

MISGA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 2002
Prospect Bay Country Club

President **Sam Hall** called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. He thanked **Jim Sylvania**, Prospect Bay club rep, for serving as meeting host. Introduced were visiting club reps **Dick Dale** of Seaford, **Jim Brittingham** of Shawnee and **Paul Phillips** of Nutter's Crossing. Also introduced were new Committee Chairmen **Al Isaacs** (General Counsel) and **Pete Sorge** (Events).

In attendance were board and committee members: **John Babyak, Bill Brown, Paul Desmond, Chuck Ebbecke, Don Ewalt, Sam Hall, Paul Keiser, Jim Lee, Bob McCready, Bob McMinn, C.J. Myers, Bob Nicholson, Sam Nisbet, Nick Parker, Arnie Simms, Tom Tarpley, Ken Wallgren, Dick Walsh and Dan Williams.**

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting of the April 8 Annual Reps Meeting had been distributed by e-mail. They were approved subject to a correction of the treasury balance to agree with the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Tarpley distributed a financial statement covering activities through May 15, 2002. The report indicates that the treasury has a balance of \$21,150.90. **Tom** praised the assistance he has received from Auditor **Sam Nisbet**. **Tom** reported that, with assistance from an insurance expert, he had chaired an ad hoc committee which reviewed MISGA's insurance coverage. They found it to be a reasonably priced policy with adequate liability coverage. **Chuck Ebbecke** inquired about the policy coverage and its limits and wondered, since it has not been used in five years, whether we could not save money by self-insuring. General Counsel **Al Isaacs** was asked to research these questions and report back at the next Board Meeting.

Vice President's Remarks:

Ken Wallgren reported that the charges for Internet fees in support of our web site are higher if paid by check than if paid by credit card. Accordingly, **Ken** moved that the treasurer be authorized to acquire a credit card to pay for these fees and other expenses. The motion was approved unanimously.

President's Remarks:

Sam Hall commended the efforts of **Paul Keiser** and **Arnie Simms** in putting together an excellent Spring Fling, where the host pro did it right and the lodging was excellent.

Division Reports:

Div. I - Arnie Simms reported that Divisions I and V have been working together to structure an additional Eastern Shore division. This is needed as additional clubs join MISGA, making the current divisions too large to be able to function well. **Paul Keiser** and **Dan Ewalt** has been serving as co-chairs of the study committee. They have prepared a proposal which

identifies the clubs in each of the proposed three division alignment. A copy of their proposal was distributed. **Paul Keiser** commented that 31% of the golfers at the Spring Fling received prizes each day. The division is looking into the new Hyatt resort in Cambridge as a potential future Spring Fling site. Division I will host the 2003 Annual Reps Meeting at Chester River on April 7 and the 2003 Spring Fling on May 5 and 6 in Ocean City.

Div. II - Dick Walsh announced that Division II will host the annual Board Bash on Sept. 11 and 12, 2002 with the Board Meeting scheduled a day earlier on Sept.10, all at Carroll Valley. There will not be an effort to collect door prize gifts from club pro shops this year. **Dick** reported that the division's problem with a club holding mixers at a non-member club has been resolved.

Div. III - Dan Williams noted that his division has developed guidelines for the conduct of Pro Am Tournaments and he will provide them to anyone interested.

Div. IV - Ken Wallgren announced his division will hold a club reps meeting on June 3. He also commented that Quail Valley, once noted for sending very few golfers to away mixers, has now grown enough to help produce a sign-up of 150 for a recent mixer.

Div. V - Bob McCready informed the group that his division is expecting additional growth as new golf courses are constructed. New member club Easton participated in its first mixer at Nutter's Crossing and was welcomed with signs provided by club management.

Committee Reports:

Associates: John Babyak reported having received club dues from 60% of MISGA's member clubs. He will mail updated rosters to division associates chairmen.

Audit: Sam Nisbet has three trip reports to audit and is continuing to work with the treasurer to improve our financial reporting system.

Events: Pete Sorge, newly appointed Events Chairman, introduced himself and reported that he will be visiting both of this year's Fall Frolic sites to finalize arrangements and pricing. **C.J. Myers** asked **Pete** to check on the pricing surcharge for single occupancy attendance since it seems to have increased from \$120 last year to \$400 this year.

Counsel: Al Isaacs, newly appointed MISGA Counsel, introduced himself and described his background and legal experience.

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Historian: Bill Brown reported that his committee has lost one more member and still has vacancies from a couple of divisions. The committee has also discussed the format the next history should take and to what extent it should make use of electronic media rather than print. **Sam Hall** asked the divisions which need to provide members to the committee to do so and provide the names to **Bill** by June 15.

