



MISGAgram

MARYLAND INTERCLUB SENIORS GOLF ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 7

LEE SHIMBERG, Editor

JUNE 1981

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Clearly one of MISGA's most persistent and bothersome problems is and has been lumped into one word - COMMUNICATIONS. But as we look back at past problems it appears that in many instances a better wording would be lack of communicating. A complete absence at the May 6 and 7 spring bash at Ocean City of even one golfer from two of Washington Area's oldest and normally best represented clubs is an interesting case. Simply the announcements never reached the Associates. No committees had been set up by those club's reps and the announcements contents had not been circulated by phone.

Your Board, the hard working tournament committee, liaison committee and all of MISGA's management solicit the help of our total membership. Each of you are told through the MISGAgram about each upcoming tournament well in advance. Please note the dates on your calendar and ask your club reps for full data at least 30 days prior to the tournament date.

In context of communications elsewhere in this issue you will see two announcements of tournaments: (1) MISGA's first "Scratch Tournament" at Sparrows Point Country Club, August 27, 1981. Many of our better golfers for three years requested this. However it met a lot of opposition on the misconception of how it should be conducted. It is in no way an attempt to establish an "elite" class of MISGA membership. It is a test designed to provide a format whereby once a year our better golfers statewide will have an opportunity to meet and compete head-to-head. The 1981 scratch tournament is a test and if we have enough low handicap players to achieve a respectable field it may become an annual event. (2) A Fall Festival of Golf is planned for early November at Fox Fire Country Club in Pinehurst, N.C. about 300 miles from Washington. This, too, is a new event to celebrate the closing of our most successful season of golf. By July 1 all club reps would have received details.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHT

The Board of Directors met on June 11, 1981 at Beaver Creek Country Club. Before business got under way our host Jack Young, owner and manager of Beaver Creek greeted us. He wanted to take the opportunity he said to advise the Board that joining MISGA was the best thing he's done for his seniors and that belonging to MISGA is one of the best things that has happened to his club. What was equally important to him was that he personally has enjoyed having the MISGA Board visit Beaver Creek.

President Ed Schmidt announced that the Nominating Committee had been appointed with T. Neill Turner, Chairman. Other Board members on the committee are Frank Buddle and Ed Schmidt. Other members are: Bill Hartman, Bethesda; Doug Moats, Montgomery; Ed Maguire, Cambridge; Charlie West, Argyle; Vern Mergl, Hunt Valley; and Maurice Peacock, Nassawonga. Important dates in election of new board members are August 8 and 27, the dates by which ballots will be delivered to the club reps and returned respectively. The President will announce the results at the fall Championships.

A motion was passed to limit representation on the Board to one man per club.

Gil Williams, chairman of the Liaison committee, reported that two meetings with a total of 31 club reps had been held. The meetings were very productive as some 10 suggestions for improvement in operations were collected. Action has been taken on all of these suggestions.

Dick Davis of Lakewood attended the meeting to discuss his earlier proposals that MISGA sponsor a scratch tournament. He explained that he had suggested a two-man better-ball tournament but that the Board had voted on an individual tournament. That vote was a tie so no action was taken. This time the Board voted 5 to 2 to hold the tournament and it will be held in 1981. Details to follow later in June.

The Tournament committee announced that two-man team allocations for the qualifiers had been assigned to each club. Allocations and location of qualifying round for the clubs appears elsewhere in this issue. The Committee announced that they had also developed all the ground rules for conducting major tournaments. These rules will be published soon.

Misga's fiscal needs through September 1981 were discussed and approved.

There was considerable discussion about holding a Western Shore Mixer as a corollary to the Easter Shore Mixer, preferably at clubs near the Bay Bridge. The Board decided to sponsor such an event next year.

The Long Range Policy and Planning Committee, chaired by Bill Woolston, reported on the two meetings held to date. Efforts were concentrated primarily on the way MISGA should grow and the way regions should be represented.

Regional reps are advised that they are invited to sit with the Board whenever it meets in their region. Additionally any Associate is welcome to address the Board when it meets provided only that they advise the Board in writing in advance of the subject to be presented.

(BOARD members note: Next meeting 10:30 AM, August 20, 1981, Talbot Country Club)

REPORT — MISGA LIAISON COMMITTEE

GILL WILLIAMS, Chairman

During the period of May 14 through June 5, 1981 meetings were held at various locations in the state with all Division Liaison Reps and their respective club reps.

At each meeting the Liaison procedure was reviewed to assure universal understanding of this practice.

In addition the 1981 goals and objectives were covered and each club rep. was encouraged to implement the completion of as many goals as possible.

The organization within each member club was discussed. We found that some clubs were operating with elected officers, committee chairmen, etc., while others were more informal because they got excellent support from the ownership and pro at their clubs. It was concluded that each club has a different situation and so the structure of the Seniors will vary between the member clubs. The main criteria is that each club should, regardless of their structure, be prepared to host well organized mixers.

