

**Saanich Sommeliers**  
**Regular Monthly Club Meeting**  
Minutes of Tuesday, April 12, 2022

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**Call to Order** at 7:15 pm by Barry Edmonson

A quorum was declared with 16 “member families” in attendance.

**Review of Minutes from March 8, 2021, meeting:**

*MOTION: To accept the minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as distributed.*

Moved by Bill Greaves and seconded by Dawn Robson. All voted in favour and carried.

**Correspondence**

- None

**Reports/Discussions – as provided:**

- Treasurer (Leanna Rathkelly)
  - Most have paid their dues. Leanna will wait for another week and then deposit the dues into the club account.
  - At this point, (without the 2022 membership dues) we have \$7,911 in our bank account.
  
- Competition Coordinator (Rick and Mary Homer)
  - Mary has developed a detailed plan for the competition in consideration of the fact that she and Rick will be away in Italy for about a month (early May to mid-June). The competition will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Starling Lane Vineyard.
  - There are a couple of outstanding needs:
    - If anyone is interested in billeting a judge for the competition – please let Mary know.
    - We are looking for someone to pick up the wine entries for the competition. For Vancouver wines – this would entail taking a trip to Vancouver to pick up the wines from the Tsawwassen terminal (a great excursion/day cruise!). For wines from Nanaimo, this would entail a short trip up island. Please contact Mary if you are interested and would be available.
    - We are looking for 1-2 pop up tents for the day of the competition. These could be 8x8 or 10x10 and could be used for shade, for food, for the silent auction – or to be determined. If you have access to one, please let Mary know.
    - We are looking for volunteers for the clean up crew
  - The registration team will be Donna, Bob and Sandy Kirk – with Sandy B & Ken W helping as required.
  - Mary has sent out invites to several of our prior members and we are hoping that they will be able to attend this event.
  - Dawn & her team (Ron, Pat, Doug) will coordinate the fundraising activities at the event.
  - This event is by invitation only. Members attend for free & guests pay \$10.
  - All members are expected to provide some nibbles/appetizers for the event. Arlene will be coordinating the food component of the social event.
  
- Vice-President (Udo and Anna Kenklies)
  - This evening, we will have a presentation from Robin McNeill on the history of the Saanich Sommeliers.
  - The planning for the year is going well and we only have two spots that have yet to be filled. These would be September and November. We have reached out to Venturi Schulze and are trying to get them as speakers.

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- In May, we will have Daniel Dragert from Kutatás Winery presenting. Kutatás Winery is on Saltspring Island.
- Grape Sourcer (Dale Hobday)
  - An email was just distributed about Okanagan grapes available through the Nanaimo club. Please contact Dave Burt directly if you are interested.
  - The BCAWA club crush will utilize Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from Sheridan Vineyards in Washington. These are usually great grapes and will come crushed and destemmed in drums. If you want to buy the grapes – these can be ordered through Rob Martino before April 30<sup>th</sup>. You may want to join up with others to share the drum.
- Wine Steward (Ron Ramsdale)
  - The draw wine this evening is from Dundee Hills in Oregon. It is a 2018 Sokol Blosser Estate Pinot Noir and was \$40.

#### Other Business

- **Workshops:**
  - **Bubbly**
    - Mike will be connecting with the Bubbly Brigade on next steps.
  - **All About Yeasts**
    - This is organized by Bill Greaves and will be facilitated by Alan Marks from Scott Labs
    - It will cover new yeasts, old yeasts and how they should be handled.
    - It will take place in person on **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Murray & Sharon Bierd.
    - The workshop will start at **3:30 pm.**
      - Please RSVP to Dawn if you would like to attend. We will extend the invitation to the Nanaimo club if there is room available.
  - **Wine Tannins**
    - Gordon is organizing this workshop and it will take place in early 2023.
- **Meeting in Person**
  - The executive got together for a meeting a few weeks ago and we are hoping to have an in-person meeting in June. As COVID 19 is fluid, we will send out a poll a month in advance to determine the comfort level.
  - We are thinking that meeting could be held at Mike McInnis' - as there is an option for this to be an outside event.
- **Honorary Member**
  - We are pleased to announce that in recognition of his contributions to the club – as a founding member, historian, volunteer (both he and Alimay) and frequent meeting host in the early days – the club has granted Robin McNeil honorary membership.
    - Congratulations Robin and Alimay!
  - Club dues paid for this year will be returned.

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**Health and Welfare**

- The Homers reported that unfortunately Cathy Markin passed away on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Cathy and her husband, Doug, are talented winemakers, friends and attended our wine competitions as judges and guests on a regular basis, although they lived in Port Alberni. Cathy battled brain cancer for the past 3 years.
  - A card was sent to the family on behalf of the club.
- Jack Miller also reported that Michael Warren has also passed away. He had been a long-time member of our club.

**Final Notes**

- To note – only those members in good standing (dues paid) will be able to win the wine draw.
- The wine draw was won by Don & Joan Thain - & will be given to them on their return from down south.

**Adjournment:**

- The adjournment was called at 8:00 pm.
- Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.