

MISGA Annual Meeting Minutes

Chester River Golf Club - April 12, 2004

President **Don Ewalt** called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and thanked Rep **Fenton Martin** and the club staff for the excellent meeting arrangements at *Chester River*. He welcomed new clubs *Winters Run* in Belair, MD and *Bay Club* in Berlin, MD. He also announced the resignation from MISGA of *Nassawango* and *Garrisons Lake*.

Don introduced the Division Directors **Paul Keiser, Dick Walsh, Fenton Martin, Chuck Ebbecke, Dan Williams** and himself, as well as Treasurer **Tom Tarpley** and past presidents in attendance **Ken Walgren, Charlie Fieldhouse, and C. J. Myers**.

Secretary's Report

Acting Secretary **Dick Walsh** distributed the *leadership rosters* and updates to the *Reps Handbook*. He asked for corrections and updates as they occur so that the master copy can be kept current.

Dick Boardman's motion to dispense with reading minutes of the previous Annual Meeting was approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Tarpley distributed the *Financial Statement as of 12/31/2003*. It reflects a net operating surplus of \$2,373.23. As of 4/3/2004 there is a net operating deficit of \$2,633.23, reflecting, in part, the fact that member dues are largely still to be collected. Tom reported that the Maryland tax forms have been submitted and reminded attendees that mileage reimbursement will be by Division. He also reminded eight clubs that they had not yet submitted their club (\$35) dues to him.

State of the Association

Don Ewalt discussed the following areas in presenting his report:

Club (59) and Associate (about 4400) MISGA membership is strong with new clubs coming in as old clubs drop out. But total membership has been declining slightly over the past few years. It is important for all to be alert to potential new MISGA clubs. Membership qualification guidelines (on the web site and in the handbook) should be reviewed and prospects discussed with the respective Division Directors.

There will be multiple *pro-ams* this year.

There are now six divisions with three on each side of the bay. Odd numbers are on the eastern side; even numbers on the western.

Club Reps are urged to update club histories (see committee reports below).

Vice President's Comments

Vice President **Paul Keiser** recommended an article in the publication "*Delaware Today*" in which an article titled "*Golf is Golden*" features MISGA (Division 1) couple **Dave and Nancy Woodward**.

Division Reports

Div 1 – **Dick Dale** reported that the *SpringFling* May 3rd and 4th at Ocean City is almost fully subscribed (221 golfers to date). Entry will be kept open for a few more days.

Div 2 – **Dick Walsh** welcomed new club *Winters Run* and reported that the Division 2 *pro-am* will be held at *Holly Hills* October 4th. He said that the *Board Bash (Carroll Valley 9/8 and 9/9)* is sponsored each year by the Board of Directors to recognize the good work of all the Reps, Assistant Reps, and Officers who make MISGA possible. He said the Board hopes all clubs will be represented this year.

Div 3 – **Fenton Martin** described the new alignment of Eastern Shore clubs into three Divisions (1, 3, and 5).

Div 4 – **Chuck Ebbecke** reported that 3 of the 10 clubs of Division 4 (*Manor Club, Hobbits Glen, and Lakewood*) are renovating their courses this year, but their Reps, with cooperation from other clubs and other Divisions, have managed to set full mixer schedules. The Division 4 *pro-am* will be at Norbeck on 10/18.

Div 5 – **Don Ewalt** welcomed new club *Bay Club*. He said that club has an excellent facility, including two 18 hole courses and will be an excellent venue for future events.

Div 6 – **Dan Williams** reported that the Division 6 *pro-am* will be at *Patuxent Greens* 6/16.

Committee Reports

Associates – **Charlie Fieldhouse** discussed the fact that membership rosters submitted close to the June 1st deadline are too late for updates to be reflected in the mailing labels for the June MISGAgram, which contains Fall Frolic application forms. He suggested setting an earlier deadline for rosters, but several Reps indicated this would be problematic. The issue will be discussed by the Board at its next meeting.

