



Minutes of:
Saanich Sommeliers Annual General Meeting
January 22, 2023

Call to Order: 5:40 pm by President Barry Edmonson. A quorum was called with 20 member households.

Review and adoption of the 2021 AGM:

Minutes of last year's AGM were distributed in advance of the meeting.

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the 2022 AGM. Moved by Bill Greaves and seconded by Colin Nicholson. All approved and passed.

Comments on 2021:

- **Secretary:** Dawn Robson
 - The club started the year with 30 member households & ended with 28 member households.
 - We had one new member join in 2022. This was Ron Thorne.
 - We have 3 member families who have indicated that they are not renewing, and they are Derek Hamlet, Joe/Heather Lima and Doug/Pat Bright.
 - We were able to transition from zoom to in person activities during the year.
 - We hosted 6 meetings with zoom and 3 meetings that were hybrid (zoom & in-person)
 - We held 3 in-person events that turned out well. July and August events included the SS Competition & Social and the summer picnic. Both were held at Starling Lane. We also had an Oktoberfest event at the Horseshoe Club.
- **Treasurer:** Leanna Rathkelly
 - We had a good year. The year-end report and competition summary were provided with the meeting invite.
 - The biggest revenue came from the competition & social, raising a profit of \$2,222. The second highest revenue stream was from member dues. (We had 26 paying members, plus 3 honorary life memberships.)
 - We were able to keep expenses at a reasonable level and ended the year with \$9,459 in the bank.
 - We will be maintaining dues at \$60 per member-family.
 - Robin congratulated Leanna and said that the financial report was very well done.
 - **Motion:** To approve the financial report as presented. Moved by Leanna, seconded by Colin.
 - All in favor & passed.
- **BCAWA Rep:** Colin Nicholson
 - BCAWA is considering a request to change their name from BC Amateur Winemakers Association to BC Artisan Winemakers Association. They would like feedback for the March meeting.
 - A request was also put through to change the way the "Winemaker of the



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Year” was tabulated because of concern that it predominantly based on the number of bottles submitted to competitions. This had been discussed at a prior meeting

- Motion: Vancouver Amateur Winemakers Association (VAWA) proposed that the calculation for the BCAWA winemaker of the year should be limited to only one wine in ALL official BCAWA classes regardless of how many wines are entered in each class. Only the best wine in each class will count towards the BCAWA winemaker of the year. Moved by Rick Homer and seconded by John Wrinch.
- All in favor and passed.
- Colin will let BCAWA know of this motion and result.
- Competition Coordinator: Rick and Mary Homer
 - We were pleased to have been able to have a Saanich Sommeliers competition in July 2022 at Starling Lane.
 - Our club also participated in the Provincials, which was done through the Guild of Wine Judges.
 - Thanks to all those who supported these programs & who contributed wine.
- Vice-President – Udo and Anna Kenklies
 - Due to the online format of our meetings over the past year, we were able to get some interesting speakers from out of town. These included: Tugwell Meadery, (Sooke); Kutatas Winery (Saltspring Island); Fort Berens Estate Winery (Lillooet); and Unsworth Winery (Cowichan).
 - We also had a presentation from club member Rick Homer on “How to become a Wine Judge” and one from Robin McNeill on the history of the Saanich Sommeliers.
 - Thanks to all those who supported these sessions.
- Grape Sourcing: Dale Hobday
 - Members accessed grapes through the Nanaimo club, from Saanich Peninsula and through Flying Fish.
- Wine Steward: Ron Ramsdale
 - We changed it up in 2022 and all club members are included in every draw (This was instead of just those who were in attendance, which had been based on people buying tickets for the wine draw, prior to COVID.)
 - Purchased 12 bottles last year for these draws & there were a variety of wines. The average price was \$38.
 - Frank Marion won twice last year.
- President: Barry Edmonson



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- 2022 was a successful year for the club with a lot of input and collaboration.
- We provided for two new honorary Life memberships – Robin & Alimay McNeill (one of the original founders) and John & Jackie Wrinch (who have been so generous by allowing us to use their beautiful facility).
- Special thanks to all those who contributed time and energy to the club including:
 - Those involved in workshop programs – Ken, Mike, Gordon
 - Mike McInnis for spearheading the “Bubbly Brigade.”
 - Udo & Anna for coordinating some interesting educational sessions
 - Leanna & Dawn for supporting online meetings & events.
 - Julian & Ken for their work on the website.
 - And all members for their attendance, contributions and support. This makes the group special.

Other Business:

- Filing of the Society Annual Report – Leanna Rathkelly
 - Leanna will take care of filing the annual report.
- Wine Competitions
 - Mary Homer reported that after some “gentle persuasion” on her behalf with club members and Rick’s efforts with other wine clubs, our competition currently has 145 entries. Arrangements have been made for 14 members of the BC Guild of Wine Judges to judge the wines (of which 6 are Master Judges). We have 5 judges coming from out-of-town. We have also managed to secure 8 volunteers to act as Wine Stewards for the Judges and assist in other areas.
 - Important for club members to know: 47% of the entries (68) were provided by “other wine clubs” (Nanaimo 10 entries, Vinovan 25 entries and VAWA 33 entries) with 52% of entries (77) coming from our membership. If we did not have other wine clubs participating in our competition, we would not have sufficient wine to support the “social event” that follows the judging. If we want other wine clubs to continue to support us in our efforts, we must reciprocate and support their “open” wine competitions. We ask that members keep this in mind when your Competition Coordinators ask you to enter any “open” wine competitions hosted by VAWA, Vinovan and Nanaimo. We thank all the club members for their contributions in entering the competition and look forward to seeing everyone at the competition.

Health and Welfare

- Nothing to report



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Wine Draw

- The chosen wine was “Unshackled”, a red blend from Napa California. This was won by Bill Greaves

Elections – 2021 Executive Committee:

Mike McInnis, Past President, presided over the elections of the Saanich Sommeliers Executive Committee and declared the following positions filled by acclamation after thrice calling for other candidates:

- President – Barry Edmonson
- Vice-President – Joanna Yu
- Secretary – Dawn Robson
- Treasurer – Leanna Rathkelly
- Steward – Ron Ramsdale
- Competition Coordinator – Rick and Mary Homer
- Communications Officer – Vacant
- Grape Procurer – Vacant

Non-elected positions include:

- BCAWA Rep – Colin Nicholson
- Past-President – Mike McInnis

Adjournment was called by President Barry Edmonson at 6:30 pm

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting. Approved.