

British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association Minutes of the February 20, 2016 General Meeting

NOTE: These minutes have

not yet been adopted.

Date: February 20, 2016

Location: Kroitzsch Home

9962-117th Street, Surrey BC

BCAWA Executive:

Present: Axel Kroitzsch - Langley (Chair)

Mike Leeper - Vinovan Vice President Secretary: John McMaster - VAWA John Matkovich - Vinovan Treasurer: **National Director** Doug Markin - Nanaimo Guild Master: Dave Ewen - VAWA Ron Thorne - SCAWA 2016 Chief Steward: Director at Large: Larry McIntyre - VAWA Pepe Kubon - VAWA Director at Large:

Absent: Past President: Sandy Bellows – Saanich

Clubs / Representatives Present (Voting Members):

Belcarra Wine Makers Rob Martino (Voting)

Doug Brain

Chilliwack Zymurgy Fran Ayris (Voting)

John Ayris

Italvino Wine Club [club not represented at this meeting]
Kamloops Wine Assoc. [club not represented at this meeting]

Langley Fermenters Axel Kroitzsch
Glen Mayer

Glen Mayer Pat Zawalykut

Nanaimo Winemakers

BeauJon Sackett(Voting)

Doug Markin (Voting)

Saanich Sommeliers Colin Nicholson (Voting)
Sharon Bierd

Sunshine Coast Ron Thorne

Jacquelin George (Voting)

VAWA Larry McIntyre (Voting)

Ken Dunn Clem Joyce

Vintners of Coquitlam Mike Lesperance (Voting)

Vintners of North Van Doug Ellis (Voting)

Lothar Fabian

(7 voting members present at this meeting)

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kroitzsch called the meeting to order at 11:40 am and welcomed all present.

2 TOAST BY HOST CLUB

Axel Kroitzsch gave the toast to spending more time together and make better wine.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4 MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the minutes of the BCAWA Annual General Meeting Dated November 21, 2015 be adopted as corrected.

CARRIED

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

6 REPORTS

6.1 PRESIDENT

Axel noted that we've had more emails and conversations going back and forth in the past few months than we've had in years, which is a very positive and beneficial trend for BCAWA. He said that even if some of the topics had been a bit controversial the discussions around them were open and civil which led to involvement from a broader range of people and resulted in a much better decision making process Axel pointed out that there would be a Town Hall session at the end of the meeting and he hoped that everyone would think of presenting ideas that would further benefit our clubs.

6.2 TREASURER – John Matkovich

John circulated copies of the financial statements, noting that the finances were in good shape. This year there are 314 members in all clubs in the Province, a modest increase from last year.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

6.3 2016 CHIEF STEWARD - Ron Thorne

Ron reported that planning continues for the May 28, 2016 competition. A budget has been prepared and they're in the midst of finalizing the drop off points and venues for the major pieces have been confirmed. They have lined up a number of volunteers and judges and don't feel they need help from BCAWA at this point. Doug Brain will forward announcement details to the webmaster as soon as they're ready.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**

That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

[At this point in the meeting someone noted that maybe we should have gone around the room and have everyone introduce themselves. Which we did. The Secretary made a note to have and "introductions" section at the beginning of each meeting in the future.]

6.4 NATIONAL DIRECTOR – Doug Markin

Doug reported that the AWC had not yet formalized a formula to determine the number of entries each Province was allowed each year, although a formula proposed by Ontario had been in use for the past few years. Doug noted that he had reintroduced the motion to make the formula permanent and had been approve by 4 of the 5 provinces and he was waiting for Ontario to respond.

Doug noted that he had made a motion that the President of the AWC be selected from the host province. The discussion of the motion indicated that the other Provinces felt that as the Vice President / Chief Steward position was already appointed from the host province that they were not in favour of the motion and it was defeated.

Doug mentioned that the AWC directors were currently discussing the method used to calculate the National Winemaker of the Year. He noted that he thought that every wine submitted to the National competition should be counted not just the top 5 as is currently done.

A member asked about the status of National medals (the lack thereof). It was noted that it was largely a cost issue and that the medals had previously been sponsored by wine kit manufacturers. It was noted that BCAWA should not have to subsidize the medals, but also that this isn't something that BC can solve on its own – Doug will have to bring it up with the AWC.

Doug proposed that instead of a medal we could produce sheets of small labels for medal winners. The medals would say "Gold Medal – 2016 - AWC National Competition" (or whatever) and they winemaker would be able to attach these labels to their bottles – just as the commercial wineries do when they win a competition. We could also do this for Provincial and club competitions. There was considerable support for this idea. Doug said he would look into it further.

