute a whole lot. I just hope I am placed on a team with two solid high handicappers. Last year I had a career round at Prospect Bay shooting a 77. Our team finished out of the money. Earlier in the year I shot a 92 at Sussex Pines and our team finished second! In MISGA ABCD events, the low handicappers are just along for the ride.

Richard Dale

Seaford Golf Club

Shooting Your Handicap?

The odds are that you have played in a tournament where you have shot one of your best scores in a long time, yet still didn't win one of the prizes because someone else played a better round. Most of us have experienced this situation and if you're like a lot of us, you probably complained about the "sandbaggers" that beat you.

Yes, there are players who do manipulate their handicaps, but the vast majority of amateur golfers have accurate handicaps. So, what are the odds that an exceptional round is just that and not a common occurrence? The chart below gives the odds of shooting at or below your handicap.

The net differential (Nt Dif) is the amount of strokes that the player shoots below the USGA Course Rating. For example: A player who has a course handicap of 13 shoots a score of 75 on a golf course with a USGA Rating of 70.0. His net score of 62 gives him a net differential of -8. (Determined by subtracting course handicap of 13 from his score of 75 to arrive at a net score of 62 and then subtracting that net score of 62 from the USGA Course Rating of 70.0.)

The odds that this 13 handicapper will shoot a score this low is 1,670-1. 1,000-1 generally represents a life time of golf.

Notice that the higher handicapped golfer has a much greater chance of shooting an extremely low net score, but his chance of shooting a high net score is also much greater.

The USGA Handicap System is based on the following:

- Your handicap is computed from your best ten differentials in your last 20 scores.
- The average golfer will average three strokes higher than his handicap.
- The average player is expected to play to his handicap or below only about 25% of the time.

Listed below are some ideas that all clubs may use to help insure that handicaps are accurate and fairly earned;

- Make sure that the handicap committee at the club is active.
- Make sure that the handicaps used in tournaments are current and up to date.
- Play USGA Summer Rules whenever possible.
- Tournament committees should insure that all acceptable scores are posted.

These are only some of the steps that can be taken to insure that handicaps are fairly earned and accurate. It is up to all of us to maintain the USGA Handicap system.

Odds of Shooting At Or Below Your Handicap

| Nt Dif | COURSE HANDICAPS | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | 0-5 | 6-12 | 13-21 | 22-30 | >31 |
| 0 | 10:1 | 11:1 | 12:1 | 13:1 | 15:1 |
| -1 | 19:1 | 20:1 | 20:1 | 21:1 | 21:1 |
| -2 | 38:1 | 39:1 | 40:1 | 30:1 | 29:1 |
| -3 | 92:1 | 88:1 | 86:1 | 52:1 | 42:1 |
| -4 | 250:1 | 215:1 | 176:1 | 91:1 | 61:1 |
| -5 | 730:1 | 570:1 | 375:1 | 160:1 | 85:1 |
| -6 | 1190:1 | 970:1 | 780:1 | 300:1 | 145:1 |
| -7 | 2660:1 | 1640:1 | 1070:1 | 570:1 | 225:1 |
| -8 | 34500:1 | 5320:1 | 1670:1 | 850:1 | 380:1 |

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A husband should never try to teach his wife to play golf or drive a car. A wife should never try to teach her husband to play bridge. - Harvey Penick

Mixer Revenue and Participation

Revenue

Total revenue generated by MISGA mixer events breaks down as follows :

Carts \$414,505

Food \$361,964

Prizes \$170,447

Total \$946,916

The prize money that we spend in the pro shops averages about \$3500 per club. This amount includes a 10% increase added to our prize money so that we get something we want. Food costs do not include any bar bills or refreshments purchased during a round. It is no wonder that many clubs welcome MISGA and want to join our organization.

Participation

Twenty-one clubs had 10% or more decreased participation from 1997 to 1998. Seventeen clubs were about the same and fifteen clubs had increased attendance of 10% or more.

Because of the downward trend in mixer participation and with the board's approval an ad hoc committee was formed with Otis Jefferson as chairman and each of the assistant directors from the divisions as members to address this problem. Otis and his committee laid a framework and the committee will continue in 1999 with Dick Walsh as the new chairman. The committee's goal is to investigate and recommend ways of increasing participation in all of our MISGA outings and events.

-George C. Shenk, Sr.

Real golfers don't cry when they line up their 4th put....unknown

Golf is an easy game.....its just hard to play. -unknown

Schedule

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Annual Reps Mtg | Apr 5 | Chester R |
| Spring Fling | May 17,18 | Mapledale Wild Quail Eagle Crk (Ladies) |
| Pres. Cup Final | Aug 26 | Sparrows Pt. |
| 2 Man Team Final | Sept 13 | Ocean Pines |
| Board Bash | Sept 22,23 | Carroll Valley |
| Fall Frolic | Last week of October and first week of Nov. | |

Division 4 MISGA REP of the YEAR

At the Division 4 Annual Christmas Party for Club Reps and other workers, Mrs. Hazel Smith was presented an award for her late husband, Bill Smith, who was the Division 4 Club Rep of the year from Montgomery Village.



Left to right: C.J. Myers and Mrs. Hazel Smith

The Annual Christmas Party was held at Manor Country Club with more than 100 MISGA members and their wives.

Board Meeting Highlights

The MISGA Board met at the US Naval Academy Officer's Club on 12/3/98.

Harry Breitbach distributed the financial statement as of 11/30/98 including the proposed budget for 1999. He reported that income exceeded budget by \$1518 primarily because of higher than expected events revenue. Expenses are close to budget.

The 1999 budget proposal includes increased revenue over 1998 of \$4850 because of increased member dues. Computer expenses will increase by \$750 and insurance will decrease by \$200. The proposed budget will have a surplus of \$1725. The 99 budget was approved unanimously.

Sam Hastings, Events Chairman, proposed that in order to improve attendance at fall events there should be only two Fall Frolics in 1999 rather than three. A motion to that effect was passed unanimously.

A motion empowering the board to change the by-laws without annual meeting approval was approved 5 to 4 with one abstention. This item will be taken to the annual meeting if it receives at least 6 votes at the next board meeting.

A motion to accept the distributed division director's checklist as the official guideline of applicant club membership criteria was approved unanimously.

Three Holes in One!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Pavlovich of Marlboro Country Club had 3 holes in one in a span of ten days in the month of June!! His record looks like this:

June 2 147 yd #3
 June 9 150 yd #12
 June 11 140 yd #6

Congratulations Bob!!!!

Deceased Members

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| William Smith | Montgomery Village |
| Bob Anderson | Piney Branch |
| John Edwards | Piney Branch |
| Sal Liberto | Piney Branch |

Division 4 Annual Seminar

The Annual Division 4 Seminar for new Club Reps and their assistants was held on January 6 at Manor. The new Reps from the Division are shown in the picture below.



L to R: Jack Ludwick, Chuck Naas, Ted Schneyer
 George Thompson, Jim Connors, Bill King

Book Review

Navy Yarns of Seven Generations is a collection of old navy stories told among, by and to the seven consecutive generations of naval officers in the family of the author, from 1798 to 1970. At 128 pages it is excellent light reading and perfect for a small gift. It is available from the author, MISGA member Capt. Roy C. Smith, III for \$19.00 postage paid. His address and phone number are:

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