

# MISGA BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Maple Dale Country Club

Dover, Delaware

## ATTENDING

**Board Members:** **Div. I**, MISGA President Paul Keiser, Dick Dale & incoming Asst. Director, John Kennedy; **Div. II**, MISGA Vice President Tom Tarpley & Tom Taylor; **Div. III**, Fenton Martin, Ralph Starkey & incoming Asst. Director, Bruce Zappin; **Div. IV**, Earl Gayler & Dick Hunt; **Div. V**, Phil Tilghman; **Div. VI**, Bob Nicholson & Lloyd Stimson.

**Officers & Committee Chairmen:** **Secretary**, Chuck Ebbecke; **Treasurer**, Tom Tarpley for Gary Sorrell; **General Counsel**, Jim Ewalt; **Associates**, Charlie Fieldhouse; **Audit**, Howard Taylor; **Events**, Pete Sorge; **Membership**, Arnie Simms; **MISGAgram**, Jim Mitchell; **Policy & Planning**, Ken Wallgren; **Rules & Handicaps**, Dick Crone & Jim Brittingham; **Tournaments**, C. J. Myers; **Webmaster**, Byron Keadle; **Past President**, Don Ewalt.

## OPENING REMARKS

Paul Keiser welcomed everyone and introduced new Board participants: John Kennedy in Division 1 and Bruce Zappin in Division 3 as Assistant Directors, and General Counsel Jim Ewalt. Paul then asked all other participants to introduce themselves.

**Jim Wilcox's Quest** After the introductions, Paul told the story of Jim Wilcox's quest to play all the golf courses in the state of Maryland. Jim reported on his experience of playing all of the public courses in the state in an article published last year in Washington Golf Monthly. He has just recently completed his quest of playing all the private courses in the state and will report on it the spring edition of the same publication which has been renamed GolfStyles.

Jim credited MISGA as a prime facilitator in providing access to many of the clubs in his unique quest to play all the 18 & 9 hole golf courses, both public and private in the state of Maryland. To much applause, the Board congratulated Dr. Jim Wilcox, the MISGA Club Representative at Hobbits Glen, for this unique accomplishment.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Secretary**, Chuck Ebbecke offered to read the minutes of the last Board Meeting but on a motion, they were waived and approved as previously published on the MISGA website. *[All Board participants should read the draft minutes before Board meetings to shorten the time required for their reading during the meeting. Corrections or omissions to the minutes before or during the meeting remain welcome.]*

**Treasurer**, standing in for Gary Sorrell, Tom Tarpley handed out a financial report comparing year to date actuals against the budget plan, highlighting variances. He deferred any questions to the Treasurer.

**Vice President**, Tom Tarpley reported on the successful Two-man Tournament at Holly Hills. Not only was the golf course in outstanding condition but it seems the food was also so good, it deserved a second round of applause from the Board.

**President**, Paul Keiser thanked the MISGA committee chairmen and officers for their support during the past year; it made his job so much easier and more enjoyable.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Printing Costs of History**, with the absence of the Treasurer, this ad hoc committee was not able to make a report. Charlie Fieldhouse said plans were proceeding along the lines of his previous reports on printing costs to the Board.

**Use of Forward Tees**, Dan Williams did not attend the meeting but Jim Mitchell reported Dan has sent an article with recommendations for publication in the next issue of the MISGAGram.

**Late Payment of Dues**, the ad hoc Committee appointed by the President at the previous Board meeting [made up of Ken Wallgren, Plans & Policy Chairman, and Charlie Fieldhouse, Associates Chairman] reported conflicting recommendations. This resulted in a lengthy back and forth discussion among all the Board participants. The issue of how to deal with late Club dues or Club Reps who do not timely remit Associates dues remained unresolved. Because much of the problem seemed to stem from the establishment of a new MISGA Division along with new clubs either unused to MISGA procedures or unable to use the internet communications, the consensus was to allow another year's experience determine if this is a real problem that requires specific sanctions in the By Laws.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of Annual Reports** by Paul Keiser revealed major changes from prior year report forms and discrepancies in the definition of terms on the form itself. The current form will be revised to account only for Pro-Ams, qualifying and final State-wide MISGA tournaments, as well as all ordinary mixers. It is not meant to cover events played at non MISGA clubs such as the Spring, Fall & Winter Flings which are under their own reporting requirements and financial controls. Because the major purpose of the Annual Report is to provide year to year comparability of revenue generated for the edification of the management of our own MISGA clubs, it should not be changed on whim. Responsibility for revising the form and controlling its definitions was assigned to Policy & Planning for future action.

