

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club

Minutes of February 25, 2018, Annual Meeting

Call to Order : Bob Matthews, President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the SeaBreeze Recreation Center. Approximately 62 members were in attendance.

Introduction of Board Members: Bob introduced the members of the Board of Directors, Donna Brown, Carol Ketterer, Jeff Koltenuk, Beverly Parrish, Gordon Pfeiffer and Club Manager Alex Booke as well as Head Director Rick Gauthier, Database Manager Paul Matheson and Treasurer Mike Lotti.

Approval of Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting: A motion to dispense with reading of the minutes was approved and the minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Report: Bob Matthews reported that the VDBC is now officially the second largest club, by table count, in the ACBL. He also complimented our directors on a job well done and pointed out that additional skills are needed as well as the usual director qualifications. Some of our games have lectures before or after the games. The 0-20 MP Newcomer game allows the director to answer questions and otherwise give guidance to the new players. He also stated that the Board tries to respond to needs and suggestions of the members. Obviously, all suggestions cannot be implemented but all suggestions are considered. A list of the members who won the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Club races at the unit and district levels were read. Charlie Showalter won his category at the National Level also, congratulations to Charlie. Bob read a list of our members who have passed away during the past year.

Treasure's Report: Mike Lotti reported that the VDBC had 13% growth in table count in the past 5 years. New venues, education classes and basic demand as people move into The Villages has caused this increase. \$203,515 total revenues were received for 2017. Three quarters of that from game fees and the other quarter from the sectionals and education fees. The operating expenses were approximately \$190,000 with member reserves of \$32,304 for the year. Charity donations for both local charities, Wildwood Food Pantry and Wildwood Soup Kitchen, as well ACBL charities total approximately \$30,000. When the Special Game proceeds are added that total reaches \$42,000. The next sectionals are: Pat Ford Memorial Open Sectional June 8-10 and the 399er Sectional November 16-18. Sylvia Keyes asked if the Pat Ford Memorial aspect can be better publicized this year.

Head Director's Report: Rick Gauthier reported that we have only 15 directors for 19 games and asked for anyone interested in becoming a director to let him know. He introduced Bob Vicars as the newest director. Jon Williams and Pat Holmes are working on a new manual for directors. Rick read the Director's Vision Statement: "Our mission as Directors of TVDBC is to provide a fair, valid and professionally run game of Duplicate Bridge which welcomes the players and enhances their enjoyment of the game". He also stated that director training is ongoing. The ACBL has decided that you must be a member to play in any ACBL sanctioned

tournaments. Those who do not wish to be a full time member can purchase a one month membership for \$7.99. This is already in effect.

Club Recorder's Report: Russ Pearly stated that all Units, Districts and most clubs as well as the ACBL have a recorder. The main goal is to keep the game nice and running smoothly. There are recorder memo forms available on the website and should be at all venues. The directors can also print forms if none are available. Several questions or suggestions were made by members: Von Bush asked why there are no Zero Tolerance Cards in some of the bidding boxes. The new boxes do not have them. The Board will look into getting those into all the boxes. However, some people are reluctant to use them. The director should be called as soon as a zero tolerance situation occurs. Joe Bosch mentioned telling new attendees how to contact someone with questions etc. Babs Fischer suggested having a member introduce themselves to new people and give them contact information. Sylvia Keyes mentioned an ACBL recorder article in a past issue of The Bulletin but that she has seen no further articles from him. Paul Hassett suggested a "shepherd" for new players in order to help integrate them into the club. Jill Ericson complimented people on being kind to her which she appreciates and asked about a "short term" mentor. She will discuss with Jon Williams.

Acceptance of Duties and Responsibilities Document: This document has been posted on the website for all to view. The new document was approved unanimously.

