

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lake Miona Recreation Center

February 17, 2026

Paul Matheson called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

1. **Attendance:**

- a. Board Members Paul Matheson, President; Judy Smith, Vice President; Jim O'Brien, Secretary; Merle Erlich; Nancy Turner; Dutch Dresser; Jon Williams; and Bruce Thiher. Tom Tessier, Treasurer; Pat Holmes and John Quinn, Head Directors were also present. Also in attendance were Caroline Davies, Darlene Rutkowski, Patricia Beck, and Anne Burnik.
- b. Russ Pearly's absence was excused.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

- a. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, previously distributed to Board and posted on the website.

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

- a. The Board ratified the following email votes
 - i. In January, 2026, the Board voted by email to cancel the Open Swiss games
 - ii. Between the January and February, 2026 Board meetings, the Board voted by email to have one Open Swiss game and two 8 Is Enough Swiss games on Sundays, subject to room availability.

4. **Manager's Report:**

- a. There was no manager's report because Donna Brown was out of the country.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

- a. Tom Tessier provided the following January, 2026 Reports which he had previously emailed to Board Members.
 - i. Operating Report for the month of January, 2026.
 - ii. Comparative Profit and Loss Statement for the one month ended January 31, 2026 versus January 31, 2025.
 - iii. Comparative Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2026 versus January 31, 2025.
- b. Tom recapped and provided highlights for January, 2026
 - i. VDBC hosted 86 games with 1,034.5 tables.
 - ii. There were 53 free plays and 18 guests.
 - iii. VDBC's gross revenues were \$33,404.72 and expenses were \$33,051.75.
 - iv. VDBC had a profit of \$352.97 for the month ended January 31, 2026.
- c. At month-end, VDBC had the following balances.
 - i. Checking \$26,176.60
 - ii. 12 Month 3.75% CD maturing 7/10/26 \$40,000.00
 - iii. Equity balance \$61,942.51
- d. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report with thanks from the Board for the Report.

6. **Discussion of Villages Room Rental Fees:**

- a. Paul presented to the Board the results of a meeting with John Rohan that was attended by Paul Matheson, Jim O'Brien, and Donna Brown. The Board discussed the status of the VDBC sponsored tournaments. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to (1) run the June and November tournaments, (2) elect to pay the standard room rental fee rather than the 30% of gross, and (3) reduce the number of rooms at Savannah Center from 4 to 3 to cut down on the amount of rent to be paid. The Board tabled any action on the January tournament.
- b. The Board requested the Merle Erlich develop a list of duties for each volunteer position needed to run the tournament.

7. **Agenda for the Annual Meeting:**

- a. The Board approved the following agenda for the Annual Membership meeting.
 - i. Treasurer's report.
 - ii. Discussion of the future of VDBC sponsored tournaments.
 - iii. Paul's comments on 2025 operations and 2026 planned operations
 - iv. Open floor for member questions.
- b. The Board approved hospitality consisting of coffee, soda, chips, and deli sandwiches.

8. **Discussion of Proposed Membership Survey:**

- a. Dutch presented a proposed survey for Board comment.
- b. After Board discussion of the proposed survey, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the proposed survey with a few modifications including the addition of an opening paragraph regarding the intent and use of the Survey.

9. **Discussion on games to be held at Olympia:**

- a. **Jon Williams reported that-**
 - i. VDBC is ready to start games in late March or early April, pending the receipt of requested equipment.
 - ii. Requested a room for lessons (2 lessons per week for 5 weeks. The Villages will charge VDBC \$1,000 for the use of the room if fees are charged to the participants.
 - iii. There are two facebook groups
 - 1. What's going on at Eastport.
 - 2. What's going on at Olympia.
- b. The Board discussed the history of its educational classes.

11. New Business

- a.** The need to consider adding an additional card preparation person for the Ezell and Olympia venues was discussed. It would reduce the travel time for Margaret and Denny while at the same time training a backup for Denny should anything happen to her.
- b.** Ruth Rutkowski holds a permit for a bridge game (<50mp) at Big Cypress on the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Tuesday. She presented a request to have VDBC run the games. The venue is large enough for 19 tables. The game typically has 5-9 tables. She would provide VDBC with boards, table cards, and bidding boxes. VDBC would need a computer/printer, bridgemates, and a console. In order to run the games, VDBC would need assurances from Big Cypress that VDBC could store its supplies at Big Cypress. Ruth Rutkowski agreed to contact Big Cypress to get some more information. No action was taken on the request.
- c.** Nancy Turner would like to hold an Alzheimer's fund raising game on 3/8/26. She requested that the game fees be donated to Alzheimer's and that VDBC provide two 10 free play cards to be raffled off to raise additional funds. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Nancy's request.
- d.** The Board approved the investigation of a new reservation system to replace the existing reservation system.

12. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at Lake Miona Recreation Center at 4:30pm.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim O'Brien, Secretary