**New MIXER Rating Forms** were passed around by Paul Keiser. They are to be filled out by the visiting Club Rep and sent to the host Club Rep and the appropriate Division Directors. The intention, of course, is improving the quality of MISGA mixers for clueless host Club Reps.

**Reducing the Eligibility Age to 50** was raised for discussion by Ralph Starkey. He reported that the Eastern Shore Divisions had met in October and favorably recommended a discussion of the issue at this Board meeting. After much back and forth discussion, a motion was made to pass this change which created even more vociferous demand for more discussion, along with suggestions for studies and other test periods to determine the value of the change. Several motions were made and died for various reasons. When it was pointed out that a change to the Constitution (Article V, Section B) required a formal, two week notice to all Board members, a two-thirds vote of the Board, and then approval by the entire MISGA membership, the issue was deferred to the next meeting of the Board. This will occur before the annual meeting in the spring. This timing would permit the issue to rise or fall on its merits. Ralph will prepare the wording of this motion for consideration at the next Board Meeting in the late winter or early spring of 2006.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

**Div. I:** Dick Dale reported on planning a Pro-Am at Cripple Creek in 2006 with details to come later.

**Div. II:** Tom Taylor reported on last September's Reps Invitational. While financially viable, it attracted only 77 registrants. In the past, this event called the Board Bash was open only to Club Reps and Board members. This year, it was opened to all but attendance remained poor. Carroll Valley can handle 128 golfers and if it is to continue, we will need to attract more participants. Next year it is scheduled for September 13-14, 2006 and will again be tied to a Board Meeting the day before to entice greater participation; and it will be renamed The Summer Fling.

**Div. III:** Fenton Martin reported that their Pro-Am was being planned for September 25, 2006 at Caroline CC.

**Div. IV:** Earl Gaylor announced the Division's Pro-Am will be at Kenwood on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 in hopes other Divisions will not schedule Pro-Ams on that day. The Training Seminar will be at Manor on January 3rd and other Directors are invited to attend. He also passed a few copies of a folded flyer explaining MISGA; because not everyone received it, he was asked to post it on the MISGA website.

**Div. V:** Phil Tilghman said Paul Phillips regrets missing the meeting due to family demands but the Division V meeting at Ocean City in November went well and was well attended.

**Div. VI:** Bob Nicholson reported that their Division Pro-Am could not be held in October but will be moved back to late September 2006 and will be held at Chartwell CC with details later.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Associates:** Charlie Fieldhouse offered to visit each of the six Divisions to introduce and explain the online associate membership procedure which replaced the old error plagued #5-89 processing forms. The Division Associate Chairmen (DAC) need to have access to computers, either directly or through others, to maintain current membership lists. He is anxious to help them in any way he can. When Division Directors spot any trouble spots on dues or membership, they should call Charlie first.

His written Associates Report noted a continuing slight decline in total membership to 4,097 in 2005 from 4,242 in 2004. The number of clubs remains about the same for the past three years at around 60.

**Audit:** Howard Taylor focused his audits on where the big money is, the last three Flings,:

Fall Flings at Fripp and Jekyll in 2004: All income & expenses were reported and all money was accounted for. However, since most winners in golf or bingo are paid in cash, a listing of winners should be included in future reports to ensure some accountability.

Spring Fling 2005: All income was supported as to source and all expenditures were supported by hard copy documentation.

Recommendation: Tournament/Event Chairmen should be provided with a copy of the reporting guidelines in the Fiscal Conduct of MISGA Golf Tournaments & Special Events. In many cases some residual funds were retained in event accounts and not turned over to the MISGA treasurer as required. Further discussion found problems with the guidelines, so Plans & Policy was charged to review them and propose changes to the requirement of turning over funds to the MISGA Treasurer or retaining funds in accounts of regularly occurring annual events to avoid constantly opening and closing accounts.

