



STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB Inc.

NSW: No.1601614 ABN:72 440 380 586

Email contact: support@stepbridge.com.au

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB INCORPORATED NSW NO.1601614

HELD VIA ZOOM ON 6 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.30 P.M. AEDT

The meeting was declared open at 6.30pm.

1. Present	Sarah Zoral Suzanne Ledger Cath Whiddon Cassandra Mitchell Larry Bryant Nick Armitage	Christopher Larter Brenda McClean Richard Lawrie Mark Hetherington Lee Furness Bob Laing
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Apologies	Graeme King Sebastian Wright	Duncan Welsh Ian Hammond
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2. Acceptance of Minutes from the 2022 AGM on 30 September 2022

It was moved that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 30 September 2022 be accepted. **Moved:** Sarah Zoral **Seconded:** Brenda McClean **Motion Carried.**

3. Acceptance of the Minutes from the Special General Meeting on 5 October 2023

It was moved that the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 5 October 2023 be accepted. **Moved:** Sarah Zoral **Seconded:** Christopher Larter **Motion Carried.**

4. President's Report

The President's report was circulated via email to the membership prior to the meeting. It appears as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The President spoke to the report at the meeting.

Moved: Sarah Zoral **Seconded:** Brenda McClean **Motion Carried.**

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was circulated via email to the membership prior to the meeting. It appears as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

The Treasurer spoke to the report at the meeting.

Moved: Suzanne Ledger **Seconded:** Sarah Zoral **Motion Carried.**

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The incoming office bearers and committee members for 2023-2024 are therefore as below:-

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconded
<i>President</i>	Christopher Larter	Sarah Zoral	Suzanne Ledger
<i>Vice President</i>	Sarah Zoral	Christopher Larter	Suzanne Ledger
<i>Secretary</i>	Larry Bryant	Christopher Larter	Sarah Zoral
<i>Treasurer</i>	Suzanne Ledger	Christopher Larter	Sarah Zoral
<i>Committee Member</i>	Sebastian Wright	Christopher Larter	Sarah Zoral
	Cassandra Mitchell	Clare Filmer-Ramsay	Brenda McClean
	Alan Puckey	Sarah Zoral	Christopher Larter
	Bob Laing	Sarah Zoral	Christopher Larter

7. Motion

That all StepBridge Australia members aged 90 years and older, who have been members for at least 3 years, be given VIP status (free membership and participation points).

Proposer: Suzanne Ledger

Seconded: Sarah Zoral

Suzanne Ledger advised that there are currently 13 StepBridge Australia members over the age of 90 years who have been a member for at least 3 years. It was promoted as a way of giving back to the bridge community and our senior members who support the club.

Sarah Zoral advised that Kevin Kendell, who was awarded Life Membership earlier this year, is an example of this, who has supported StepBridge for many years.

Richard Lawrie also voiced his support for the initiative.

Moved: Suzanne Ledger **Seconded:** Sarah Zoral **Motion Carried.**

8. Other Business

Suzanne Ledger made a Vote of Thanks to Sarah Zoral who her years as President. Sarah Zoral advised that she had received 100+ emails in response to the email sent in October.

Bob Laing proposed that a letter be sent to each person who was on the Committee for 2022-2023 with a thank you for their contribution to the club.

Moved: Bob Laing **Seconded:** Sarah Zoral **Motion Carried.**

The President thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it closed at

6.57pm (AEST)

Chris Larter
Minute Secretary

Appendix 1: President Report

ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT for Financial Year Ending June 2023

StepBridge continues to experience an influx of new players and returning players joining and rejoining our club and enjoying our style of online bridge. We currently have 2025 paid up members (of which 232 are Home Club Members) participating in the 47 regularly scheduled tournaments every week.

This year we continued to host several clubs in our Virtual Club rooms to enable them to continue to run their club sessions for their members. With the return of face-to-face play, these Virtual Clubs have adopted a mix of face-to-face and Online Sessions in their Club Programmes. Bathurst is embarking in an On-line teaching program and they are using our Audio-Video facility within their virtual club setup.