No request for a motion to accept the report was made; no motion was made.

6.5 **GUILD MASTER - Dave Ewen**

Dave noted that the Guild had adopted a new policy where they now actively supply judges for competitions. This has created much more interaction between the Guild and the competition organizers and the process seems to be working well.

The Guild reviewed the BCAWA Class Descriptions and recommended some changes.

The Master Judge program was initiated and there are currently 8 Guild members who have been qualified in 8 classes or more and have earned the Master Judge designation.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Guild Master's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7 SPECIAL ORDERS

None

8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 The Vancouver Amateur Winemakers Association (VAWA) provided notice that the club intends to make 2 motions that will rescind motions (9.6.1 and 9.6.2) adopted at the November 21, 2015 meeting.

Axel asked Clem Joyce to speak to the motion. Clem noted that he makes sherry, has entered it in the Provincial competition and done well enough that he has been invited to enter his sherry in the National competition. The removal of the Aperitif classes from the Provincial competition will prevent winemakers from entering Aperitif wines in the National competition which, in his opinion, should not have been done.

As far as putting cider in the sparkling class, Clem stated that they are entirely separate things and should never have been combined.

9.1.1 It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**

That class A (Aperitif Sherry) and class B (Aperitif) be restored to the Provincial competition.

[There was considerable discussion about the Provincials being the gateway to the National competition and therefore general agreement that the Provincial classes should mirror the National classes. Furthermore, it was proposed that changes to the Provincial entry classes should be led by changes to the National classes and if we want changes

perhaps we should lobby to have the National entry classes changed.

Some members suggested that all BC club competitions should, in turn, mirror the Provincial entry classes but that idea was not generally supported as the club competitions are not gateways to the Provincial competition.]

CARRIED

9.1.2 It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**

Tha class P (Sparkling Cider) be restored to the Provincial Competition and no longer permit Sparkling Cider to be entered in class H (Sparkling).

[There was little discussion of this topic as it was felt that the issue was largely the same as the previous issue which had been discussed at length.]

CARRIED

9.2 Provincial Competition Entry Class Description Review

Axel asked Dave Ewen to speak to this topic. Dave stated that BCAWA had asked the Guild to review the Provincial entry class descriptions and recommend changes to them. He said they've recommended some changes, mainly in acceptable alcohol levels, sweetness (residual sugar levels) and acid. Recommended serving temperatures have also been added. Dave reminded everyone that the recommended changes had been circulated to BCAWA members and that they'd received a couple of comments that were incorporated into the final document.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the changes to the Provincial Entry Class Descriptions proposed by the Guild be accepted and published.

[Discussion:

Clem Joyce expressed concern that the specific gravity range for Class F Dessert was specified as 1.024 – 1.034 for Botrytis Affected and 1.028 – 1.048 for Icewine Style but the upper limit for both should be 1.080. There was agreement that Clem was correct and the document should be changed to reflect these higher numbers.]

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the motion be amended to make a further change to the description for Class F Dessert. Specifically that it be changed so that the specific gravity range be specified as 1.024 – 1.080 for Botrytis Affected and 1.028 – 1.080 for Icewine Style.

CARRIED

The original motion was then voted and

CARRIED AS AMENDED

9.2.1 Proposal to have BCAWA and the Guild host the 2016 National Competition

Axel summarized the topic by reminding everyone that Alberta was scheduled to host the 2016 National Competition but announced in January that they would be unable to do so. BC is scheduled to host the event in 2017 and it was felt that we would be asked to move up one year in the schedule. The BCAWA and Guild executive felt that as it is such short notice, it would be unlikely that any of the BC clubs would volunteer to host, and agreed to propose that they jointly host the 2016 National Competition.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That BCAWA and the Guild jointly host the 2016 AWC National Competition.

Discussion:

Vinovan expressed concern that the member clubs had not been given the opportunity to offer to host the event. In fact, the first the clubs heard anything about it was in the form of the proposal that BCAWA and the Guild host the event. It was stated that it's not too late – if any club wanted to host the Nationals they could stand up now and volunteer but it was also agreed that the process should have been a lot more inclusive. Vinovan also expressed concern that the event is proposed to be held in their neighbourhood just 6 weeks prior to their own competition and they worried that the event may well divert resources away from their own event. Vinovan stated that they were not interested in hosting the event; no other clubs stepped up either.

