

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lake Miona Recreation Center

March 24, 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; Russ Pearly and Bruce Thiher. Also in attendance were Tom Tessier, Treasurer; Pat Holmes and John Quinn, Head Directors, Donna Brown, Club Manager and Harry Messenheimer, Education Director.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

- a. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, previously distributed to Board and posted on the website.

3. **Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting:**

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

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

- a. The Board ratified the following email votes
 - a. In January, 2026, the Board voted by email to cancel the Open Swiss games
 - b. Between the February and March, 2026 Board meetings, the Board voted by email to allow a separate section for the <750 stratification play in the afternoon open game at the Eisenhower Recreation Center on Friday, March 13, 2026.

5. **Education Director's Report (Harry Messenheimer):**

- a. Harry is trying to get the Odell Recreation Center venue to be used more consistently for the 9:00-10:45am time period but is in need of educators.
- b. Marilyn Schmidt's Thursday morning game is doing well. Harry is providing commentary on hands played each week.
- c. Harry requested guidance on celebrity speakers for the upcoming June Sectional. Corey Krantz indicated to Harry that he would be willing to do two (2) pro bono presentations.
 - a. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to continue to have special presentation speakers in future years.
- d. Harry will contact Michael Berkowitz and Corey Krantz regarding availability and cost.
- e. Janet Matthews has requested 10 bidding boxes for Odell and a locked cabinet is needed.

6. **Manager's Report (Donna Brown):**

- a. The June, 2026 tournament flyer has been approved. The Villages Permit will be submitted on March 25, 2026. The rent for the June tournament will be \$4,492 with a deposit of \$225 required which will cover the use of three (3) rooms from 10:00am until 7:00pm. VDBC does not have to pay rent for time spent setting up and cleanup after the tournament. Currently, the permit is in Donna's name. A motion was made, seconded and carried to reimburse Donna for the rent.
- b. Donna distributed to the Board a draft of tournament committees which was prepared by Merle Erlich.

- c. The April, 2026 game schedule has been completed and there will be no closures of any of the venues for the month of April.
- d. Donna described an ACBL program consisting of a special series of ACBL games called Gold for Good, a charity fund raiser. There is fee for players to participate. Paul Matheson will publicize in his weekly E-Blast.
- e. One of the VDBC players won the Florida Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney for which Donna believes some recognition might be in order.
- f. VDBC earned one (1) additional upgraded club championship game. The fiscal year for Alzheimer's Foundation runs from 9/1 through 8/31.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Tom Tessier provided the following February, 2026 Reports which he had previously emailed to Board Members.
 - a. Operating Report for the month of February, 2026.
 - b. Comparative Profit and Loss Statement for the one month ended February 28, 2026 versus February 28, 2025.
 - c. Comparative Profit and Loss Statement for the two months ended February 28, 2026 versus February 28, 2025.
 - d. 2026 Profit and Loss Statement by month for January-February, 2026.
 - e. Comparative Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2026 versus February 28, 2025.
- b. Tom recapped and provided highlights for February, 2026
 - a. VDBC hosted 93 games with 1,192.5 tables.
 - b. There were 67 free plays and 37 guests.
 - c. VDBC's gross revenues were \$24,867.41 and expenses were \$24,870.37.
 - d. VDBC had a loss of \$2.96 for the month ended February 28, 2026.
- c. At month-end, VDBC had the following balances.

a. Checking	\$31,441.97
b. 12 Month 3.75% CD maturing 7/10/26	\$40,000.00
c. Equity balance	\$61,939.55
- d. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report with thanks from the Board for the Report.

8. Discussion of November Sectional Tournament Site:

- a. The Board discussed the potential use of Grand Oaks for the November, 2026 Sectional. There is an issue of bathroom facilities. If breaks were staged, the venue should be able to handle the bathroom needs of the participants. The venue is located about 8 minutes outside of The Villages. Parking is located in grassy areas and golf cars, provided by the venue, would be needed to ferry participants to the bridge room. The venue has a lot of character but is not as updated as the Savannah Recreation Center. After discussing the pros and cons of utilizing Grand Oaks as a site for the November, motion was made, seconded, and carried to use Savannah Recreation Center for the June and November Sectional.

9. Online Bridge Games:

- a. SE Carolina fees are dropping off significantly. Donna Brown is still reviewing the option of running a VDBC online game through Real Bridge before making a recommendation to the Board. VDBC would receive fees from such online games for any tables in excess of six (6). Donna noted that VDBC players could play in any Real Bridge online games.

10. Discussion of Membership Survey:

- a. Dutch reported that no data is available at the present time. He will report the results of the survey once the data is compiled.

11. New Business

- a. The Board discussed the recipient of April charitable donations. A motion was made, seconded and carried that Wildwood Soup Kitchen be the recipient of April charitable donations for the month of April.
- b. Paul Matheson reported that he attended and was very impressed with the game run by Darlene Rutkowski at Big Cypress. The manager of Big Cypress said that a storage room would be available and that VDBC could store whatever was needed. Caroline Davies indicated that she would be willing to direct a game at Big Cypress. VDBC will need to acquire a printer for the venue. VDBC has plenty of Bridgemates to service the venue. The venue can hold 20 tables. Paul suggested that VDBC hold a 0-50mp game on Tuesday afternoon. After discussing the potential venue, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to have VDBC take over the Tuesday afternoon game at Big Cypress.
- c. Nancy Turner reported that VDBC raised \$5,405 at a Alzheimer's fund raising game on 3/8/26.
- d. Paul Matheson indicated that he would like to establish a committee to recommend a summer schedule. He indicated that based on his analysis, it takes 10-11 tables for VDBC to break even. Jon Williams, Russ Pearly, and Bruce Thiher were appointed to the committee to review the summer schedule.
- e. Paul Matheson , Deb Brunoehler, Joe Latchaw, and Dutch Dresser met RE: a potential alternative reservation system and is expecting to see some processes beta testing.

12. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at Lake Miona Recreation enter at 4:30pm.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim O'Brien, Secretary