

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club

Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2020

On March 1, 2020, the AGM was called to order by President Bob Matthews at 11:00 am. There were just fewer than 30 members present, along with BOD members, Charlie Showalter, Nancy Brickley, Nancy Turner, Dave Hudson, Harry Freedman, Gordon Pfeiffer and Sally Gauthier and Nancy Jaffe.

Bob began by saying that the DBC was a growing, healthy club, unlike many other bridge clubs. The table count for 2019 was over 16,000 meaning that we remain the second largest club in the United States, second to NYC with its population of over 10 million people. The VDBC offers 23 games/week, 10 of which are limited. In 2019, there was a big increase in the Education Program and already, in less than 2 months in 2020, over one thousand players have attended a class.

The BOD has been asking for added venues for additional games. With the addition of all the homes south of Route 44, it was decided that both north and south players would end up under the same Board to reduce confusion when dealing with The Villages. Due to a change in usage by the developer, Everglades Rec Center will not be available to the bridge club for games. Paul Matheson's beginner classes (with about 50 students) at Riverbend, will hopefully have a site for games upon completion of their classes. This would be a 0-20 game. Upon completion of the reconstruction of Finney Rec Center, there will be a place for a large card room.

There is some confusion about the date for the June 2020 Sectional between the ACBL and The Villages. Hopefully resolution will happen quickly. There will not be a second Sectional in 2020 in The Villages because there is no space available on the dates needed by the ACBL.

Russ Pearly (Club Recorder) spoke about conduct and ethics. Any reports on "Bad Behavior" must be submitted in writing to Russ. The Recorder Memo is on the

web site. In 2019, there were two suspensions and two letters of warning that resulted from the recorder memo.

Mike Lotti spoke as the Treasurer. The second open sectional in 2019 was positive for \$4,000 and education income was up \$2,000. Overhead was a negative \$3,000. To set up an entire bridge room for play, the cost is \$12,900.

The Conflict of Interest Policy was presented by Charlie Showalter. We needed this policy for two reasons: it is a good idea and the IRS has been asking if we have one. Now we do have a policy based on the IRS template.

A 3 day event tentatively called A Celebration of the VDBC will be held at La Hacienda Rec Center on October 22, 23, and 24, 2020. The game on the 22nd will be a club appreciation game. A possible Celebration Banquet is in the works for the evening of 10/24/2020. The BOD is working on getting more points for these games. Details to follow.

The meeting was opened to the members for questions and concerns:

Art Donahoe- Asked if there might be a space for a tournament at The Brownwood Hotel and Spa. Paul Mathison stated the charge for that space is \$4000/day and therefore financially impossible.

Sally Jepsen- asked what the ACBL does for us. Bob answered that they maintain master points, provide the Monthly Bulletin and support National Tournaments.

Gloria Bennett- questioned what we are doing to support teaching bridge to the children in the area. Bob stated that the Villages Charter School have not been at all supportive to the VDBC assisting with a program for their kids.

Sue Rattner- wanted to thank everyone who works so hard to make the bridge club work and especially to those providing ongoing education to both new and established players.

John Blackwell- Asked why guests can't get into games. Janet Mathews reported that is a Villages policy that no guest can play if there is a resident whom will be displaced.

Lois Venus- Questioned the change in policy about cancelling the reservation if one player on the reservation gets sick or otherwise cannot play. This policy will be addressed again by the BOD.

The Annual General Meeting for March 2020 was adjourned at 12:10PM