Incorporation of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club: A subcommittee, Donna Brown, Mike Lotti and Gordon Pfeiffer, has been formed to look at the feasibility of incorporation for the Club. This will help with banking procedures as well as obtaining Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. Quite a few comments and suggestions were offered from the floor. Jon Williams asked if the members of the committee have read the disclaimer from the Recreation Department that everyone must sign yearly prior to use of any recreation facilities. They have not but they will do so. Judith Passerini stated that the ACBL has some protection for Units and Districts. Pat Poitinger asked if the ACBL provides protection to local clubs. However, as pointed out by Paul Matheson and Jon Williams, that protection is not offered to local clubs. Charlie Showalter made a proposal to allow the Board to investigate incorporation. "If after due investigation and deliberation by The Board of Directors, it is deemed in the best interests of the club to do so, then I Propose that we authorize The Board to move forward with Incorporation of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club in keeping with the Federal and State Law, Regulations and Rules, as soon as conveniently possible." Pat Scheffer asked if this needs to include The Villages Recreation Department rules etc. Per the committee, The Villages is fine with any incorporation that we deem necessary and that we do not need to include any rules they have regarding incorporation. Jon Williams proposed an amendment "to publish all pros and cons before the general membership at a called meeting prior to incorporation". That motion failed. The motion as proposed by Charlie Showalter carried. The committee will move with all haste to investigate this and bring findings back to the Board.

Open Forum: Several good suggestions were made by members present.

Chris Peters stated that our website is excellent and doesn't feel that it is publicized enough.

Bob Matthews stated that the Board is looking into proper compensation for Tom Bush, Webmaster. Tom will meet with the board at the next scheduled meeting to list his duties, time spent etc.

Pat Poitinger mentioned the venue issue on 2-24-18 when we found out at the last minute that Miona was not available for the Saturday game. She says The Villages need contact info for each venue. Bob Matthews stated that The Villages does have contact info for the permit holder at each venue. He does not know why we weren't notified ahead of time about yesterday.

Bob Vicars suggested putting a by-line about checking the website in the Daily Sun and the Recreation News. Rick Gauthier sends in the Recreation News notices and that is the first line in all the notices. He feels that the Daily Sun gets the info from the Recreation News but omits that line.

Pat Holmes mentioned that the permit holder at each venue must request a time change when needed. The Villages will not take that info from anyone other than the permit holder. They also do not accept games at quarter hour intervals for their schedule. Our 6:15 games are listed at 6:00 games and the 12:45 Tuesday game is listed at 12:30.

Carolyn Benner asked about having a Regional here. Charlie Showalter explained the situation that occurred in the past. The recreation department and the developer receive revenues differently. When clubs use the facilities the recreation department gets the revenue—ACBL was willing to pay several thousand dollars for us to use the Savannah Center for a Regional. But, the developer only gets revenue when rented to outside groups, Train Shows, Crafts Fairs etc. So, the developer refused to let us use the Savannah Center. Jon Williams mentioned using the new hotel at Brownwood once it is built for a Regional. The Board already has this on the master plan.

Joe Bosch asked to have the change in directors updated on the Website. Janet Matthews will do this weekly as changes are made. Joe also asked to always have EW bumping pairs never a NS bumping pair. It was explained to him that always bumping EW isn't fair to those players. Even NS players with limited mobility can move away from the table, or move to the side and kibitz, for one round with little difficulty.

Joanne Eakin suggested actually following the clocks! She says several of the limited games she plays in do not adhere to the clock. Rick Gauthier will look into this.

Vicky Rhodes asked about publishing the new laws of duplicate bridge. Rick Gauthier has put one article on the website and has more planned. He has a nice document but cannot get a response back from the club that created it giving him permission to use it.

Pat Holmes asked about new cards for each venue that lists games/dates/times etc. The problem is that every time we have a batch printed something changes and the cards are now obsolete. Bruce Thiher asked if a document could be added to the “drop box” that the directors use so that it could be printed in real time when someone asks for it. Janet Matthews will do this as soon as possible.

Russ Pearly asked if we are looking at adding another Open Sectional since two Sectionals that were in driving range have recently been dropped. An explanation of how hard it is to get dates from the ACBL and playing space from The Villages that coincide was given. The Board will keep this in mind however.

Sandra Gebhardt gave a moving talk about being nice to people. She mentioned new players that play in Open games stating that people aren’t always nice to them. We really all must try to be friendly, introduce ourselves and generally welcome people to our tables and games.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Parrish, Secretary