Audit – **Tom Tarpley** provided the report from **Sam Nisbet** indicating that all accounts were found to be in order, using standard accounting practices.

Events – **Pete Sorge** reported the Fall Frolic applications (Fripp Island 11/7 and Jekyll Island 11/14) will be on the web site shortly. He suggested that Reps download and print forms for members (the MISGAgram sometimes being late arriving [also see above]) and that they be printed on both sides to reduce paper load. He said that 6/25 is the postmark deadline, although they can also be hand-delivered by that date. Sequence of applications is determined by when they actually arrive. He noted that there were 40 excess applications for Fripp Island last year.

General Counsel - no report.

Historian – **Bill Brown** indicated that it is time to publish a new *MISGA History* (done every 10 years). Individual *Club Histories* are to be prepared by the Reps. He distributed instructions for the Reps to follow (they are also on the web site). Reps are to supply completed *Histories* to their Division Historians by 6/15. They will be edited and forwarded to Division Directors by 7/15. Directors will standardize and edit as necessary and provide the completed packages to **Bill Brown** by 9/1.

Membership - **Don Ewalt** described the role of Membership Chairman **Paul Desmond** and his committee of 6 Assistant Directors as the body to which Directors make their recommendations regarding prospective new MISGA member clubs. It is that committee's responsibility to review the recommendations and pass their findings on to the Board for a final vote. He repeated his earlier request that current clubs contribute to the health of the organization by seeking out likely membership prospects and helping evaluate those who become interested.

MISGAgram – **Jim Mitchell** reported that there will be three editions of the *MISGAgram* this year: in January, June, and November. Expanded versions will also be on the web site. He said that the Board is looking at ways – possibly involving the web site – to reduce the current cost of a 4444 piece mailing.

A Rep suggested using bulk mail to clubs for distribution at mixers. The subject will be discussed at the next Board meeting

Policy and Planning – **Bob Nicholson**, in the interest of time, had no report.

Rules and Handicaps – **Dick Crone** (Western Chairman) and **Terry Stuver** (Eastern Chairman) reported that in order to correctly consider its members to be qualified for USGA events, a club must have a handicap committee. The Rules and Handicap Committee has obtained the concession for MISGA members that a minimum condition of a “senior handicap committee” will be acceptable. A handicap committee must have at least three members, of which one (other than the chair) can be, and

probably should be, the pro. The committee encourages the use of 90% of handicaps in “best 2 of 4 balls” match play events. They mentioned that when playing under “lift, clean, and place” conditions, the rules of golf require that the hand – not the club – be used to move the ball.

Tournaments – **C. J. Myers** reported that his committee will strive to have very successful A-B-C-D and 2-Man State level tournaments, to keep good records and provide timely MISGAgam reports with pictures, and to ensure that the best possible venues are selected. He said that the 2004 events are 2-Man at Walden 8/12 and A-B-C-D at Maple Dale 8/16. Each has a rain-out date a week later and will charge each person \$55. He announced that in 2005 Division 2 will host the 2-Man and Division 5 the A-B-C-D. In 2006 Division 4 will host the 2-Man and Division 3 the A-B-C-D. He reminded the attendees that 2-Man teams with course handicaps differing by more than 8 points will have each partner’s handicap reduced by 20% rather than the usual 10%. Answering a question from the floor he said that teams who qualify for the State 2-Man must retain the same twosome they started with.

Web Site – **Dick Walsh** reported that among items now available on the web site are the *Schedule of Events*, the *Leadership Roster*, the *Reps Manual and History of Board Actions*, an expanded version of the *MISGAgam*, *Minutes of Board and Reps Meetings*, *Driving Directions* to all the clubs, and *Instructions for Preparing Club Histories*.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M. and was followed by lunch. Golf was cancelled because of bad weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Walsh

Acting Secretary