CARRIED

A post-vote discussion ensued regarding the details of the proposed event. John Matkovich said that not only do we have to be sensitive to Vinovan's concerns about poaching resources so close to their competition, we also have to be realistic and limit the scope of the Nationals event to match the resources that we have available. There are 3 options that we have discussed:

- 1) Option 1: To keep with tradition, we would have a dinner / dance and silent auction following the competition. This not only interferes with Vinovan, it's also somewhat risky as we can't be certain that people would attend the event. We know that traditionally the dinner / dance is attended primarily by host club members and interest might be low without a sponsoring host club. This option would require someone dedicated to arranging the dinner / dance and another person dedicated to arranging a silent auction.
- 2) Option 2: would be to have a wine and cheese instead of a dinner / dance and a silent auction – profit would be somewhat lower but so would the effort involved. This option would require someone dedicated to arranging a silent auction.
- 3) Option 3 would be to have only a wine and cheese. We can still make some profit, but at lower risk and effort. This option can be accomplished with people who have already volunteered their time.

John stated that Option 3 was what the unofficial organizing committee was recommending.

The date of the competition was discussed: why September 24? Opinions varied but August or September were thought to be equally ok. Coquitlam noted that the club travelled the last two weekends in September picking up grapes so they would not be available. No conclusion was reached.

Will there be enough wine left after the competition to support a wine tasting? Yes – we will be sure to request that entries be submitted in 750ml bottles.

Mike Leeper asked if we could have a motion further defining what we were planning: a silent auction but no dinner / dance. Axel asked for such a motion.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the 2016 AWC National Competition be followed by a wine and cheese with a silent auction.

Discussion:

Larry McIntyre suggested that BCAWA does not need any more money than it already has and he does not believe that a silent auction is necessary.

Dave Ewen stated that the Guild does need money for its operations.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the motion be amended to eliminate the silent auction.

Discussion:

It was suggested that a silent auction coordinator would need to be in place within the next 4 weeks for the event to have any chance of success.

Dave Ewen stated that he would have to go back to the Guild to see if they were interested in continuing the Guild participation if they weren't going to get anything out of it. (John Matkovich suggested that we could still make about \$2,000 without a silent auction.)

Other money raising schemes were mentioned such as auctioning off the medal winning wines, sourcing and auctioning off wines that are not generally available to the public.

There seemed to be general agreement that the scope of the undertaking will be totally dependent on some individuals or even a club as a whole stepping up to manage anything beyond the basic competition. For example, Vinovan might decide to manage the silent auction part by combining it with their own – they would expect a share of any profit.

It was suggested that the Guild and the clubs needed time to discuss whether they would be able to provide resources to arrange and manage a silent auction.

Axel suggested that further consideration of the motion be postponed for 30 days to give the clubs time to discuss it.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That further consideration of the motion be postponed until March 31.

CARRIED

Discussion of the motion under this section and the amending motion are suspended until March 31.

It was felt that we should include here what we have reached consensus on:

- 1) That BCAWA and the Guild should jointly host the National competition unless a member club steps forward and announces their desire to host the event prior to March 31.
- 2) No Dinner/Dance will be included.
- 3) If the Silent Auction were also eliminated there would likely be a \$2,000 (approx.) shortfall from what we originally anticipated, and this will be felt mostly by the Guild.

10 Town Hall Session

Sharing Presentations: Axel renewed discussion on Dave Ewen's work to promote the sharing of educational presentations amongst clubs. There was general agreement that this was a good idea and that available presentations and speakers should be posted on the BCAWA website.

Material that is currently posted on the BCAWA website: some is outdated and should be removed or updated. In addition, new material should be added. It was suggested that clubs should promote the BCAWA website material to all club members at each meeting and forward any resulting comments to the person responsible for the content. Which brought up the need for just such a person.

A conversation around sulfite testing morphed into the subject of clubs buying testing equipment for the use of their members to encourage better winemaking – and perhaps making the equipment available to other clubs.

Wine making supplies: it was noted that Clem Joyce has been supplying materials to many winemakers for several years now, but in doing so has exposed himself to some financial risk. It was suggested that BCAWA consider coordinating this on a province wide basis and underwrite the expense of this undertaking. It was noted that BCAWA itself has no resources to do this kind of thing and that it would need to fall to the clubs, or individual club members, to get this done. It was suggested that perhaps BCAWA could implement an online order entry / inventory control system for this purpose.

Axel introduced Rob Martino and noted that he was taking over the grape supply business that Gilbert has built up over the past 13 years and that he would be in touch with winemakers over the next few weeks as the plans unfold.

Doug Ellis reminded everyone that at a previous BCAWA meeting, the concept of a province wide "club crush" was talked about and that Vinovan discussed it and was very supportive.

11 Next Meeting

The next BCAWA General Meeting will be the AGM May 28, 2016.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED