



Minutes of:  
**Saanich Sommeliers Annual General Meeting**  
January 20, 2024

**Call to Order: 5:45 pm by President Barry Edmonson.** A quorum was called with 14 member households.

**Review and adoption of the 2023 AGM:**

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

- Motion: To approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM. Moved by Bill Greaves and seconded by Rick Homer. All approved and passed.

**Reports on 2023:**

President: Barry Edmonson

- It was a good year for the club, with a lot of learning, interaction, and activities.
- Our club is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2024.
- We are probably one of the strongest clubs in the province. Before Covid – there were 7 or 8 winemaking clubs in BCABA, now there are 4.
- We have a great combination of long-term and newer club members.
- We held a wine competition last January which also had a public component and hosted a tannin workshop in the spring.

Secretary: Dawn Robson

- The club started the year with 28 member-households,
- We had 3 new member families join in 2023.
  - Rennie & Loretta Dugaro, Marlin & Cheryl Martens, and Bill & Carolyn Wyngaards
- We had 1 member family leave the club.
  - Melanie & Derek Winnicki
- We have 1 member family who has indicated that they are not renewing membership.
  - Don and Joan Thain.
- As a club we had an amazing summer social event at Starling Lane.
- We also had a Bubbles & Bites event there to showcase the bubbly made by our members.
- The club hosted a tannin workshop, which was open to all BCABA members & this was coordinated by Gordon & Ken.
- We had an Oktoberfest event at the Horseshoe Club and a Just Desserts & Appies event in December.

Treasurer: Leanna Rathkelly

- The year end summary and Wine Competition results were shared in advance of the meeting.
- We knew it was going to be a deficit budget this year, and we did come close to that budget.
- The main source of income was member dues, and we did receive some revenue from



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our competition. We also received \$500 from BCAWA towards the tannin workshop.

- Wine supply expenses were higher than expected & we also purchased some equipment this year.
- The new executive will meet to review plans and budgets for the coming year.
- Motion: To approve the 2023 financial report as presented. Moved by Donna Neve, seconded by Dawn Robson. All in favor & passed.

BCAWA Rep: Colin Nicholson

- This year, there was a formal name change from the BC Amateur Wine Association to the BC Artisan Wine Association.
- BCAWA will be organizing another club crush and will be looking for interested parties. (This had not been well received in the past as Island clubs had to pay an additional cost for getting the grapes to the Island)

Competition Coordinator: Rick and Mary Homer

- We are proud to report that our Saanich Sommelier Club members were active in participating in numerous wine competitions held throughout the BCAWA arena.
- In summary:
  - In January 2023, we held our own wine club competition, open to other competitors;
  - In May 2023, our club members participated in the BCAWA Provincial Wine Competition;
  - In June 2023, our club members participated in the VAWA wine competition;
  - In September 2023, our club members participated in the AWC national wine competition, representing British Columbia;
  - In November, our club members participated in the VINOVAN wine competition.
- As a result of these club members entering these numerous competitions, we were able to truly make a good representation of our club's winemaking skills as well as help to make a remarkable representation of BC in the national competition. Saanich Sommeliers continues to be recognized throughout BCAWA as a wine club with a membership of very skilled winemakers.
- We can take pride in that our club is home to the 2023 Provincial Champion Winemaker, **Shawn Qian**, and to the 2023 National Grand Champion Winemaker, **Rick Homer**.
- Our club now looks forward to hosting the 2024 BCAWA Provincial Wine Competition on May 4<sup>th</sup> here in the Greater Victoria area.
- We congratulate and thank all members that entered their wines and look forward to continued representation from our club members.

Vice-President – Joanna Yu

- The club was able to host the following educational sessions after our meetings.
  - Sulphites in Wine, Q&A. - Sandy Kirk & Mike McInnis
  - Saanich Sommeliers – Website Review – Julian Elliott & Ken Stepushyn
  - Blind Wine Tasting – Samples & Discussion – Ron Ramsdale
  - Wine Aromas – A Practical Exercise – Ron Ramsdale



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- Tasting Game – Wines of lesser-known grapes – Shawn Qi
- Oxygen Management – Ron Thorne
- Thanks to all those who supported these sessions.

Grape Sourcing: Ron Ramsdale

- Last year, we worked closely with our sister club – Nanaimo. There were quality issues with some of the grapes, applicable partly to transportation issues.
- Members accessed grapes through the Nanaimo club, Flying Fish & other sources – as well as from vineyards on the Saanich Peninsula.

Communications: Laurie Dane

- A forum was set up for us to use through our website by Julian & Ken.
- We will be getting into social media in a bigger way in the upcoming year.

Wine Steward: Ron Ramsdale

- Purchased 8 bottles last year for these draws & there were a variety of wines. The average price was \$33.

**Other Business:**

- Provincial Wine Competition is currently scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Mary circulated an organization chart with the various roles and responsibilities.
- This is a big event, and we will need a lot of support to make this a success.
- A promotional poster for the BCAWA website was also circulated.

**Health and Welfare**

- Pat Marion had a fall Xmas eve and is currently at the Jubilee Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- We also wish Alimay all the best.

**Wine Draw**

- The chosen wine was “Bierzo – Mentia,” from Spain. This wine was rated 97 points by Decanter and was won by Rick and Mary Homer

**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



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- Wine Steward – Rennie & Loretta Dugaro
- Competition Coordinator – Rick and Mary Homer
- Communications Officer – Laurie Dane
- Grape Procurer – Ron Ramsdale

Non-elected positions include:

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

**Adjournment** was called by President Barry Edmonson at 6:40 pm

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

DRAFT