



**STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB INCORPORATED
INC1601614**

Email contact: support@stepbridge.com.au

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

of

STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB INCORPORATED NSW NO.1601614

**HELD VIA SKYPE ON 17 MARCH 2022 AT
6.00 P.M. (NSW & VIC), 5.30 P.M. (SA), 5.00 P.M. (QLD), 8.00 A.M. (Netherlands)**

1. Present

Sarah Anwar	Chris Larter
Mark Hetherington	Rita Pringle (until 7.00pm)
Brenda McClean	Suzi Ledger
Eric Taylor	Howard Brownscombe (until end of Item 2)
Antonina Hayles	Pauline Caust
Epko Steinmetz	

Apology Nil

2. Address Emails Regarding Behaviour of Howard Brownscombe

The President said, following emails sent by members of the Committee today, the issue of Howard's behaviour needed to be addressed before any other items on the agenda.

The President then handed the meeting over to the Secretary to manage this item of the meeting.

The Secretary advised that emails had been sent by three Committee members. Two of those Committee members called for Howard's removal from the Committee. The other Committee member had also expressed about Howard's behaviour regarding the work on the Constitution done by the Constitution Revamp Sub-Committee.

Before Howard was given the opportunity to be heard, the Secretary gave all other Committee members the opportunity to say something for a maximum of two minutes each.

Howard was then given the opportunity of up to seven minutes to respond. Howard's response was brief.

The Secretary then advised the meeting that Fair Trading had been contacted in regard to our options in this situation where members of the Committee cannot continue to work with Howard as a Committee Member.

Howard was given two options, as provided by Fair Trading.

1. Voluntarily resign from the Committee
2. A motion be put forward to the Committee that a vote be conducted for removal from the Committee by the other Members. If the majority vote in favour, then Howard to be asked to hang up or, if he does not, the Secretary would cut Howard out of the call.

Howard asked the Secretary what he should do. The Secretary said it was his choice which option he should take. Howard chose option 2.

A motion was then put forward for Howard to be removed from the Committee.

Moved: Chris **Seconded:** Antonina

The Secretary then asked for the vote from each Committee member.

The vote results were nine voted in favour of Howard being removed from the Committee and one abstain vote. It was noted that two Committee members said that they would have preferred that Howard stepped down voluntary than having to vote in favour of his removal.

After the vote, the Secretary advised Howard that the majority had voted in favour of his removal from the Committee. The Secretary asked that Howard hang up from the Skype call, which he did immediately.

Following Howard's removal, the meeting acknowledged Howard's contribution and time he made towards the Constitution re-write and to the Financials despite the negative feedback.

Moved: Pauline **Seconded:** Sarah **All accepted.**

3. Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting on 10 January.

Moved: Rita **Seconded:** Eric **All accepted.**

4. President's Report

A copy of the President's report was sent out prior to the meeting via email.

The President spoke to the report at the meeting.

Moved: Sarah **Seconded:** Rita **All accepted.**

5. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Treasurer's report was sent out prior to the meeting via email.

The Treasurer spoke to the report and financials at the meeting.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Accounting Honorariums were double for February and are currently higher than usual in March due to the preparation of the Budget.

Members from the Committee were given an opportunity asked questions, which were answered by the Treasurer.

There was also a general discussion regarding the finances and the budget.

Moved: Suzi **Seconded:** Mark **All accepted.**

6. Chief Technical Officer's Report

A copy of the Chief Technical Officer's report was sent out prior to the meeting via email.

The Chief Technical Officer spoke to the report at the meeting.

The Chief Technical Officer noted, which was also reiterated by the President, that Honorarium costs were down 70% due to processes which are now automated.

Moved: Mark **Seconded:** Eric **All accepted.**

7. New Business

a. Incoming & Outgoing Correspondence

- **Chris Raisin**

The Secretary noted the email from Chris Raisin in regards to his resignation from the Committee.

- **Flood Relief**

The meeting was in favour of holding sessions for Flood Relief. There was much discussion of how to do this. It was also suggested that we hold sessions for Ukraine.

It was agreed that the President, Secretary and Treasurer would work out the details and provide back to the Committee via email and call a meeting if required.

All were in favour.

b. Constitution Revamp

The President handed over to a member of the Constitution Revamp Sub-Committee to talk and discuss about the draft Constitution and an Explanatory Memorandum which was prepared by the Constitution Revamp Sub-Committee and sent out prior to the meeting.

Howard's email was talked about in detail, providing explanations to his comments.

It was also noted that we don't need to decide now that the draft Constitution is the Final version. This can be done at the next Committee or two meetings time.

The Constitution Revamp Sub-Committee is happy for the Committee to email any further suggestions or amendments to be considered. Comments at the meeting included

- Including the affairs of the club in one of the clauses
- Relooking at the number of terms on the Committee and which roles this applies for
- Relooking at the role title of the Chief Technical Officer
- Relooking at the wording of the Membership process in the Constitution and consider that it refers to a process listed on the website.

c. Gold Coast Congress Feedback

The Secretary noted that Tim Runting (Gold Coast Congress Convenor) has noted his thanks to StepBridge for their Sponsorship of the Gold Coast Congress Open Teams both in person at the congress and via an email received after the congress.

The Treasurer noted in her report about the meeting on StepBridge members during the Congress.

Pauline noted that StepBridge was mentioned and advertised during the Congress, including at every session during the Teams.

d. President's Holiday

Mark put forward a motion to wish the President say travels and enjoy her holiday away.

Moved: Mark **Seconded:** Pauline **All accepted.**

e. Next Meeting

Monday, 9 May 2022, 5.00pm AEST

Meeting closed 7.30pm (AEDT)

Chris Larter
Secretary