

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club
Minutes of February 24, 2019 Annual Meeting

Call to Order: Bob Matthews, President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the Canal Street Recreation Center. Approximately 55 members were in attendance.

Introduction of Board Members: Bob Matthews introduced the members of the Board of Directors: Beverly Parrish, Vice President, Sally Gauthier, Secretary, Vikie Adams, Mike Kwiatkowski, Charlie Showalter. Bob advised that three board members were unavailable to attend: Harry Freedman, Gordon Pfeiffer and Carol Ketterer.

President's Report: Bob Matthews reported that VDBC is unique in that our club is growing in members due to the expansion of The Villages and the friendly outreach of our club. In 2018 we became incorporated which allows us to get insurance to protect board members and the club. Additionally the bylaws were rewritten and the board went from 6 members to 9 members to share in the larger workload. We began to use a reservation system and it is now used for most of our games. The system is working well but is still being fine tuned. We began a new communication tool known as the email blast which is working well to get out relevant information in a timely and cohesive manner. The education system is working hard to service everyone. There are separate classes for novice and intermediate players and a new class for brand new players. Andy Sloan is doing mini-lessons before some games and Neil Timm provides monthly lessons.

Robert Todd will be coming to provide a one day seminar on March 16, 2019 and our annual party will be March 23, 2019 at the Savannah Center. The party will include a 3-course meal and a disc jockey. Tickets for both of these events are available from Board members. We will have two sectionals this year and have invested in many new tables. The Villages has requested that we provide bridge lessons in the Fenney area when their recreation center is completed in the fall of 2019. The Villages will provide the start-up equipment needed there. The Villages

has also provided us with new standardized director's desks at all venues and has bought us a new larger cabinet, the first of many. We enjoy a beneficial relationship with The Villages.

Our Treasurer, Mike Lotti, could not attend the meeting so Club Manager Alex Booke will be subbing in for him. Our revenue was over \$220,000 for 2018 and our net income was about negative \$4000, partly due to last year's highly subsidized Annual Party and an increase in director's pay. At the end of January 2019 our bank balance was \$26,352. Our tax returns will have a link from the web page. We will make available the quarterly financial numbers since a small number of the crowd would like to be able to see them. Last year over 200 members attended the Annual Party. This year the party will not be highly subsidized and the hope is that we will break even on it. If this year's party generates a loss, the party idea will be revisited. Per Paul Matheson, Data Base Manager, just a few years ago our club savings had a balance of less than \$1000 and the Board voted to raise the cost of our games but to also add more special games to raise the master points available to our members. Our bank account rose substantially to over \$30,000 which is a lot for a non-profit organization and per Charlie Showalter, a conscious decision was made to lower cash reserves and the Board decided to give that back to the members in the form of a subsidized party. The Treasurer is working on projections to help plan for the future regarding balance of savings we should maintain and how much income and expenses we can expect. Last week's extra \$1 per game was to defray many special games with their accompanying extra expenses and the expense of a new computer and many new bid boxes which we needed to buy. We pay a very small amount to play bridge in The Villages compared to the rest of the country. We are constantly working on tweaking the games and their master point levels, but you can never satisfy everyone. Three new time slots have been promised to us when Fenney's new Recreation Center opens. The financial data left for us by the Treasurer do not contain a balance sheet and had no item for insurance. This will be brought to Mike Lotti's attention.

Head Director: Rick Gauthier started out by encouraging everyone to attend this

year's Annual Party as he felt last year's party was a lot of fun. Our new email blast communications are a big success and almost everyone in attendance showed that they are reading them. We did not find that leaving the bids out in every case until the first lead was fruitful, however anyone can request that the bids be left out. A playing partnership should have 2 identical convention cards available. This is the policy at all tournaments but is a club decision at club games. Our stance on this is that they are required at open games, but not required although they are requested at limited games. We do not want to be too punitive about this, so at open games a reminder will be given to comply, second time a warning will be given and at the third offense a penalty may be given. The Convention Charts to be used are Basic Plus for limited games and Open Chart at open games. Janet Matthews will also order some Standard Yellow Cards.

Other Business: Paul Matheson will be stepping down as Data Base Manager later this year. The job posting will be made soon. It is a paid position and is accountable to the Board.

Open Forum:

Our total membership shows that we have 3300 in the data base. There are 700 or so people who have played in at least 20 games in the last year. We are now the second largest bridge club in the country.

Some people do not go on the website. We should put the website address on hand records and emphasize it to the lower level classes. This will become less of an issue in time.

We spent \$42,000 extra in 2018 for the special games. These games provide extra masterpoints to members but cost the club extra money from \$1.25 per table for GNT games up to \$8.35 per table for the International ACBL-wide games.

Janet Matthews trouble shoots all glitches with the reservation system. Many of these problems are the result of user error, though not all. Be careful when putting in your information!

Noise level sometimes becomes an issue at games. These need to be self-regulated.

We have worked extensively with the developer to get a regional tournament here, but they are not really very interested in making this happen. Also the different departments of The Villages do not necessarily work together. The Board is currently looking at venues at which to hold a regional tournament. The requirement is for 12,000 to 13,000 square feet. The new hotel will not have enough space to fit our needs. One option we are looking at is using the new hotel in conjunction with the Wildwood Community Center. The club would not make a profit on a regional tournament.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Gauthier, Secretary