



# MISGAGRAM

Volume 129 – December 2016

[www.misga.org](http://www.misga.org)

## President's Message



Welcome to the New Year. I joined Hobbit's Glen Golf Club and MISGA in 2000. I was the MISGA Rep. there for five years. 2000 was the high water mark for associates participating in MISGA mixers, and the way mixers were run changed greatly. For instance, at Hobbits we went from playing nine other clubs each year to playing 26. Times were good for golf and new courses seemed to be opening almost every week. That was perfect for me, as I was recently retired and had a quest to play every golf course in Maryland. Eventually I was able to do it! Mixers were also cheaper then and the food seemed to be better too. Well, that's how I remember it!

Slowly times changed. Now golf courses are closing, and many private clubs are losing members. Since 2000 the number of MISGA associates has gone from over 4500 to about 2700. What are we to do? One idea would be for some clubs to cut back on the number of mixers they have, so that they don't feel that they have failed if they cannot fill all of their mixers. Of course, many clubs are doing just fine, as associates from other clubs want to play there despite the possible long commutes and higher prices. As always it is the responsibility of the club rep. to figure out what works best for their club. The high cost for lunch has become an issue, and reps need to figure out what to do about that. We must face the fact that fewer potential golfers are retiring, and that many others don't want to take so much time to golf. Also, "maturity" has caused many of us to not be able to play as much, or want to travel as far. Perhaps more nine hole tournaments should be considered. It is a time to be creative, and I invite all of you to submit to me and/or your club rep. your ideas to deal with the issues we now face.

For me MISGA is like a special club. Back in 1975 our founding fathers (I fear most are dead by now) proposed that MISGA provide 1) the waiver of greens fees; 2) non-competitive format with the home club members acting as hosts to the visitors, and 3) a strong emphasis on Interclub fellowship in golf. Maybe it is time to focus less on competitiveness, and more on the fellowship. In 2016 I participated in the MISGA finals at Wild Quail and Norbeck. I was impressed by the friendly interactions between most of the players both during the golf and the dinner that followed. I think that was the spirit that the old founding fathers were talking about.

Jim Wilcox

Maryland  
Interclub  
Seniors Golf  
Association

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Jim Wilcox

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The MISGAGRAM is the official newsletter of the organization published on the web site four times each year. The mission of the MISGAGRAM is to provide information of common interest to association members. The MISGAGRAM can be read or downloaded at:

[www.misga.org](http://www.misga.org)

The publication months for the MISGAGRAM are:

**March**

**June**

**September**

**December**

Noteworthy events and announcements for away activities, and articles of general interest may be submitted to the editor at any time for publishing. The closing dates for publication are:

**10 March** (March)

**10 June** (June)

**20 Sept.** (September)

**20 Dec.** (December)

All materials should be sent via e-mail to:

[tgnome1@gmail.com](mailto:tgnome1@gmail.com)

Bob Hodges

MISGAGRAM Editor

## OBITUARIES

Thankfully, none.

## The Lighter Side



## Celebrations

## MISGA Board of Directors Takes Action to Modify a MISGA Associate's "Course Handicap" for MISGA Championship Tournaments

In the past 14 MISGA Championship Tournaments (2010-2016), a MISGA associate has been crowned Grand Champion 5 times (Past Presidents-ABCD - 1 time and 2-Man Team - 4 times) and finished first or second 7 times.

This associate's extraordinary and exceptional performance created MISGA-wide concern over the validity and authenticity of his *Course Handicap* at those MISGA's Championship Tournaments (MCT). They contend this associate has played with a much higher *Course Handicap* than his true playing ability warrants. As a result, threats of not participating in future MISGA Championship Tournaments have been made by many disgruntled MISGA associates who believe they have no chance of winning.

In response to the anger and frustration of MISGA's associates, the MISGA Board of Directors commissioned an Ad Hoc Tournament Complaint Committee (Committee) to investigate the validity and authenticity of the associate's *Course Handicap* in the MCTs. The assigned mission of the Committee was to investigate the assertions and prepare a written report of findings with recommendations for optional courses of action.

First, the Committee communicated with the USGA for guidance and direction on the proper investigative approach and procedures. Official regulatory guidance was provided by the *USGA Handicap System Manual* and the *MISGA Championship Tournament Guidelines*.

Next, the Committee developed a number of representative charts, tables and graphs depicting the associate's score posting practices over a 7-year period (2010-2016) and the 14 MCTs in which he competed. An in-depth mathematical analysis of the associate's posted scores revealed the following:

1. Applying the *Binomial Probability Distribution Function* shows the probability of the associate winning the MISGA 2-Man Team MCT in 4 out of 6 tournaments (2011-2016) is an astounding **433,847 to 1**.
2. According to the USGA - "Including all the handicap formula, the resulting probability is that playing to your handicap (i.e.,  $\text{Target Score} = \text{Course Handicap} + \text{Course Rating}$ ) happens only once out of 4 to 5 rounds (20-25%)." This associate **shot below** his *Target Score* **9 out of 14 times (64%)** in the MCTs.

