



STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB Inc.

NSW: No.1601614 ABN:72 440 380 586

Email contact: support@stepbridge.com.au

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB INCORPORATED NSW NO.1601614

HELD VIA ZOOM ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 1:30 P.M. AEST

The meeting was declared open at 1:30 pm (AEST)

- 1. Present**
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Zoral | Christopher Larter |
| Suzanne Ledger | Brenda McClean |
| David Milburn | Greg McCarron |
| Sebastian Wright | |

- Apologies**
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Alan Puckey | Howard J Brownscombe |
| Cassandra Mitchell | |

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the 2023 AGM on 6 November 2023

It was moved that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 6 November 2023 be accepted.

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

3. 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: Chris Larter **Seconded:** Suzanne Ledger. **Motion Carried.**

4. 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:** Sebastian Wright. **Motion Carried.**

5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The following Committee nominations were received prior to the meeting

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconded
<i>President</i>	Christopher Larter	Sarah Zoral	Suzanne Ledger
<i>Vice President</i>	Suzanne Ledger	Christopher Larter	Greg McCarron
<i>Secretary</i>	Greg McCarron	Helen Thomas	John Hewitt
<i>Treasurer</i>	Suzanne Ledger	Christopher Larter	Greg McCarron
<i>Committee Member</i>	Sebastian Wright	Jeremy Reid	Christopher Larter
	Cassandra Mitchell	Greg McCarron	Suzanne Ledger
	<i>Vacant</i>		

The being no other nominations, the above are duly elected to their positions.

6. Motion

That Life Membership of StepBridge Australia be conferred upon Sarah Zoral in recognition of her service and contribution to StepBridge Australia.

Moved: Chris Larter **Seconded:** Suzanne Ledger **Motion Carried.**

7. Other Business

NIL

The President thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it closed at 1:41pm (AEST)

Greg McCarron
Secretary

Appendix 1: President Report

ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT for Financial Year Ending June 2024

StepBridge continues to experience new players and returning players joining and rejoining our club and enjoying our style of online bridge. We currently have 2056 paid up members, of which 260 are Home Club Members, participating in the 47 regularly scheduled tournaments every week. Among our members we have 18 who are aged 90 years and older with VIP Status and 25 who are Youth Players.

This year we continued to host two clubs in our Virtual Club rooms to enable them to a mix of face-to-face and online sessions in their Club Programmes.

Teams are now part of our weekly schedule on a Monday evening as well as an offering for Congresses.

Our Audio-Video platform is now up and running with regular Audio-Video sessions with our Sunday Afternoon All Around Australia Red Masterpoint Session and Monday evening Teams session. It is our intention to start to introduce Audio-Video into our Congresses.

The Committee had started to investigate ways for assisting players to improve their game with lessons and mentoring. This will continue to be investigated and implemented with the 2024-2025 Committee.

DIRECTORS

Thank you to our StepBridge Tournament Director Team, looked after by our Head TD Sarah Zoral, for their contribution and support to our players over the past 12 months. The Tournament Director Team have looked after our regular sessions as well as the Congresses hosted by StepBridge, which has involved 114,082 players. This is increase from 110,269 players in 2022-2023 Financial Year.

ONLINE CONGRESSES

StepBridge hosted and conducted the following Online Congresses in 2023-2024. Two of these congresses were for Grafton Bridge Club, which uses our Virtual Club Facility.

- 1 July 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 15 July 2023: Grafton Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 14 October 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 16 December 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 13 April 2024: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 14 April 2024: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Teams Congress]
- 1 June 2024: Grafton Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]

BRIDGE SPONSORSHIP

Over the last year, StepBridge sponsored the following events:

- February 2024 – Gold Coast Congress Open Teams
- May 2024 – Autumn Nationals Under Grand & Under Life Pairs and Teams
- July 2024 – Central West Festival of Bridge

We will continue to sponsor the Gold Coast Congress and Autumn Nationals events listed above in 2025. We will also sponsor some events at the 2025 Australian National Championships which will be held in Brisbane.

The sponsorships are appreciated both by the organisers of these events as well as the players.

HOSPITALITY EVENT

During the Gold Coast Congress, StepBridge held a Hospitality Event to allow members to socialise with each other.

The plan is that this will continue 2025, if there is support from members to assist in the organising and running on this Hospitality Event.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter has continued to be a great source of communication and useful information. Thank you to Greg McCarron who assists me as co-editor of the newsletter as well as those members who regularly contribute to the newsletter.

COMMITTEE & ADMIN TEAM

Thank you to the Management Committee of 2023-2024 for the work they have done over the last year.

My thanks goes to outgoing members Sarah Zoral, Bob Laing, Alan Puckey and Larry Bryant for their support and contribution to the Committee over the past year.

Thanks to Suzi Ledger (Treasurer), Greg McCarron (Secretary), Cassandra Mitchell and Sebastian Wright (Committee Members) for their contributions in 2023-2024 and who are renominating for the 2024-2025 Committee.

I also acknowledge and thank those who assist StepBridge in the background, including Mark Hetherington (Technical), Rattan Saini (Bookkeeper) and Antonina Hayles (Masterpoint Secretary).

Special thanks and acknowledgement also to Epko Steinmetz and his team at StepBridge International (SBI) for their ongoing improvements and enhancements to our platform.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP – SARAH ZORAL

The Management Committee are putting forward at our AGM this year that we grant Sarah Zoral Life Membership of StepBridge Australia for the contribution she has given to the club over a number of years, which deserves recognition.

Sarah has held many different positions on the Committee since early 2017 including

- Treasurer
- Admin Secretary inc. looking after Technical matters
- President
- Head TD
- Player Support

During COVID, Sarah provided overwhelming support to new players to StepBridge. For many months this involved approximately 18-hour days.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2024-2025

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 a privilege to be President of StepBridge Australia over this last year. I will be re-nominating for a second term as President.

We have a wonderful club made up of loyal members who have formed great bonds and friendships with their partners from all around Australia. That is something unique for our bridge club of StepBridge Australia.

Chris Larter

President, StepBridge Australia

Appendix 2: Treasurer Report

Please see attached our Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2024 together with Profit & Loss statements at the same date. The audit was carried out by Mr David Lloyd of PKF Brisbane.

We recorded a surplus for the financial year of \$26,854, which was down from the previous year. Our Table Fee Income decreased slightly over the 12 months from \$339,064 to \$333,473. Our expenses were higher, from \$326,547 to \$338,890 mainly reflecting overdue increases to our TD fees and higher costs relating to Teams and AV software development, which were of a one-off nature.

Our ANZ bank accounts showed total balances of \$381,193 with the Prepayments account (and \$100,000 of the Term Deposit) 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 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, StepBridge Australia