Our Audio-Video platform has been tested and we now run one regular Audio-Video session on Sunday evenings. It is our intention to conduct our Congresses in Audio Video format from next year. Red Point sessions are likely to become Audio Video as well, as soon as we have most of our players comfortable and functioning in the A/V format.

Teams format is almost ready for testing. This will be another exciting addition to our program, and I am sure the incoming committee will formulate some fantastic competitions in the coming year.

DIRECTORS

The StepBridge team of 11 Directors looked after 110,269 players who participated in our regular sessions over the past 12 months. Thanks, directors, for your contribution and support of our players.

ONLINE CONGRESSES

StepBridge have hosted and conducted 6 Online Congresses in 2022-2023

BRIDGE SPONSORSHIP

In February StepBridge again sponsored the Open Teams event at the 61st Gold Coast Congress and will continue to sponsor this event. In May, StepBridge sponsored 4 events in Autumn National Championships conducted by SA Bridge Federation. Both sponsorships are appreciated by players. We are always exploring ways to contribute to the Bridge community.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter has continued to be a great source of communication and useful information. Thanks to Chris Larter for his editorial skills and to all the regular contributors. I know Brenda's

recipes have been well received. Many useful articles about playing bridge on StepBridge are worth referring to via the archived newsletters on our website.

COMMITTEE

Once again, my thanks, and congratulations to our Management Committee. The outgoing Committee has conducted the management and administration of our club with Support from our Operations Team of Sarah Zoral, Chris Larter, Mark Hetherington and Suzi Ledger. These dedicated people have worked tirelessly in their endeavours throughout the past year. We have several Committee Members not standing for re-election for the 2023/2024 year. My thanks to outgoing members Mark Hetherington, Duncan Welsh Pauline Caust and Tony Georgeson for their support and contribution to the Committee over the past year.

Thanks to Treasurer, Suzi Ledger, and Bookkeeper, Rattan Saini, for taking care of our accounting and bookkeeping.

Special thanks and acknowledgement to Epko Steinmetz and his team at SBI for their ongoing improvements and enhancements to our platform.

A special mention to Mark Hetherington our Chief Technical Officer. Mark has been an amazing member of our Operations team and he has implemented many specialised enhancements to our program, specially designed and written for SBAU specific needs and requirements. We will miss you Mark. Thanks for all you have contributed to us.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2023-2024

With the upcoming elections at our AGM once again it is important that StepBridge secures a talented capable team to undertake the administration of the club, with an emphasis on administration and technical abilities, and to also provide support to our membership.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have been your President, this is my final year as your President, and I wish the incoming President and Committee every success in the year ahead. We have a wonderful club made up of loyal members who have formed great bonds and friendships with their partners from all around Australia. I wish to also acknowledge the wonderful friendships I have made with our players and to assure you that I will still be around and here always to help where I can.

Sarah Zoral
President: StepBridge Australia.

Appendix 2: Treasurer Report

Please see attached our Balance Sheet as of 30th June 2023, together with our Income & Expenditure Statement at the same date. The audit was carried out by Mr David Lloyd of PKF Brisbane.

Pleasingly, we recorded another surplus for the financial year of \$50,204. Our Table Fee Income decreased over the 12 months, but there was also a commensurate decline in our Expenses.

Our two ANZ bank accounts showed total balances of \$353,173 with the Prepayments account representing unused table fees of our members and the Working account being used for our costs such as TD Fees, Admin expenses, Licence Fees and ABF Masterpoints. We now have the majority of these funds on Term Deposit.

It is my opinion that we are in a strong financial position moving forward and will be able to meet our liabilities as they occur in a timely manner.

Many thanks to our bookkeeper Rattan Saini for keeping our records efficiently.

Suzi Ledger
Treasurer