

**British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association**  
**Minutes of Executive Meeting**  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**1. Welcome by the President**

President Helmut Berner welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7.30pm

**2. Attendance**

In attendance by teleconference - Helmut Berner, John Matkovich, Axel Kroitzsch, Moira Jaatteenmaki, Rob Belanger, Rick Homer, Mike Dragani, Ernesto Salvi, Brian Nokelby and Murray Mackie. Absent: George Gibson.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Moved/Seconded* *Axel Kroitzsch/Rob Belanger*  
*"To adopt the Agenda as presented"*  
*Carried.*

**4. Approval of Minutes**

*Moved/Seconded* *Murray Mackie/Rob Belanger*  
*"To adopt the minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Executive meeting as circulated.*  
*Carried.*

*Moved/Seconded* *Murray Mackie/Mike Dragani*  
*"To receive the minutes of the October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Council meeting as circulated.*  
*Carried.*

**5. Business Arising from Minutes**

The revision/review of dessert categories/criteria will be referred to the Handbook Committee. AGM Minutes, Section 13-2, motion#3 – will remain tabled.

**6. Correspondence**

None.

**7. Financial Statements**

John Matkovich reported that all dues have been paid with exception of Capilano Winemakers. Membership is up with expenses all small items to date. There are no plans for educational seminars or any other educational items and no forthcoming major expenditures. John will issue a financial statement by end of week to be attached to minutes.

**8. Chief Steward Report**

Ernesto reported that the club was following John's handbook from 2003. Upcoming deadline is middle of January to establish drop-off locations. Next deadline will be for information packages to be distributed to clubs with same info going to web site and Grapevine. He mentioned that tickets will be \$60.

**9. National Director's Report**

A report was expected by e-mail but none received.

**10. 2004 National Host Report**

Murray announced the dates had been set for August 14<sup>th</sup>. The hall is booked and some judges are expected from other Provinces as well as from commercial outlets. The tasting of the wines and the banquet will be from 6-9pm with no dancing to follow. A designated driver will be in place for any who wish to use this. Full information will be on the web site and in a newsletter.

**11. BC Guild of Judges**

Rob updated all on the progress being made re judge's certification for formerly certified judges. The list of judges will be on the web site in due course. Guild now has approximately \$1800 in funds with the balance probably never recoverable. Axel has the aroma kit and fault kit.

## **12. Handbook Updating**

George and John are working on this. John is working on procedures but not major items. The Executive has authority to make minor changes but anything major must be approved by Council. So far, changes include bringing various sections up to date as far as procedures, removing some items that are obsolete, duties of committees, list of equipment and supplies, entries to National, large class procedures, entry regulations, forms and other housekeeping and wordsmithing items. All clubs will receive a disc with forms and also hard copies of the forms.

The Executive will review once completes and discuss. If needed a special Executive meeting could be called. Target date for this is January 20<sup>th</sup> and decision by February 1<sup>st</sup> if Executive meeting required.

## **13. Any Other Business**

### **13a. Education**

John pointed out again the lack of action within BCAWA and that ideas for the betterment of the Association are needed. Someone must take the initiative. It was suggested that clubs take turns arranging educational sessions with a list a suggested topics. Another suggestion was that clubs could invite speaker to an open meeting. Also could add a speaker to Council meeting for say 1 to 1 ½ hours.

### **13b. Liability Insurance**

John stated that Vinovan has lost their meeting place due to lack of tenants liability insurance. On checking with an Insurance Agent he was advised that a blanket policy for BCAWA would be in the region of \$3000 or approximately \$5 per member. John will investigate further and this will be an item for the next Council meeting.

## **13. Next Council Meeting**

This will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> at Belcarra. Helmut will get the driving instructions.

