

**Minutes of the MISGA Annual Meeting**  
**Monday April 8, 2002**  
**Chester River Yacht & Country Club**

President **Sam Hall** opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and thanked **Fenton Martin** and **Jim Sood**, representatives at Chester River, for hosting the event. All Division Directors and Assistant Directors as well as most Committee Chairmen were in attendance. Also attending were Club Representatives and Assistant Representatives from throughout MISGA's five Divisions.

**Secretary's Report:** **Bob McMinn** highlighted the minutes of the Board's Meeting on February 27, 2002, which had been distributed to the Board Members. The minutes were approved.

**State of the Association:** **Sam Hall** summed up MISGA's condition as "outstanding". In the last year, MISGA and its Clubs generated \$1,118,000 in revenue, mixer participation is up, and the number of mixers increased. **Sam** credited the Club Representatives and Assistants with doing it right and generating these excellent results. State-wide, Special Event participation also increased this year. One new challenge for MISGA Clubs, particularly around the D.C and Baltimore areas, is more traffic and longer commutes to get to our mixers. For the next year, MISGA will be placing the emphasis on handicaps, and compliance with the rules of golf. **Sam** introduced four former MISGA Presidents who were in attendance: **C.J. Myers, Paul Desmond, Duke Rowdon, and Charlie Fieldhouse.**

**Treasurer's Report:** **Tom Tarpley** reported that MISGA has money. In fact, the report which he distributed indicates that our funds on hand total \$22,409.81. **Tom thanked the members of the ad-hoc insurance committee for reviewing and approving our current coverage, noting that the coverage is good, and the price is fair.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Associates:** **John Babyak** announced that with three new clubs joining this year, we have 58 clubs and 4,700 associates in MISGA. June 1 is the target date by which associates dues should be in **John's** hands. Also noted was the Patuxent Greens web-site which demonstrates the use of the Associates change form 5-89.

**Historian:** **Bill Brown** announced that the MISGA History will be updated and reprinted in 2005. For this, each club will need to review and update its information. **Bill's** committee is also in need of members from Divisions III and V.

**Mailing:** **Nick Park** plans to mail the next edition of the MISGAGRAM in early May and asked that Club Reps get their member's addresses updated in time for that date.

**MISGAGRAM:** **Dick Hunt**, Editor, complimented the Club Reps for producing the most accurate address list in the last five years. He asked Division Directors to provide articles and reports for the May issue by May 1st and announced that further editions will be forthcoming in August and November.

**Policy & Planning:** **Bob Nicholson** explained that his Committee's responsibility is to review and analyze issues and then make recommendations to the Board. Most recently, they have reviewed the issue of whether MISGA is bound by USGA Rules. They found that our Constitution binds us to abide

by those rules. In the near future, the Committee will be reviewing issues surrounding the MISGA website and developing recommendations and guidelines.

**Rules and Handicap:** **C.J. Myers** introduced the members of his Committee and noted that he needs additional members from Divisions I and II. As a result of its March 1 meeting, the Committee is recommending that whenever a best two-balls-of-four format is used for a MISGA mixer, handicaps be reduced to 90%, as recommended by the USGA. He then handed out copies of the Handicap Package for MISGA Reps and asked all Reps to concentrate on improving handicap compliance this year. Also useful would be more feedback from Reps to Divisions. **C.J.** and members of his Committee attended a recent USGA handicap seminar and found it useful. In addition, they recommend the USGA handicap booklet, "*Uncle Snoopy Wants You To Know How To Use Your Handicap.*" The Committee provided 100 copies and more can be ordered from the USGA on club letterhead.

**Tournaments:** **Jim Lee** announced that the dates and locations for 2002 State Tournaments are all set and application letters will be sent to each Division. The Past Presidents Tournament (ABCD) will be held August 19 at Crofton and the Two-Man Team Tournament is scheduled for August 26 at Montgomery. For 2003, Sparrow's Point has volunteered to hold the Past Presidents Tournament and Division V will host the Two-Man Team final (location to be determined).

**Events:** **Sam Hall** reported on developments in the Events area. Fall Flings will be Sea Trail from Nov. 3 to 8 and Seabrook the week following. Sites for the Florida Fling are still being evaluated. The Spring Fling will be held May 6 and 7 and the Board Bash on September 11 and 12. Fall event applications will be included in the next issue of the MISGAGRAM.

#### **Division Reports:**

**Division I:** **Arnie Simms** reported that his Division has surveyed its associates and found that 45% have e-mail capability. **Paul Keiser** reported that the Division I hosted Spring Fling is a sell out with 231 golfers and 21 non-golfers signed up.

**Division II:** **Dick Walsh** suggested that Clubs may wish to consider honoring credit cards for mixer fees. Division II will again host the Board Bash on September 11 and 12 at Carroll Valley. **Dick** pointed out that the Board hosts the Bash, but that all Reps and Assistants are welcomed to attend. This year there will be no door prizes solicited.

**Division III:** **Sam Hall** applauds the idea of eliminating door prizes at the Board Bash. **Dan Williams** noted that the Division's reps had met to discuss and establish guidelines for the conduct of its annual Pro-Am Tournament. The Division has also noticed more problems this year involving travel distances and travel time. As a result the individual clubs have been given some latitude to deviate from the schedule matrix.

**Division IV:** **Ken Wallgren** announced that the Division will meet in June and asked that Reps who need reimbursement for attending today's meeting should pass their expense requests through him.

**Division V:** **Bob McCready** announced that his Division's season is well underway and reminded his Clubs that he is looking for a representative to the History Committee.

**MISGA Service Awards:** These awards are given each year to those who have served on the Board or Committees. This year, President **Sam Hall** presented awards to the following associates: **Charlie**

**Fieldhouse**, Past President and Director; **Duke Rowdon**, Director; **C.J. Myers**, Policy and Planning Committee Chairman. Two other Associates who were not present are to be given awards at a later date. They are **Sam Hastings**, Events Chairman, and **Bob Ludwig**, General Counsel.

**New Business:**

**Sam Hall** asked the Reps from **Easton, Ocean Resorts** and **Jonathan's Landing**, three new Member Clubs, to stand and be recognized.

**Dick Walsh** announced that the May edition of the MISGAGRAM will be available on the MISGA web-site. If enough associates are willing to read the MISGAGRAM on the web-site, there could be a substantial savings in postage. Club schedules can also be made available on the web-site although it might make more sense to have them posted on individual club sites and then linked to the MISGA central site. **Bob Nicholson** asked the reps how they felt about using the web-site for MISGA communications and found a large majority (all but 6) support the concept.

**Don Ewalt** had been given the assignment of researching a MISGA Logo Golf Cap program. He showed several samples which could be sold at \$14 each and asked for comments. Responses included the issue of competing with the local club pro shop and the possibility of providing for club names as well as the MISGA Logo. A show of hands indicated that there was little support for the idea, so the procurement of MISGA golf caps will be shelved for the time being.

**Pete Seward** wanted the Reps to be aware of MISGA's contribution to the September 11 Disaster Relief. An amount of \$18,465 was raised in a short time and donated through the Baltimore Sun's relief fund. **Charlie Fieldhouse**, who promoted the fundraising, was recognized for his efforts.

A question from the floor asked what can be done when at a mixer, the tees are set so far forward that most golfers cannot enjoy the course? The response was that course set up is a Club Rep responsibility, and in making this decision, the Rep should attempt to be fair to all players, while maintaining the interest of our younger and/or longer hitting members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Our next meeting will be held on May 22, 2002 at Prospect Bay Country Club.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob McMinn, Secretary