Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018
of the Firebird Foundation, convened on 15 March 2018, in the FFMembers forum

A roll-call was taken, to which 33 voting members (a quorum) and one non-voting responded as present. The sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Firebird Foundation Inc. was convened at 10:23 GMT 15 March 2018, with Pavel Cisar in the Chair.

Apologies
The following members tendered apologies for absence:

Gregor Kobler, Raphael Neve, Carlos Pobo Herrero, Juan Antonio Mendoza Gil, Mieke Janson, Vagner Moura, Alexander Muylaert, George De Luca, Ralf Schubert, Craig A. Cox, Bill Bream, Mark Rotteveel, Paulo Botelho and Uli Amann.

Apology for lateness: Fabio Codebue, Artur Anjos.

Scrutineer for ballots was C. Pirtea.

Minutes of the Previous AGM
TheMinutes of the 2017 AGM were tabled. There were no Matters Arising but some discussion ensued regarding some issues raised in the previous AGM on the subject of fund-raising. The discussion is summarised below under General Business.

AGM2018-01 :: It was moved from the Chair, "that the Minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted." 
Carried unanimously.

President's Annual Report
The President, Pavel Cisar, presented his annual report on the activities of the Foundation. There were no matters arising from the report.

AGM2018-02 :: It was moved from the Chair, "that the President's report be accepted." 
Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for 2017
For the period 1 January to 31 December 2017. All figures were shown in Australian dollars.

There were no matters arising from the Treasurer's report.

AGM2018-03 :: It was moved from the Chair, "that the Treasurer's report be accepted".
Carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Ballot scrutineer was C. Pirtea.

The following members were elected to the committee for the 2017-8 year:

President: Pavel Cisar (nom. B. Latte, sec. H. Borrie)
Vice-President: No candidates
Treasurer: Raymond Cléroux (nom. H. Borrie, sec. T. Vedel)
Secretary: Helen Borrie (nom. T. Vedel, sec. B. Latte)

Committee:

General Business

Fund-raising

Referring to the 2018 Minutes, S. Heymann asked whether a sub-committee including current sponsors had been formed to work out what might be feasible and achievable to raise more
funds for Firebird. P. Cisar replied that such a committee was not formed. He noted that the Foundation clearly could not afford to mount a commercial arm to handle some enhancement to the "business model" that would offer enhanced Firebird versions in return for higher levels of support. He suggested that individual foundation or community members could do that and expect the Foundation to be ready to discuss any feasible plan they could present.

E. C. Bin commented that the suggested committee was not intended to be a commercial activity but rather a fund-raising committee formed of sponsors and members. He thought a personal approach could be more effective than a general call [for volunteers]. He reiterated that, if the Foundation wanted to do something about the financial situation, it was necessary to do more than just wait for whatever money comes in. He wondered whether the President was willing to take the lead for such a committee.

F. Codebue expressed the view that the issue of attracting more sponsors was a matter of marketing an image of a modern, reliable organisation with a roadmap of innovative ideas and evidence of growth. He considered the current Firebird logo and web site to be outdated and confusing and he thought a certification system would help to ensure the quality of operators working with Firebird.

P. Cisar wondered what fundraising amongst sponsors and members was envisaged, that was not already in place, given that current sponsors were already committed up to their comfort levels and several were already represented on the committee. Attempts to involve sponsors in the development process via a dedicated committee [TTG] had not proven to be a way to increase income or investment.

He noted that trying to attract new sponsors through support by the Foundation and the project for individual or syndicated business activities, such as offering corporate distributions, was limited in reality by the fact that membership of project, foundation, companies and community already overlapped extensively. The search for new sponsors therefore needed to reach outside the Foundation into the wider community. For that, the public presence [primarily via the web] needed improving and capacity would be needed to maintain active, continuous “marketing” and fund-raising campaign(s).

Attempts to initiate such tactics had failed, primarily from lack of both human and financial resources. Volunteers in the community were already overloaded and, while Foundation members offered opinions about how it should be done technically, a willingness to step up and volunteer was lacking.

Any strategy the new Committee might try to fill these gaps, for example targeted fundraising to pay for web revamping, would depend on people and not on a structure such as a sub-committee.

There being no further matters, the Chairman closed the formal business of the meeting at 5 p.m. GMT on 1 April, 2018.

Helen E. M. Borrie
Secretary