

**Minutes, Annual MISGA Representatives Meeting  
Chester River Yacht and Country Club  
April 9, 2001**

President **Charlie Fieldhouse** called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. **Dick Hunt** presented the invocation. All Board and Committee members were asked to stand and be introduced to the meeting attendees.

**Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the Board Meeting of February 20, 2001 were reviewed and on a motion by **Dick Walsh**, were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer **Tom Tarpley** reported that the transition from former treasurer **Harry Breitbach**, is almost complete, with only a \$5,000 CD remaining on deposit at the bank formerly used by the treasurer. **Tom** requested that each Division prepare a single request for reimbursement of the Reps in attendance at this meeting. On motion of **Arnie Simms**, the Treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

**President's Report:**

President **Charlie Fieldhouse** thanked Gerry Emerick and the other members of the Chester River Club for hosting the meeting. He noted that there were still about 40 openings for golfers to attend the annual Spring Fling in Ocean City, to be held April 30 to May 1. **Paul Keiser**, Chairman of the event indicated that he could accept applications up through the end of the week. President **Fieldhouse** declared that the state of the MISGA organization is fine, and recommended that all reps become familiar with the MISGA web site, [www.misga.org](http://www.misga.org), where all sorts of information is available. He further suggested that each club develop their own web site, which can be linked to the MISGA site, and complimented **Dick Walsh** and **Ken Wallgren** for their work in setting up and maintaining the site. Referring to the Calloway ER II driver, which has been declared illegal under the USGA rules of golf, **Charlie** noted that while MISGA needs to revise its written statements about following USGA rules, this club will not be legal for play in MISGA events. Following up on two years' worth of successful Pro-Am events held by Division III, both Division III (Oct.3) and Division IV (Oct.24) will be holding Pro-Ams this year. Finally, **Charlie** announced that revised Tournament Allocations, Updated Rosters, and Updated Handbook inserts were available and could be picked up at the head table, following the meeting.

**Division Reports:**

**Div. I: Duke Rowdon** reported that Division I had met and considered the question of whether to continue holding Division Qualifying tournaments prior to the State finals. The consensus was to continue holding qualifiers. The Division now has 12 clubs, and is looking forward to the new Fall event in the Virginia Beach area.

**Div. II: Dick Walsh** announced that his Division is in good shape to begin the new season. He suggested that each Club assign an Assistant Representative to promote MISGA Events, such as Spring Fling, Fall Frolics, etc. to that Club's associates. Div. II feels that if Divisional Qualifying Tournaments are eliminated, they would hold Division Championship Tournaments to replace them.

**Div. III: Dan Williams** noted the addition of Bay Hill to Div. III. He praised Chartwell for successfully holding last year's Past Presidents Tournament and reported that the Division's Pro-Am Tournament has become well accepted, with last year's event including five teams from out of the Division. **Dan** also commented that former Div. III Director, and Chairman of the Sea Brook Fall Fling, **Jim Bell** has moved to Pennsylvania. **Jim's** hard work will be missed by the Division and MISGA.

**Div. IV: Ken Wallgren** reported that with last year's addition of Bretton Woods, Div. IV now includes 11 Clubs and 1,410 Associates. He reported that Division IV will be making a strong effort to speed up the pace of play at Mixers, including disqualification of teams which finish outside the established time limits. Several Reps commented on this effort and asked for details of how the program will be operated.

**Div. V: Bob McCready** commented on the number of mis-addressed MISGAGRAMS which had been returned after the most recent mailing. The Division's season is already underway, and the Division feels that a decision on what to do about Division Qualifying Tournaments will be made by its Club Reps after information from the State Level is available.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Handicap: Sam Hall** noted that the Board has become concerned that failure to follow the rules of golf, failure to display proper golf etiquette, failure to properly use the handicap system, and slow play have begun to degrade the enjoyment of MISGA Mixers. To combat these problems, the Handicap Committee was appointed, and charged with developing a program to respond to the issues. The Committee has developed a package of materials designed to assist each Club Representative in implementing a program to educate our Associates and begin to correct some of the problems described above. Packages were provided for each Club Representative.

**Associates: John Babyak** reported that MISGA Clubs now number 56, and Associates total more than 4,800. New Rosters were provided to the Division Directors, and **John** thanked those Clubs which have already submitted their Club Dues. He commented that there are still too many MISGAGRAMS being returned because of incorrect addresses, and asked the Club Reps to work at correcting these addresses.

**Audit: Sam Nisbet** announced that last year's operations were audited and given an acceptance without qualification. He praised the nine years of hard work provided by former Treasurer **Harry Breitbach** and welcomed the opportunity to work with our new Treasurer, **Tom Tarpley**.

**Events and Policy and Planning: C.J. Myers** reported on both of these committees, since Events Chairman **Sam Hastings** was unable to attend the meeting. **C.J.** announced that the Florida Fling, chaired by **Paul Desmond**, had been successful. A contract has been signed for a new Fall Fling to be held in Virginia Beach from Oct. 21 to 26. An announcement and application for this event will be included in the May MISGAGRAM. **Joe Hollister** will chair the event. The other two Fall Flings will be at Sea Trail from Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, and at Sea Brook from Nov. 11 to Nov. 16, and announcements for these events will also be included in the next MISGAGRAM. Policy and Planning has discussed two issues, non-conforming equipment, and whether to eliminate Division Qualifiers for the Statewide Tournaments. Language to clarify MISGA's position on non-conforming equipment will be developed and voted on at the next Board Meeting, in May. A survey of all Clubs will be made to evaluate what decision should be reached with regard to Division Qualifiers.

**Historian: Bill Brown** announced that the MISGA History is now entered on CD-ROM storage and encouraged Associates to review it and submit comments or corrections. The next published update of the History is scheduled for 2004.

**Tournaments: Jim Lee** was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided updated Division Allocations for this year's Tournaments.

#### **New Business:**

**Paul Keiser** reminded us that he will accept Spring Fling applications through the rest of the week of April 9.

Division IV's efforts to improve the pace of play generated further discussion, with the major concerns being how to avoid penalizing foursomes "trapped" behind slow players, and how to accommodate the

elderly and handicapped players. **Charlie Fieldhouse** stressed that starting each day's round on time is critical.

At the Spring Fling, the women will play the same courses as the men, eliminating the need for extra transportation arrangements.

**Dick Walsh** asked the Reps to look at the MISGA website and forward their comments or suggestions to him.

**Retiring Members Awards:**

Pewter Plates commemorating their years of service were awarded to the following retiring Board and Committee members:

**Duke Rowdon**, Past President

**Jim Bell**, Director Div. III

**Harry Breitbach**, Treasurer

**Bob McMinn**, Director Div. IV

**Tom Tarpley**, Director, Div. II

**Dick Walsh**, Secretary

**Jack Nichols**, Director Div. V

**Dick Hunt**, Man of the Year (thankfully not retiring)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Board Meeting Thursday May 17, 2001 at Prospect Bay Country Club

Respectfully Submitted:

Bob McMinn, Secretary