

Minutes of the MISGA Annual Meeting
Monday April 7, 2003
Chester River Yacht & Country Club

President **Ken Wallgren** opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all who had attended. He then asked **Tom Tarpley** to give an invocation. **Ken** next thanked **Fenton Martin** and his assistant Reps at Chester River for once again hosting the annual meeting. Members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen were introduced. All Division Directors and Assistant Directors were present.

Secretary's Report: Bob McMinn reviewed the minutes of the Board's February 12 meeting at Chartwell. These minutes had been prepared by **Dick Walsh**. The minutes were approved.

State of the Association: Ken Wallgren described MISGA as strong and growing, with 60 member clubs and revenues in excess of \$1,000,000 annually. With the number of new golf clubs being developed in our area, **Ken** asked that all Reps be on the lookout for high quality clubs who might wish to join us.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Tarpley reported that our 2002 results have been audited and approved, and our current balance on hand is \$18,773.84. Increases in our regular expenses indicate that a dues increase may be necessary in the future. **Tom** reminded the attendees that travel expenses for today's meeting should be submitted in combined form by each Division. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Board.

Vice President's Remarks: Don Ewalt commented that because we will be increasing next year to six Divisions, we will be needing additional volunteers to staff the new Division.

Committee Reports:

Associates: Bob Dernoga recently appointed Associates Chairman noted that the mailing list had been updated in February, and printed rosters will be provided three more times this year, in June, August, and November. **Bob** reminded everyone to get in their associates dues before June 1, and discussed the possibilities of moving away from mailing in hard copies of the change form 5-89. Since at this point, the computer list contractor still needs a hard copy for input, any changes may be a while off.

Auditor: Sam Nisbet praised the work of the Treasurer this year and indicated that our finances are accurately reported.

Events: Pete Sorge pointed out that past problems have lead him to conclude that ladies who wish to play with the 18 holers at Events, must have an established 18 hole handicap. Nine holers will continue to have their own separate tournaments. This year's Fall Events will be at Fripp Island, and Sea Trail. Fripp will be providing access to their fitness center and other amenities as part of the MISGA package.

Legal Counsel: Al Isaacs has counseled the President and various Committee Chairmen, reviewed the contract for Ocean City (Spring Fling), and this week is working with the Policy and Planning Committee.

Historian: Bill Brown reminded all that the MISGA History is due for revision in 2005. With the addition of a sixth Division, there will also be a need for additional reps on the History Committee.

Membership: Paul Desmond noted that we can use more good clubs as members and asked members to keep an eye out and let the Division Directors know when there is a good prospect.

Misgagram/Website: Byron Keadle remarked that he is dealing with an entirely new cast of characters, a new Misgagram Editor, **Jim Mitchell**, a new printer, and a new software package. The Misgagram is now put on MISGA's web site each month, in Acrobat Reader (PDF) format, some have asked for a Web Page (HTML) format, but this is not easily produced from the current software.

Past Presidents Committee: Charlie Fieldhouse has scheduled the committee's first meeting for April 25, at Prospect Bay, and asks that updated club information be available.

Policy and Planning: Bob Nicholson defined the duties of his Committee, introduced the members from each Division who serve as representatives, and submitted a list of the eight areas in which it has submitted recommendations to the Board this year. Included among these were; recommendation of a 2 year transitional study of the feasibility of an on line Misgagram, Insuring that By-Laws insure that member clubs maintain appropriate standards of participation, Insuring that MISGA operates under the USGA Rules of Golf, etc.

Rules and Handicap: C.J. Myers introduced the members of his committee, which after a two year trial period, has been made a permanent standing committee with the mission of educating and promoting compliance in the areas of rules and handicap compliance. A survey is now underway to determine how each member club deals with handicaps. The committee has also prepared an article on Handicap Index for the next Misgagram.

C.J. also reminded the group that this year's Two Man Team Championship will require that for teams where the spread in handicap between the two players is greater than 8 strokes, the team will play at 80% of handicap, rather than 90%. It is recommended (but not mandated) that qualifier tournaments be conducted under the same rule.

Tournaments: Jim Lee was unable to attend, but **Ken Wallgren** reported for him, that the State ABCD Tournament will be held at Sparrows Point, on Monday August 18.

Web Committee: Dick Walsh listed a number of items that are now available on the Web Site. There is some effort underway to collect e-mail addresses of members, which raises the issue of how limited we should make any outgoing e-mail. If not limited, some members may not wish to share their addresses. With regard to the 5-89 forms, there is still a need to send checks when new members are added. Asked whether we will eventually stop distributing the Misgagram by mail, **Dick** responded that this is not the plan, but that the web version may be a better product than the printed version, and clearly provides a savings in postal costs.

Division Reports:

Division I: Arnie Simms reports that he is now collecting e-mail addresses from Div. I for use in web projects. Assistant Div. Director **Paul Keiser** explained the Division re-alignment which will take place next year. Div. I will include all clubs in Delaware, Div. III will be Eastern Shore West clubs plus Cambridge, and Div. V will be Eastern Shore South Clubs. Spring Fling is up to 232 golfers so far, but could take a few more. **Arnie** mentioned past problems when playing better two balls of the foursome and one member of the foursome is missing. He suggested that a rotation be established as to which of the three players will hit two balls on which holes. Finally, he noted the passing of **Duke Rowdon**, of Div. I who gave more than 20 years of service to MISGA, and asked that we each say a prayer for him.

Division II: Dick Walsh shared **Arnie's** praise of **Duke Rowdon**. Div. II has asked several prospective member clubs to participate in mixers, to give them a feel for MISGA. The Division will hold its first Pro-Am tournament on Sept. 29, and will again host the annual Board Bash at Carroll Valley.

Division III: Dan Williams reminded his reps to turn in expense vouchers, and offered copies of his Division's guidelines for conducting a Pro-Am event.

Division IV: Chuck Ebbecke Announced that all tournament dates are set, including the Pro-Am on October 14. The Division will meet in two weeks, and has also elected **Bob McMinn** to serve again as Assistant Division Director, beginning in 2004.

Division V: Bob McCready also commented on the service performed by **Duke Rowdon** and announced that Div. V. has completed its winter schedule of three events, with over 100 golfers attending the event at the new Hyatt in Cambridge. Under the re-organization, Div. V will lose 3 clubs.

MISGA Service Awards: Awards for past service went to **Sam Hall** for serving as Division Director and President, **John Babyak** for serving as Associates Chairman, **Dick Hunt**, for Misgagram Editor, and **Nick Parker** for Mailing Chairman.

Old Business: Ken Wallgren welcomed new member clubs Deer Run, and The Bay Club.

New Business: Paul Desmond announced that over 80 MISGA members enjoyed this year's Florida Fling at the Admiral Lehigh Resort. Next year's event will be held at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River Florida from February 8 to 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and Lunch was served. Our next Board Meeting will be held at Cambridge Country Club on Wednesday June 4, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob McMinn, Secretary