

# THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lake Miona Recreation Center

April 21, 2026

Paul Matheson called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

## 1. **Attendance:**

- a. Board Members Paul Matheson, President; Judy Smith, Vice President; Jim O'Brien, Secretary; Merle Erlich; Nancy Turner; Dutch Dresser; Jon Williams; Russ Pearly and Bruce Thiher. Also in attendance were Tom Tessier, Treasurer; Pat Holmes and John Quinn, Head Directors and Donna Brown Club Manager.

## 2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

- a. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the March 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, previously distributed to Board.

## 3. **Ratification of Decisions Taken Since Last Board Meeting:**

- a. There were no decisions made with e-mail votes of the Board of Directors since the March 24, 2026 board meeting.

## 4. **Discussion on the Distinguished Speaker Event:**

- a. After discussion of potential candidates, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to contract with Michael Berkowitz to be the presenter at the next Distinguished Speaker Event to be held in the spring of 2027.

## 5. **Manager's Report (Donna Brown):**

- a. Laurel Manor will be closed for May, June, and part of July. The Monday <1500 game will be moved to Ezell except for May 18.
- b. For the month of May, Sundays are available for games on May 10 and May 31.
- c. Lake Miona will be closed on Tuesday, May 12. A request has been submitted to the Recreation Department to secure for an alternate venue for the 1:00pm open game and the 6:00pm < 1500 & <300 game. If alternative venues cannot be secured, the 1:00pm open game will be combined with the <750 game at Eisenhower and the 6:00pm <1500 & <300 game will be cancelled.
- d. Permit has been secured for the June, 2026 Sectional Tournament. Flyers have been sent to other clubs. A caterer will not be used for the Tournament.
- e. Permit has been secured for the November, 2026 Open Sectional & NLM Regional Tournament (November 20 through November 23). Flyers are waiting for ACBL approval. A Tournament co-chair is needed. Merle Erlich volunteered to co-chair the Tournament along with Donna Brown. Per ACBL regulations, free plays will no longer be offered at the November NLM Regional Tournament for players with 0-50mp. After discussion of the player fees, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to set the player fee per session at \$20.00 for the Open Sectional Tournament.
- f. Donna reminded the Board that permit applications for Tournament venues cannot be made prior to one year before the applicable Tournament. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow Donna to apply for permits for the January, June, and November tournaments on the earliest dates allowable under the Recreation Department's guidelines.

- g. The Longest Day Alzheimer's game will be held on June 21 and will consist of two single session games (9:00am and 1:00pm).
- h. SE Carolina will be discontinuing the entry fee sharing program with The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club.
- i. In view of the reduced attendance at the Open Swiss Team events, Paul Matheson suggested that we may want to consider using one of the Sundays to run an individual movement game as an alternative to the Swiss Team game format.

**6. Treasurer's Report:**

- a. Tom Tessier provided the following March, 2026 Reports which he had previously emailed to Board Members.
  - a. Operating Report for the month of March, 2026.
  - b. Comparative Profit and Loss Statement for the one (1) month ended March 31, 2026 versus March 31, 2025.
  - c. Comparative Profit and Loss Statement for the three (3) months ended March 31, 2026 versus March 31, 2025.
  - d. 2026 Profit and Loss Statement by month for January-March, 2026.
  - e. Comparative Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2026 versus March 31, 2025.
- b. Tom recapped and provided highlights for March, 2026
  - a. VDBC hosted 97 games with 1,241.0 tables.
  - b. There were 56 free plays and 20 guests.
  - c. For the month of March, 2026, VDBC's gross revenues were \$21,371.50 and expenses were \$18,316.80.
  - d. VDBC had a net gain of \$3,054.70 for the month ended March 31, 2026.
- c. At month-end, VDBC had the following balances.
 

a. Checking	\$41,272.64
b. 12 Month 3.75% CD maturing 7/10/26	\$40,000.00
c. Equity balance	\$64,869.84
- d. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report with thanks from the Board for the Report.

**7. Status of Mike Gilbert Reservation System Program:**

- a. Mike Gilbert has been retained to write a new reservation system program because the owners of the existing system have not been responsive to the needs of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club. Mike is making great progress.
- b. The data base has been setup.
- c. Mike is now working on the seating portion of the program.

**8. Status of the Big Cypress Game:**

- a. The game will be held on Tuesdays at 1:00pm at the Big Cypress recreation center for players with 0-50mp.
- b. A sanction has been obtained from ACBL.
- c. VDBC will be taking over the permit from Darlene Rutkowski.
- d. Rich Seidman & Greg Frank are setting up a computer and printer for the site.
- e. A cabinet is in place to store VDBC's game supplies.
- f. 14 Bridgemates will need to be moved to the Big Cypress venue.
- g. The first game will be held on 5/5/26.

**9. Online Bridge Games:**

a. Based on the membership survey, 58% of the membership does not want to play in an online evening game. Donna had signed up with Real Bridge but had not moved forward pending Board guidance. The player entry fee for the Real Bridge would be \$6.00 per game which would consist of 18 boards. It would take at least 6 tables for VDBC to breakeven. VDBC players always have the option to play in a Real Bridge online game. The question is whether or not VDBC should sponsor such a game. The consensus of the Board was that it seemed too expensive, there was not overwhelming membership for the game, it did not seem likely that VDBC would make much money on the online game, and that VDBC should focus its efforts on its face-to-face games. No motion was made to have Donna continue pursue the Real Bridge online game. Accordingly, Donna will no longer pursue the Real Bridge online game.

**10. Subcommittee Report on the Proposed Summer Game Schedule:**

- a. Jon Williams, Russ Pearly, and Bruce Thiher, the subcommittee tasked with suggesting game schedule changes for the Summer months gave its report.
- b. The subcommittee suggested
  - i. The 1:00pm Wednesday <1500mp game at Lake Miona be combined with the 1:00pm Wednesday Open game and the combined game would be held at Seabreeze. This would occur after the June Sectional tournament. The game will have two sections – an Open section and an <1500mp section.
  - ii. The 9:00am Thursday <20 game at Seabreeze be combined with the 9:00am Thursday <100mp game and the combined game would be held at Rohan.
  - iii. The Saturday morning Swiss game for players with <750mp be cancelled immediately for lack of interest.
- c. Andrea Wolff requested that the Thursday morning <100mp game be increased to 150mp. The subcommittee recommended against Andrea's request.
- d. Terry Oleske requested that the Monday <150mp game be increased to 200mp. The subcommittee recommended against Terry's request.
- e. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt all of the subcommittee's recommendations.

**11. Status of Formation of Committees to Support Sectional Tournaments.**

- a. Since Merle Erlich had to leave the meeting early, no report was presented and item was deferred until the next Board meeting.

**12. New Business**

- a.** The player survey results had been sent out to the Board members. There did not seem to be any real membership consensus of needed changes to the way VDBC has been operating.
- b.** Dutch will prepare a summary of the results for the next meeting.

**13.** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Lake Miona Recreation enter at 4:30pm.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim O'Brien, Secretary