**Membership:** Arnie Simms reported the new guidelines and check list for new club entrance into MISGA approved at the last meeting are now on the website and will also be distributed as part of the updated MISGA Reps Handbook by Plans & Policy at the Annual meeting in Chestertown.

**MISGAgrams:** Jim Mitchell thanked everyone for their contributions to the 'gram. The policy of making him the editor with the Reps and Division Directors responsible as the reporters seems to be working. The next issue should be out around the 1st of the new year.

**Rules & Handicaps:** Co-Chairman Dick Crone (West) and Jim Brittingham (East) reported that 44 out of MISGA's 60 clubs may issue USGA handicap indexes in 2006. They noted that the USGA may extend the deadline for licensing from December 31 to June 30, 2006. Dick and Jim will be working with the remaining 14 clubs to assist them in trying to obtain their licenses by the end of the year. They concluded by saying that once all MISGA clubs are licensed, they will focus on assisting the clubs in increasing the effectiveness of their handicap committees in 2006.

(Follow up information: As of mid-January 2006, all MISGA clubs are licensed to issue USGA handicap indexes; and the USGA did extend its licensing deadline to June 30, 2006.)

**Trips & Events:** Peter Sorge said he was working on next year's trips including contracts with Sea Trail, Fripp Island and Amelia Island. He raised issues specific to several individual complaints and after lengthy discussion was congratulated on his judgment and outstanding work. He is "the Committee" under the Rules of Golf, and as such, he should continue to exercise his good judgment on the placement of tees, prizes and all the other issues pertaining to handicaps as well as any peculiar lodging requests including the curious relationships between MISGA members and their guests.

**Tournaments:** C. J. Myers polled each of the Division Directors for any changes to their Division Tournament Directors for the coming year. He will send each Division Tournament Chairman the Division's allotment of slots for the coming year.

In his written report, he included the dates and places for the state finals for 2006:

Two-Man Team	Manor-Div. IV	Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006
	Rain date	Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006
Past Presidents	Harbortowne-Div III	Monday, August 21, 2006
	Rain date	Wednesday, August 30, 2006

C.J.'s written report also stressed that for those who maintain two handicaps, strict adherence to USGA Handicap System will be required. Section 6-5 states, "If a player has different USGA Handicap Indexes at different clubs despite posting all scores at all clubs, the committee in charge of the competition shall require the player to use the lowest USGA Handicap Index when competing with players from more than one club."

In 2007, Division I will be responsible for hosting the Two-Man Team final and Division VI will be responsible for the Past Presidents (ABCD) final. Please plan for these events.

**WebMaster:** Byron Keadle reported that many fine pictures of the Fall Flings were on the MISGA website.

Byron asked that changes to the website leadership roster particularly at this time of the year be sent to him and Charlie Fieldhouse in a timely way. This roster is used by an increasing number of people because it includes the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of Division Directors, Assistant Division Directors, Club Reps and all Asst. Reps, Pro Shop telephones, and all MISGA officers and Committee Chairmen. **Please keep your part of the Leadership Roster up to date!**

**PASSING THE GAVEL:** Paul Keiser as outgoing President sincerely thanked each of the officers and committee chairmen. He mentioned each of their specific achievements over the past year which he claimed made his term as President enjoyable. [Yes, he said enjoyable! But we all know white lies are allowed at times like this.] The Board sincerely, and without white lies, thanked him with their loud applause as he was presented with the Past President badge.

Ralph Starkey of Division III then succeeded in rotation to the Vice Presidency of MISGA, as Paul passed the gavel to the next MISGA President for 2006, Tom Tarpley.

After much jocularly so typical whenever he takes the floor, Tom got serious when he announced tentative dates for Board Meetings in 2006:

- Spring Board Meeting            TBD (March at Prospect Bay?)
- Annual Reps Meeting            Chester River April 10, 2006
- Fall Board Meeting              Sept 12th Carroll Valley, Before MISGA Reps Invitational
- Final Board Meeting            Holly Hills, early December 2006

These dates are preliminary and will be confirmed later.

As planks in his Presidential platform, Tom suggested future consideration of the purchase of defibrillators at MISGA clubs and the possible establishment of a scholarship fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Chuck Ebbecke, MISGA Secretary, January 8, 2006