3. Over a 4+ year period, the MISGA associate posted approximately 330 scores. Converting those posted scores to their respective *Handicap Differential* scores revealed an **extremely narrow range** of *Handicap Differential* scores. 82% of the associate's 330 *Handicap Differential* scores were within a 3-point range (23.0 - 25.9). By comparison, the normal *Handicap Differential* range for high handicap golfers is that 80% of their posted scores will fall between a 10 to 13 point range. For example, a high handicap golfer with a *Handicap Index* of 24.0 will have 80% of his *Handicap Differential* scores between 19.0 - 28.9.
4. In his Past Presidents-ABCD MCTs, this associate averaged **1 stroke lower** than his *Target Score*. In his 2-Man Team MCTs, he averaged **2 strokes lower** than his *Target Score*.
5. The USGA concluded that based upon the accumulation of the data provided to them, there is sufficient data to warrant action by the MCT Tournament Committees to modify the *Associate's Course Handicap*.

Based on the information and data above, the Committee concluded the associate has deftly managed his *Handicap Index* to such an extent that he has been able to win five *Net Grand Championships* and placed 1st or 2nd seven times in 14 MCTs. This success rate far exceeds normal probability and expectations; thus, corrective action should be taken by MISGA.

To determine the associate's *Course Handicap* for the 2017 MCTs, the Committee recommended that *Section 3-3* and *Section 10* of the *USGA Handicap System Manual* be applied. This requires each MCT Tournament Committee to determine the associate's *Course Handicap* by mathematical application of the associate's 5 lowest *Handicap Differentials* from his 14 MCTs.

At the December 7, 2017 MISGA Board of Directors Meeting, the Board, by a unanimous vote, accepted the Committee's report findings and its recommended course of action.

### **Report from MISGA 2016 Fall Frolic**

This year's event was held at Whispering Pines Country Club, NC. This was our first visit to this venue. We arrived a few weeks after a Hurricane devastated some areas of North Carolina. Numerous trees were damaged and some damage to the fairways was evident. The River course had been closed until the week before our arrival. However, both courses were playable and each course had different features to make for a more diverse golf outing.

The weather was pleasant and many golfers wore shorts. The golf staff ensured a well-run tournament. Most groups finished playing in less than four and a half hours allowing time to rest, have lunch and visit nearby sites. Some of us took the opportunity to visit the famous "Pinehurst County Club". The Pinehurst Club house is a must see! The halls are decorated with pictures and trophies of famous pro and amateur golfers. We had lunch there and it was good and more than reasonably priced.

The non-golfers went on a guided tour of the area. It consisted of learning about the history of the Pinehurst and the Sand Hills area. They saw historic homes and they visited a local pottery studio for a "Horsehair Raku" demonstration. Lunch was provided by MISGA at Lady Bedford's Tea Room.

I want to thank everyone who helped me on this outing. I really appreciate those who volunteer to assist. I have personally thanked all of them and look forward to their help in the future.

Those of you who haven't been on a Fall Frolic should ask your friends about how they enjoyed themselves and make plans to attend in the future. As always, I will be happy to consider any venues that meet MISGA criteria for an outside event. Some of the requirements are that the venue has a least two golf courses, lodging must have one bathroom for each bedroom & the climate must be appropriate for the time of the year we are attending.

Peter Sorge, Events Chairman

### **Spring Fling – 2017**

This year's Spring Fling is in jeopardy. Joe Baily was in the process of arranging the event, which is planned for May, when he was taken seriously ill. MISGA is looking for a few good men (well... one anyhow) to pick up the reins and make the Spring Fling a success. Without a leader this event will have to be cancelled.

If you're interested contact Pete Sorge. Phone 301-292-1597

### **Summer Frolic -- 2017**

The MISGA 2017 Summer Frolic will again be held at The Liberty Mountain Resort / Carroll Valley Golf Club in Fairfield, PA on the following dates:

Tues, September 12, 2017 - Golf with Tee Times beginning @ 10:30 a.m.  
Board of Directors Fall Meeting - 4:00 p.m.  
Dinner in Highland Lodge - 6:00 p.m.

Wed, September 13, 2017 - Breakfast in Eagle and Owl 6:30 - 9:15 a.m.  
Golf w/ Tee Times beginning @ 10:30 a.m.  
Cocktails / Social / Dinner / 50-50 Raffle /  
Awards @ Alpine Room @ 6:00 p.m.

Thur, September 14, 2017 - Breakfast in Eagle & Owl 6:00 - 8:45 a.m.  
Golf Shotgun - Mixed Scramble @ 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch Awards in Alpine Room @ 1:00 p.m.

If you have questions about this event please contact Ed Masood via email ([gcemasood@gmail.com](mailto:gcemasood@gmail.com)) or at his cell phone 301.221.7821.

### ***Fall Fling – 2017***

*Pete Sorge is currently firming up dates. He has narrowed the window to 10/22-10/27/2017, or 10/29-11/3/2017. More to come.*

<u>MISGA Event Calendar</u>		
	Jan '17	
	Feb '17	Board Meeting
	Mar '17	
	Apr '17	Reps Meeting
	May '17	Spring Fling (???? See Above)
	Jun '17	2 Man & ABCD Qualifiers
	Jul '17	2 Man & ABCD Qualifiers
	Aug '17	2 Man Tournament Aug 3 ABCD Tournament Aug 10
	Sep '17	Board Meeting Summer Frolic
	Oct '17	Fall Fling
	Nov '17	
	Dec '17	Board Meeting