

Bill Woolston



MISGAgram

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

On October 1st, MISGA began a new year which should prove to be a very significant one in the history of our great organization. As most of you know, MISGA began in 1976 as a rather loosely knit organization of ten clubs in the suburbs of Washington. In that first year, only about 250 senior golfers were involved but, under the able leadership of Al Hagen, the idea behind MISGA began to kindle the interest of more and more senior golfers. As a result, additional clubs in the Washington area became involved. Soon, largely because of Al's enthusiasm and "missionary zeal," the great idea spread to other parts of the state. You know the rest of the story. We now have 38 member clubs in Maryland and Delaware and almost 1800 individual Associates.

Because of MISGA's rapid growth and considerable distances involved, some problems began to develop, the most serious being a lack of adequate means of communication between the Board of Directors and the individual clubs.

In an effort to provide a solution to some of these problems, this year's "trial plan" of reorganization was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors on August 6, 1981 at Brooke Manor. The basic concept of the plan is that of a decentralized organization with four divisions, each of which will operate in a semiautonomous fashion. The autonomy embraces all areas of operation within each division subject only to general guidelines set forth by the Board of Directors. Each division has elected its own Division Director, who is a member of the Board. If the "trial plan" is adopted at the end of the one-year trial period, beginning in 1983 each division will conduct its own qualifying tournament. Already, this year each division is scheduling its own mixers, both within and without the division. It is hoped, too, that each Division Director will have regular meetings with the club reps from his member clubs. Since each Division Director is a member of MISGA's Board, any complaints, suggestions, or concerns expressed by any of the people in his division can be easily communicated to the Board for its consideration.

All in all, I believe that the new plan will go a long way toward solving MISGA's problems and should result in an even stronger organization in the future. If everyone involved -- individual Associates, Club Reps, the Executive Director, and members of the Board of Directors -- will work together in a spirit of friendship, mutual respect, and genuine cooperation, I am confident our great organization will become even stronger in the years to come.

Bill Woolston

Hunt Valley Golf Club

THE FIRST MISGA TWO MAN SCRATCH TOURNAMENT IS HISTORY

And what a history it turned out to be. For years MISGA's lower handicap players have been asking for a scratch tournament. A chance to go "belly-to-belly," a chance to determine the best from among the many fine golfers in our senior community. Well it finally happened, the first MISGA two-man scratch team better ball tournament was held on August 27, 1981 at the Sparrows Point Country Club. Using the enthusiasm shown by the participants as a yardstick, the tournament was a great success.

Forty-one teams representing twenty clubs of the thirty-eight members of MISGA participated. The Sparrows Point course was set up to play at 6650 yards with pin placements that were truly challenging. The losers expressed it as "diabolical"; the winners, with no complaints were:

George Bodner & Chuck Kantner -Mont Vil. 71
Howard Gunsten & Weldon Mathis -Beth. 72
J.F. Burke & Ed Dosek -Crofton 73
Bob Morris & Tony Popolaski -Argyle 73
Jack Willard & Brad Collett -Argyle 74

After the tournament, an excellent roast beef dinner was served during which the participants were asked for their comments regarding this affair and its format. The response was a really big roar of approval. That roar of approval said two things: "the host club provided an excellent test of golf" and "let's do it again next year."

We will!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

There is a generally accepted principle that all participants in an event should be governed by the same rules.

In golf, for example, if summer rules are in effect, they are in effect for everyone. No problem there. But in an event, such as MISGA sponsors, in which there is multiclub participation, there is a chance for different rules to apply to members from different clubs unless the tournament committee enforces uniform rules.

BEBEE AND HASTINGS WIN ANNUAL FALL CHAMPIONSHIP AT LAKEWOOD

Eastern Shore clubs dominated the Fall Championship at Lakewood on September 25th. In addition to the winning team of Sam Bebee and Bert Hastings from Caroline with a net 58, four other teams from Eastern Shore Clubs won prizes. The runners-up were:

2nd Newburn/Lebrun -- Nassawonga
3rd Healy/Stein -- Ocean Pines
4th Taylor/Higgins -- Holly Hills
5th Fuchs/Pennington -- Crofton
6th Smith/Jenkins -- Ocean Pines
7th Griswalk/Covell -- Sparrows Pt.
8th Schopport/Lenczyk -- Ocean Pines

All told, 28 clubs placed 72 teams from a starting field of 140 teams that played qualifying rounds at Tantallon, Piney Branch, and Nassawonga. Finalists enjoyed a beautiful day at a club that was in first-class condition, where play was made even more enjoyable by the Lakewood ladies who got clubs to carts, sold chances for the 50-50 and closest to the hole, and otherwise offered sympathy and encouragement to all participants. Festivities concluded with a delicious roast beef dinner that was enjoyed by all.

Next year's Fall Championship will be played on the Eastern Shore.

This situation can exist when an event is held near the beginning of the month when some clubs have new handicaps and some have old ones. In such case it is possible that some Associates will be playing with August handicaps and some with September's.

If the tournament is held near the end of the month, as is the case with our championship, everyone will be playing with current handicaps. But in the case of at least one of the qualifying rounds, some of the clubs played with August handicaps and some with September handicaps. Those whose handicaps dropped felt that they were unfairly treated.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DIVISION 4 ELECTS MIKE DEOUDS DIVISION DIRECTOR - OTHER RESULTS

A meeting of club reps of Division 4 was held at Argyle CC on 17 August for the purpose of electing a Division Director who will represent these clubs as explained elsewhere in this issue.