Membership: **Paul Desmond** has reviewed the application of Deer Run to become a MISGA member club. It appears to meet all of MISGA's criteria including food service, length of course and number of members. **Paul** asked the Board to vote on accepting Deer Run. He was advised by **Sam Hall** that the vote would be held after the discussion of an item of new business -- the desirability of placing all new member clubs in a probationary status. **Paul** then reported that he has received three bids for the Winter Fling. He recommended returning to the Admiral Lehigh Resort where the price is most favorable and where changes to the food service will result in a more satisfactory arrangement. By motion, his recommendation was approved 9 to 1.

MISGAGRAM: **Nick Parker** announced that a problem with the binder resulted in an insufficient number of MISGAGRAMS being available to complete the mailing of the current issue. Since this issue contains the applications for the Fall Frolics, the point was made that it is important to get it out well prior to the June 15 application submission date. According to **Nick**, this will be accomplished.

Tournaments: **Jim Lee** thanked **Dick Walsh** for providing tournament information and pricing through the MISGA web site. **Jim** asked that the state champion trophies be returned to him from last year's winners.

Rules and Handicap: **C.J. Myers** reported that he and several committee members had attended a recent USGA Handicap Seminar in Wilmington, DE. Copies of The USGA Handicap System handbook have been purchased for the committee. **C.J.** recommended that copies of the free USGA booklet "*Uncle Snoopy Wants You To Know How To Use Your Handicap*" be ordered for each MISGA associate. He provided a model letter which can be used to order the booklets. **C.J.** also recommended that the committee be allowed to attend one of the USGA Handicap Seminars each year and that the committee be made permanent rather than ad-hoc. **President Hall** indicated that the committee's status will be reviewed at the end of this year.

Old Business:

Bob Nicholson, Chairman of the Policy and Planning Committee, had been asked to review the issue of using our web site to circulate the MISGAGRAM, rather than sending it out in printed form. The committee developed and distributed a four-page report of its findings on this issue. As one of its recommendations, the committee proposed establishing an ad hoc committee, chaired by the MISGA Vice President, to conduct a two-year test/transition study of web site communications. This recommendation (No. 2002-5) with the supplemental language "the committee to review and consider other recommendations" was brought to a vote by motion and approved by the Board.

C.J. Myers and the Rules and Handicap Committee recommended that all MISGA mixers conducted under the best-two-balls-of-the-foursome format use 90% of the participant's handicap as recommended by USGA. Several board and committee members commented on the pros and cons of this proposal. It was noted that Division III has followed the USGA recommended handicap allowance of 90% for this type of event for the past four years. Dan

Williams moved that the 90% rule be accepted, as recommended by the Rules and Handicap Committee. On a vote of 4 in favor and 6 against, the motion was defeated.

Sam Hall noted that guidelines for conducting MISGA Events (Fall Frolics, Spring Fling, etc.) have been created and distributed. He added that we need to review how we deal with these and how duties and responsibilities are shared between individual event chairmen and the MISGA Events Committee Chairman. **Sam** further suggested that the Policy and Planning Committee conduct this review.

On the subject of MISGA Annual Awards, **Sam Hall** pointed out that we have had problems lately with the supplier of our pewter plate awards. He asked the Vice President, who was made Chairman of the Awards Committee in 1993, to review this issue and see if the awards can be made "more generic" to avoid future problems.

Arnie Simms distributed a "Talking Paper" dealing with two issues: (1) probationary membership for new clubs and (2) a new division on the Eastern Shore. Several members commented on the idea of probationary membership, and it was pointed out that all member clubs must continue to meet MISGA standards or face termination of their membership. After a lengthy discussion, **Sam Hall** stated that this issue could not be resolved immediately and referred it to the Policy and Planning Committee for further review. Having reached this conclusion, the vote to accept Deer Run as a MISGA member club was approved.

Tom Tarpley proposed that the submission deadline for associate's dues be moved back to May 1. Several members felt that this could not be accomplished at most member clubs and the proposal was withdrawn.

Arnie Simms returned to his second issue, adding a new division on the Eastern Shore. **Sam Hall** asked the Board whether there was consensus as to the need for a new division. **Tom Tarpley** suggested that there is a need to discuss rotation of officers. **Chuck Ebbecke** wants to review the details of the proposal. **Bob McCready** suggested that the President and Vice President always be split between Eastern and Western shore divisions. Finally, **Sam Hall** asked the Eastern Shore ad-hoc committee to join with the Policy and Planning Committee and develop a presentation for the next Board Meeting.

Chuck Ebbecke moved that each Director and Assistant Director supply a "quality gift" for distribution by lottery to club reps at the Board Bash. His motion was approved.

C.J. Myers recommended that clubs should strive to provide prizes to at least 33% of the field at MISGA mixers, rather than 25% as has been the past practice. **Dick Dale** was asked to offer a club reps point of view and he suggested that the Board should make a firm rule and in this case use the past practice of 25%. **C.J.'s** suggestion was put forward as a motion by **Chuck Ebbecke**, seconded by **Paul Keiser** and on a vote of 6 to 3 was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 10, 2002 at the Carroll Valley Resort. Details on the time of the meeting, room arrangements, etc. will be provided later.

Bob McMinn, Secretary