The following questions were asked at each meeting and their responses are summarized below:

1. Do any clubs have problems where MISGA can help?
 - a. One club needs help to achieve better organization.
 - b. One club lacks support from their owner and pro
 - c. One club charged a \$4.00 entry fee for a mixer and did not distribute the entire amount collected in prizes.
 - d. One club won't keep to an agreed mixer dates and will change dates several times if another is scheduled at their club.
 - e. Low handicappers won't join MISGA at one club.
2. Any complaints about the parent MISGA organization?
 - a. We are getting too formal. Too many reports.
 - b. Western Shore doesn't want Eastern shore people said an Eastern shore club.
 - c. Move the Eastern Shore Invitational Mixer around - shouldn't always be held at Ocean City.
 - d. Mixer schedule in May '81 MISGAgram is not easily understood.
 - e. Have Western Shore Mixer even if 20 or 30 Eastern Shore golfers attend.
3. Any suggestions for improvement of MISGA?
 - a. We are expanding too fast with no stated future direction.
 - b. We are not being selective enough in the admission of new clubs.
 - c. Plan future growth on an orderly basis by divisions or Regions.
 - d. Mixer schedules should not be developed until after the first of the year when new club reps have been designated.
 - e. Prize money has been \$2.00 for years -- should it be increased?
 - f. Schedule of mixers is a problem with distance a factor and gas a problem.
 - g. Have a written guide sheet to give each potential new club.
 - h. Simplify the registration of associates. Do not number associates cards before distribution to clubs.

Presently we have 38 clubs in MISGA and 31 clubs or 87% were represented at these meetings. Cheers for the Eastern Shore Divisions who had 100% representation at these meetings. A lively discussion was generated at each meeting a good exchange of ideas resulted.

MISGA'S COMMUNICATION POLICY

Inform associates about programs, activities and objectives of MISGA and encourage their support.

Communicate problems and concerns of MISGA and seek Associates' cooperation in finding solutions.

Reporting successes and giving guidance to member clubs.

MISGAgrams will be the basic vehicle for these communications. They should attempt to serve a true journalistic function of providing balanced interpretive reporting of events significant to the Associates.

It requires an editor with authority to exercise editorial judgement within the context of broad policy guidelines from the Board.

The purpose of extensive coverage is to show awareness and concern on the part of the Board and its management, describe efforts to correct deficiencies, and report progress or explain the lack of it.

The credibility of the news depends, in large measure, on the promptness and openness with which highly visible problems are discussed.

It is important that Associates have enough familiarity with MISGA that they can evaluate and interpret the organization's progress, problems and successes.

Questions are encouraged from Associates. They will receive careful consideration and thoughtful replies will be provided by the person(s) responsible.

IMPLEMENTING SPECIFICS

The MISGAgram format will be reviewed annually. Presently it includes such items as:

Changes in policies, procedures and goals and objectives.

Results of major tournaments

Suggestions and comments from Associates.

Summaries of Board and Committee actions.

Dates of scheduled meetings.

Recognition of outstanding accomplishments

Columns by the President and Executive Director and the Editor and his staff.

ANNUAL FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Club qualifying sites for the Fall Two-Man Championship on 25 September at Lakewood C.C. The number listed with each club, represents the maximum number of teams the club is entitled to send based on their membership.

PINEY BRANCH (10 September)	TANTALLON (9 September)	NASSAWONGA (10 September)
Piney Branch X - 4	Indian Sp. ✓ - 5	Dambridge - 4
Wakefield X - 3	Manor O - 6	Caroline - 4
Beaver Creek X - 3	Leisure World ✓ - 10	Chester Riv. - 5
V.F.W. X - 3	Hobbits Glen ✓ - 3	Elks 1
Eaglehead X - 4	Bethesda O - 10	Green HILLS - 5
Montgomery O - 4	Kenwood O - 4	Nassawonga - 6
Rolling Rd. X - 6	Crofton ✓ - 6	Ocean City - 2
Sparrows Pt. X - 7	Prince Geo. ✓ - 4	Ocean Pines - 9
Hunt Valley X - 3	Tantallon ✓ - 3	Seaford - 5
Potomac Valley O - 3	Brook Man. ✓ - 6	Shawnee - 5
Lakewood O - 9	Mont. Vill. O - 6	Talbot - 4
Argyle O - 11	Washingtonian O - 3	
Univ. of Md. ✓ - 9	Green Castle ✓ - 6	
Holly Hills X - 3		

72

72

50

Total Teams going
to Lakewood 9/25

28

27

7

(NOTE: All clubs will have a least one team entrant in the championship flight provided they show up at the qualifying trials. At each qualifying site each club's team which has the lowest qualifying score is an automatic qualifier. The remainder of the quota for each qualifying site is then filled by teams in the order in which they finished in terms of score, regardless of their club affiliation.)

RECIPROCITY — WHAT IS IT?

LEE SHIMBERG

Most MISGA Associates understand reciprocity as that policy adopted by participating clubs that allow Associates to play home and away matches without paying green fees. The clubs benefit in such revenue areas as cart fees, merchandise sales (through prizes), and the dining room (all of us eat and a few of us drink -- a little).

