

**The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club
Minutes January 20, 2018 Board Meeting**

Call to Order: Alex Boone, Club Manager called the meeting to order at 9:00 am at the Lake Miona Recreation Center.

Members Present: Alex Boone, Donna Brown, Carol Ketterer, Jeff Koltenuk, Bob Matthews, Beverly Parrish, and Gordon Pfeiffer. Guests: Rick Gauthier, Mike Lotti, Paul Matheson, and Marc Rissman

Welcome to Rick Gauthier, Donna Brown and Gordon Pfeiffer: The new head director and board members were welcomed by all.

Election of Club Officers: Bob Matthews was nominated to serve as President for 2018. Bob committed to working hard on behalf of the Club and was elected unanimously. Beverly Parrish was nominated to continue as Secretary for 2018 and was unanimously elected.

Financial Report: Mike Lotti presented the quarterly and yearly financial reports. As usual, the card fee revenue, educational revenue and sectional tournaments revenue represent 95% of overall revenue. In 2017 the Club made significant purchases, timers for all venues, new boards and cards etc., Overall, the Club operated at almost breakeven for the year. The final table count for 2017 was 14309 tables, up approximately 10% over 2016. Game capacity issues were also acknowledged which will need to be discussed at further meetings.

Time Allotted per Round at Each Game: The Board received an email asking us to standardize the amount of time given to play each round. Rick believes that the standard time allotted for club games is 6 1/2-7 1/2 minutes per board. The decision was made to allow 15 minutes for 2 board movements and 20 minutes for 3 board movements. The directors have the authority to allow an extra 1-2 minutes in any given round if the majority of tables are still playing. Conversely, they have the authority to move on to the next round early if all tables are finished. Most of our venues have other clubs waiting to enter the room when we finish or in case of the night games, the recreation center staff need to get into the room to close for the night. Hence the need to finish games in a timely fashion. Rick Gauthier will contact the member who wrote the email to inform him of the decision.

Changes to Number of Master Points Allowed at Three Games: A request was made to change the Wednesday morning newcomer game from 0-20 MP to 0-25 MP. However, the ACBL only recognizes the 0-20 MP limit for a newcomer game. Raising the MP limit would require more boards to be played and prohibit the director from being able to answer questions during the game. That request had been withdrawn, but in order to document for future records it was discussed and included here in the minutes. That game will remain at 0-20 MP.

Another request was made to remove the NLM stipulation to the Saturday game at Colony that is limited to 0-750 MP. Carol Ketterer did a study to consider the various requests from members as well as the difference in the ACBL requirements for Life Master Achievement based on year joining. Because of a recent change in ACBL laws concerning lapsed memberships prior to 2010, several of our players are now Life Masters and would no longer be able to play in this game. The suggestion was made “To allow Life Masters who have not achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master to play in the Saturday Colony game up to the 750 MP limit. One Exception However: Bronze Life Masters under 750 MP can play in this game if they are partnered with a designated mentee from the Mentor/Novice Program.” This was approved and becomes effective February 1, 2018.

The final request was to increase the Thursday 4:30 game from 0-99 MP to 0-149 MP. This was approved and also becomes effective February 1, 2018.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the VDBC will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 1:30 pm at SeaBreeze Recreation Center. A working agenda was started by the Board and will be finalized before the meeting. Any member who has an issue they wish to have addressed should send an email to Bob Matthews before the meeting. All members are invited and welcomed to attend this meeting.

New Board Members and Tie Breaking Votes: There was a question as to when the newly elected Board members become part of the Board. The decision was made they should be part of the Board at the first meeting of the Board following their election, or January 1 of the new year, whichever is first. This will require a change in the By-laws which will be worked on at a later date.

The other question concerned the election of officers for the new Board. If a tie occurs for election of a new President two options were suggested; the outgoing President can break the tie. If the outgoing President is not available, voting will continue until a President is elected. Both options would require a change in the By-laws which will be worked on at a later date.

Spring Celebration Gala February 17, 2018: The Gala will be at the Savannah Center featuring The Ambassadors-a multi piece band with vocalist. The cost of tickets is \$10 and tickets are available from any Board member. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and coffee/tea provided. It is BYOB because The Villages does not permit any clubs to provide alcoholic beverages on their property. The room can accommodate 400 people when set up for a party with tables, band and dance floor. There will be no bridge so members are encouraged to bring their spouses/partners/dates etc. Members who won the 2017 Ace of Clubs/Mini McKinney will be recognized. The members who have passed away during the past year will be remembered with a moment of silence.

Guest Speaker: Alex Booke negotiated over several months with a proposed guest speaker. However, because of circumstances beyond the proposed guest speaker's control, the guest speaker recently had to withdraw from negotiations. As a result, there will be no official guest

speaker this spring. Bob Matthews is still working with Frank Stewart to provide short discussions prior to a few games at some point in time at no cost to those attending or to the VDBC.

Sunday Games: The February schedule was discussed via email and finalized after the end of this meeting. The first Sunday will be an Open Swiss. There will be an Eight is Enough Swiss on the second Sunday. The third Sunday will be the Mentor/Novice game. The fourth Sunday is the Annual Meeting and there will be no game.

Upcoming Sectionals: Bob Matthews reported that the June Sectional plans are well under way. The dates are June 8-10, 2018 at Hacienda Recreation Center. Carol Ketterer was named Chairperson of the November 499er Sectional which will be at Savannah Center, November 16-18, 2018. She will also reserve the date of the week-end before Thanksgiving for the 2019 Tournament also at Savannah Center.

Appeals Committee: Some members currently appointed to the Club's Appeals Committee are no longer actively playing and the Club's by-laws prohibit any current Board member from serving on the Appeals Committee. Rick Gauthier and Jeff Koltenuk will be responsible for this review and make recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Changes to Duties and Responsibilities: Several changes were made to the duties and responsibilities section of the Club Rules document. These must be voted on at the Annual Meeting and were sent to the Webmaster for posting on the VDBC Website.

Executive Session: The Board went into executive session with only Board members present. Two personnel issues were discussed and action recommended.

Also discussed was a review of compensation for our members who work for our Club. Those who even remotely could be affected by this discussion recused themselves during this section of the meeting. Lengthy discussion ensued because we want our hard working members to be adequately compensated. Some decisions were made and some will be made at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will be February 17, 2018 at 9 am at a site to be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Parrish, Secretary