

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Minutes December 18, 2018 Board Meeting

Call to Order: Bob Matthews called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm at Coconut Cove Recreation Center.

Members Present: Jeff Koltenuk, Bob Matthews, Beverly Parrish, Gordon Pfeiffer and Charlie Showalter. **Guests:** Pat DeArmond, Judy Flickinger, Harry Freedman, Rick Gauthier, Dorothy LaBrie, Mike Lotti, Paul Matheson, and Frances Rolph

Minutes from Previous Meeting: The minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Mike Lotti presented the monthly financial report. November finished with a favorable net balance of approximately \$2851. This includes a favorable balance from the 499er Sectional of \$3,307. The balance from game operations and overheads was about \$667, which was about \$80 more negative than the monthly forecast. The table count in November was 1222.5 compared to 1158 in November of 2017, a 5.6% increase. Year to date the table count is 14,453 tables compared to 13,162 in 2017 for a growth rate of 9.8%. Current member reserves are \$27,860. The year to date balance shows a negative net balance of \$4,482. Looking ahead, December should show a positive balance of around \$500 with the year-end reserves balance approximately \$28,000.

The 499er Sectional decrease in attendance and revenue was attributed to several factors. Costs were slightly increased because of having three directors on Sunday rather than two the previous years. Quite a large number of people who formerly played in this tournament have now “graduated” to a higher master point/ACBL Status and can no longer play in this tournament. The newer players do not attend tournaments with the same frequency and enthusiasm as these “graduates” did. The suggestion was made to possibly change this to an Open Tournament at some point in the future that would still include sections for 499er players. Charlie Showalter will investigate this with District 9 and the ACBL.

Suggestions to keep new players more interested included changing the beginning classes to spring/summer instead of winter. Apparently several “seasonal” residents took the classes previously but did not return to The Villages in the future. If the classes are held after the seasonal residents depart this should alleviate that problem.

Mike presented a Pro Forma for 2019 using a 5% growth rather instead of 9% as was previously used. This will be revisited quarterly to see if changes are needed.

Announcements from Members at Games for Charity Causes: Four of our members presented petitions signed by 106 of our approximate 650 members to allow Judy Flickinger to continue to announce sales of raffle tickets to purchase a service dog for a

Veteran. The decision to stop these announcements had been previously made by the Board after complaints from members that they felt the bridge game was not the place for formal announcements of this kind except for ACBL and VDBC approved charities. These complainants felt “pressured” to donate to the various causes presented. The Board’s decision to stop these announcements was explained to the members presenting the petitions. Also, several suggestions were made by the Board to help Judy in her raffle sales. Placing a notice at the front of the playing room outlining the cause and sale of tickets; making a formal request to the VDBC Board to place the charity on the list for approval by the Board to be an “official” charity of the VDBC.

Head Director’s Report: Rick Gauthier thanked Gordon Pfeiffer and Paul Matheson for coordinating the weekly e-mail blast with announcements etc. because it has significantly decreased the number of announcements required by the directors before each game. The biggest obstacle for new directors continues to be the amount of computer work required in setting up the games and posting scores. This is a steep learning curve for some but help is usually available at all games because there are frequently other directors present among the players. Rick also continues to work with those directors who need computer help. Two quotes had been given for new bidding boxes for Laurel Manor. Rick will get clarification on the quotes before the boxes are ordered. A new PC is needed for Mulberry because the one there is approximately nine years old.

An experiment was held with all players viewing the score in the bridgemate before final acceptance by West. Most felt that this delayed the game and was unnecessary. The decision was made not to use this method. One of the East/West players will be responsible for approving the score after carefully checking to be sure the direction and score is correct.

It has been the practice for several years to sort the cards after each hand to help the next players. However, most people have stopped doing this and the Board voted unanimously to stop this practice except as needed for those players who have difficulty sorting cards. This takes effect immediately.

Sunday Game Schedule: The Sunday game schedule for 2019 was set as below noting the fact the at least 5 teams must be registered before a Swiss event can be held. Rick Gauthier has the authority to change the schedule as needed or cancel any scheduled Swiss events that do not meet the minimum number of required teams.

First Sunday:	Open Swiss
Second Sunday:	8 is Enough Swiss
Third Sunday:	Mentor/Novice Game
Fourth Sunday:	499er Swiss
Fifth Sunday:	Discretion of Head of Director

Election Results: The election results were tabulated on December 15, 2018. Vikie Adams, Bob Matthews and Charlie Showalter were elected to three year terms. Harry Freedman and Sally Gauthier were elected to two year terms. Mike Kwiatkowski was elected to a one year term. Congratulations to these new members and thanks to those who ran but were not elected; Jeff Koltenuk, Nancy Turner and Gwen Wright. The Board thanked Jeff for his two years of service to the club and Board. Some suggestions were made for the future since there will now be nine board members instead of six; have each member responsible for a particular area-name tags, monitoring recreation center closings, sectional tournaments-perhaps with a Senior Board Member and a Junior Board Member per area. Once the new Board meets in January these suggestions can be more defined.

Policies for Use of Reservation System: Charlie Showalter is writing a draft policy for the consideration of the new Board. Several issues with the system were discussed and Gordon Pfeiffer will try to speak with Jay Whipple about making needed changes to the system. A suggestion to have an education class on how to use the system was also made.

Blast Emails: The current rate of people opening the emails is 60%. There are links in the email to PDF files for the newsletter and other lengthy documents so that the email isn't too long.

Spring Speaker Series: Robert Todd will be the speaker on March 16, 2019. His fee will be \$4000 for a two session event. However, he has said he will consider revising the fee if attendance isn't as hoped. This event will be publicized and heavily promoted.

Other Business: Bill Garner has suggested using La Hacienda and Paradise Recreation Centers to host a regional tournament. This will be brought before the new Board and a committee possibly formed to discuss with the recreation department. Paul Matheson presented the special game tentative schedule for 2019 and the cost associated with each game. Mike Lotti stated that even the most "expensive" of the special games do not put a hardship on the club financially. The motion to approve the special games as presented by Paul passed. Bob Matthews and the entire Board once again thanked Jeff Koltenuk for his service on the board for the past two years.

Executive Session: The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be January 15, 2019 at a site to be determined. The meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm unless otherwise notified. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Parrish, Secretary