There is another part of the reciprocity policy with which some Associates are not familiar. This is the policy that extends a welcome to individual Associates to come to a MISGA club of their choice on a designated Seniors Day and play on the same basis as in a mixer. That is most MISGA clubs have designated 2 or 3 days per month, in addition to mixer days, as senior days. These are the days you may join the local seniors at their club. Suppose for example, you are a "Western Shore" Associate and you miss those good old days when Eastern and Western Shore clubs played mixers. For example you don't get the food Cambridge puts out at a Western Shore club, and those crab cakes and ham lessened the pain of an occasional double bogey.

Tell you what to do. Look up the name of the club rep of your planned-to-visit host club and tell him that you'd like to play with them on one of their Senior's days. (Of course be specific about which date.) Better yet, get three other Westerners and make it a foursome visit if they can accommodate you. And if you plan to go that far, why not consider a two day outing by calling a nearby Eastern Shore club whose Senior Day immediately precedes or follows the first club of your choice. A foursome can reduce the cost of such a two-day outing by travelling in one car and by sharing two motel rooms (preferably one that gives discounts to seniors as many Holiday and Ramada Inns do). The Eastern Shore clubs are invited to reverse this process, too.

This sounds like such a good idea that we're going to try it. Tell you more about it in the issue of MISGAgram immediately after our Eastern Shore safari. And we'll include reports of clams, oysters, and crabcakes -- and any mistakes we make, so that you won't repeat them.

Watch for the roving reporter's report.

TALK \$ENIOR GOLF \$ENSE

Duane Swindle's article last month has kindled much interest again for record keeping of cash flow from \$enior golf. Indian Springs uses the following type of report:

MISGA MIXER REPORT - May 22, 1981

Host:	Indian Springs	Visitor:	Beaver Creek
Golfers:	20		21
Carts:	21 at \$14		\$294
*Prizes:	\$82 with gross to Pro Shop		150
Lunch:	40 at \$3.75 +.75 tax and gratuity		180
Bar:			59.40
		Total - - -	-\$683.40

signed by Indian Springs Rep.

*Winners: _____; _____; _____;

CC: President: Gen. Mgr; Chrmn, Golf Comm: Senior Bulletin Bd; Club Rep.

TWO-MAN BETTER-BALL SCRATCH TOURNAMENT

NEW MISGA TWO MAN SCRATCH TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR 1981

by John Wheeler, Greencastle CC

In answer to a number of requests for a "Scratch" Tournament, a Two Man Better Ball Scratch Tournament was approved by the Board of Directors meeting at Beaver Creek C.C. on Thursday, 11 June.

An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Al Hagen (Lakewood) Chairman, Waldo Sager (Potomac Valley), Sam Hastings (Argyle), Neil Turner (Brooke Manor), Dick Davis (Lakewood) and John Wheeler (Greencastle) met the following Monday morning at Lakewood C.C. and agreed the Tournament will be held on Thursday, August 27 at Sparrows Point Country Club. On a first come first served basis, it would be open to all MISGA Associates regardless of handicap. The teams must come from the same clubs. The entry fee of \$25.00 per man includes cart, prizes and a sumptuous awards banquet dinner. In this connection, attire for the dinner will be informal with jackets. Since shower facilities are available a change of clothes, left in cars until after play, is suggested.

The "Scratch" Tournament will be given the widest possible publicity so that every low handicap MISGA member is informed and encouraged to enter. Division Reps and all Club Reps will be urged to see that all MISGA Associates receive current copies of the MISGAgram and entry form flyers which will be distributed to all member clubs.

This "Scratch" Tournament may well be the first of a regularly scheduled annual event and could become a high point for our better scoring members.

FALL FESTIVAL OF GOLF

Are you ready for a celebration?

This will be a fitting conclusion of our most successful season of golf. We are planning a super deluxe gala at Fox Fire Inn and Country Club, Pinehurst, N.C.

HOW MANY WOULD BE INTERESTED: Final arrangements depend upon how many Associates and their brides would indicate a positive interest. By Mid July we will have colored brochures and more details for you to help make your decisions.

DATE: Early November

GOAL: A TOTAL OF 200.. some will be golf widows who will discover a wealth of shopping, recreation and sightseeing in surrounding towns and villages. There will be planned activities such as cooking demonstrations, area tours, pottery demonstrations and fashion shows.

GOLF: Fox Fire has 36 challenging, well-manicured holes that thread through magnificent trees and skirt spring-fed ponds.

Remember the World Capitol of Golf is located at Pinehurst.

TENNIS: Yes

ACCOMMODATIONS: Townhouses and Villas

COST: Four Days and Three night for approximately the same as have been paying for our Spring Flings.

FOOD: Buffets and/or sit downs

DIVISION AND CLUB REPRESENTATIVES:

No where have we played as an organization at such fine facilities. The rates are good in November. The beautiful fall weather will be invigorating. Each Club Representative is requested to notify his Division Representative by July 15 his best estimate of the numbers that are interested.

The Division Representatives should furnish this information to Al Hagen (593 0384).

SECOND GOAL: To announce a sellout at the Fall Championship banquet at Lakewood C.C., September 25, 1981.