The following club reps attended:

Potomac Valley -- Mike Deoudes
Lakewood -- Al Strachocki
Montgomery CC -- Doug Moats
Montgomery Vill. -- Frank Buddle
Kenwood -- Pat Boyle
Bethesda -- Dick Redinger (acting for
Bill Thornton)
Argyle -- Sam Hastings
Manor -- Frank Coyle

Not present: Washingtonian

The meeting was chaired by Bill Hartman current Division Rep. He asked Sam Hastings to recap the new method of operation as envisioned by the Policy and Planning Committee. Sam prefaced his remarks by stating that the committee's rationale for making the reorganization proposal to the Board was twofold:

- 1) to strengthen organizational operation at the "heart" level of MISGA -- the clubs.
- 2) to shorten the lines of communication

He also explained how the Board will ultimately be made up of 7 Directors and Officers and that initial elections for Division Directors would be for two for 3-year terms, one for a 2-year term and one for a 1-year term. On drawing of straws, Division 4 got the one year term.

Two candidates were nominated for the post: Hartman (by Sam Hastings) and Deoudes (by Doug Moats). The winner by a secret ballot was Deoudes by 6-2.

Results of other Divisional elections were:

Division 1 -- Ed Maguire
Division 2 -- Mel Gesell
Division 3 -- Herb Hudson

THE CRYING TOWEL

1. How to Lose a Match Play Tournament Without Really Losing

The scenario is that of two seniors, perhaps not quite 100 years old but with leaky memories equivalent to those possessed by centenarians, struggling through a hard fought match play tournament for the consolation prize of the ninth (and final) flight.

After various alternately spectacular and dismal displays of prowess and golfing coolness, our heroes finish the round dead even. They proceed to the first tee for a playoff when one of them dimly remembers a rule of having to play three holes (not sudden death). They go back to the pro shop and ask the pro --or one of the assistants-- and are told "Nct sudden death, you must play three holes." [AND THAT IS ALL HE SAYS!]

The old scrappers play the three holes and are still even. One wheezes to the other, "What now?" His opponent responds confidently, just as though he knows the rule, "Now it's sudden death." The other fellow accepts this pronouncement and loses the next hole with a swift six to a fortuitous five and the pair staggers back to the clubhouse even though the match wasn't really over because the rule is "Play three, then two, then two, etc until there is a winner." Because the loser on the fourth playoff hole didn't know the rule (any better than his opponent) AND BECAUSE THE PRO DIDN'T GIVE THE PLAYERS THE COMPLETE RULE, the loser of the fourth playoff hole --in accepting his opponent's version of the rule-- lost the match before it was over.

You can select your own interpretation --either the winner didn't deserve to win, or the loser didn't deserve to lose-- but in any event this is the kind of outcome that weakens camaraderie and lessens enthusiasm for competitive golf. It also encourages the "loser" to distrust and --sometimes--badmouth his pro.

Incidents like this happen frequently, so the best advice is to know the rules yourself before starting play.

BOARD MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

September 15 Meeting

The Tournament Committee reported that the qualifying rounds produced 24 teams at the Eastern Shore qualifying site, a full 72 teams at Piney Branch, but only 46 teams at Tantallon. Western qualifying rounds next year will be held at Holly Hills and the U. of Md. on Sept. 8. The Fall Championship will be played on Sept. 24 at an Eastern Shore site -- probably Talbot.

Al Hagen reported that the two-man team scratch tournament at Sparrows Point on August 27 was a great success with 41 teams from 20 clubs competing. See page 2 for additional details (such as who won). It is noted that the participants voiced their desire to have a repeat next year and at the same club.

Because of low registration for Foxfire, it was agreed to open registration to friends of Associates on a space available basis after October 1.

The Nominating Committee reported that the four new divisions had elected directors (see page 3 for details). The Division Directors were then seated as members of the Board of Directors.

Shortly thereafter, the Board of Directors elected Bill Woolston and George Fisher President and Vice-President respectively.

October 5 Meeting

Prior to the conduct of business, Bill Woolston offered an operating philosophy for the coming year based on the Constitution and Bylaws as modified by the Reorganization plan and trial period for the coming year. The primary purposes of the October 5 meeting were to confirm dates for all MISGA events and to appoint operating officials for the year. The operating rationale is an official part of the minutes and is available to anyone on request. All proposed MISGA event dates thus far established were accepted (more on this in the next issue).

The following persons were elected to the posts indicated for a one-year term:

Al Hagen, Executive Director
Sid Rapoport, Treasurer
Lee Shimberg, Recording Secretary
Mike Deoudes, Tournament Committee

Additional persons will be appointed to the staff of the Executive Director and to the Tournament Committee in the near future.

IN THE NEXT MISGAgram . . .

We will include a removable sheet with the MISGA organization chart with current club reps and 1982 mixer schedules; dates for major MISGA events in '82, a report on Foxfire and an easy-to-fill-out-and-return questionnaire giving all Associates a chance to indicate their druthers on Out-of-town Flings/Festivals including time/place/cost factors. Also another Crying Towel, more on reciprocity, and some heroic golf feats of Associates.