## **14. Adjournment**

Helmut thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

*Moved/Seconded*

*"To adjourn the meeting."*

*Carried.*

*Axel Kroitzsch/Rick Homer*

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Moira Jaatteenmaki,  
Secretary

# British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association

## Minutes of General Meeting

Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the 'Old Mill Boathouse'  
Rocky Point Park, Port Moody

1. Welcome by the President  
President Helmut Berner called the meeting to order at 10:30 and welcomed those in attendance (there had been a short delay due to unsuccessful attempts to establish a telephone link with the secretary).
2. Toast by the Host Club  
Belcarra Winemakers offered a toast to happy winemaking in 2004.
3. Attendance  
The following voting delegates were present: Belcarra Winemakers, Tony Mikes; Chilliwack Zymurgy, Gordon Garlinge; Glenmore Wine Circle, Les McBride; Italian Canadian Winemakers Guild, Joseph Cantafio, Vinovan, John Matkovich; Langley Winemakers, Axel Kroitsch, Vancouver Amateur Winemakers Association, Helmut Berner, Nanaimo Winemakers, Gordon McKinnon. Other members were also present for a total attendance of 17.
4. Approval of the Agenda  
The agenda was approved.
5. Approval of Minutes of the General Meeting held October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003.  
The minutes were approved.
6. Business Arising from the minutes  
None.
7. Correspondence  
None.
8. Treasurer's Report  
John Matkovich reported that there had been little change since the last meeting. As yet, no club has offered to present an educational program. The balance stands at \$12, 105.14. A question arose (Belcarra) whether judges were compensated for travelling expenses. John replied that at present, this policy varies from club to club. It was moved and seconded (Axel Kroitsch / Gordon Garlinge) that the financial report be accepted as presented.
9. Provincial Steward's Report  
Joseph Cantafio (new Italian Canadian Winemakers Guild club rep) presented for Ernesto Salvi who was unable to attend. Joseph can be reached by telephone at 604-985-1602 or by e-mail at [jc-dmc@shaw.ca](mailto:jc-dmc@shaw.ca). His group met at the Italian Cultural Centre on February 4<sup>th</sup>. They have come up with a list of drop off sites and they are planning on selling 300 - 400 tickets. Of these, 200 tickets will be reserved for the host club and 100 - 150 will be set aside for other clubs. They also expect to have 40 judges attending the dinner. As a

courtesy to the judges, each judge attending the evening banquet will receive one free ticket to the event. Tickets are available for \$60. They are planning a budget with \$23,000 income and \$20,000 in expenses. BCAWA executive members will be invited to a free breakfast the following morning. There will be an allowance for ferry and travelling expenses incurred by judges. Gary Armanini is in the process of developing the software for registering the entries. Joseph then thanked John Matkovich for his help and assistance to the club. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>. Everything is on track for the 2004 Provincial Competition.

10. AWC Report

Sonia Garlinge (Chilliwack Zymurgy) reported that the hall has been booked for the National Competition to be held August 14<sup>th</sup>. She looks forward to having some judges from other provinces present at the competition. She is planning on needing 600 glasses and has 300 so far. A request was made to the VAWA to help with the remaining glasses. Sonia is planning on using three judges per class. The location of the AWC AGM is to be announced at a later date. If there aren't too many people attending, the meeting may be held at the Garlinge's residence. The budget for the competition hasn't been finalized as of yet. Helmut Berner asked and received a vote of support for the AWC. Help and possible financial support will be offered to the Chilliwack Zymurgy club. Sonia spoke of a concern for the corporate sponsorship of medals. She expects medals to cost \$1000. Her club is deciding whether to offer a silent auction or a raffle. She expects 70-80 people to be in attendance for the dinner.

11. AWC Director

George Gibson was unable to attend. Gordon McKinnon was here in his place. Georges report was to be forwarded to the secretary.

12. BC Guild of Judges Report

There was no report as Rob Belanger was unable to attend.

13. Any Other Business

John Matkovich reported that the need for tenant insurance forced Vinovan out of their meeting place at the Lion's Hall. Discussion followed. Gordon Garlinge moved and Axel Kroitsch seconded that the BCAWA invite a lawyer to the AGM and have him address the insurance and liability issue. The motion was carried.

14. Next Meeting AGM, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Italian Cultural Centre.

15. Thanks to the host club.

The Belcarra Winemakers were thanked for hosting the meeting

16. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved and seconded (Axel Kroitsch / John Matkovich) to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried and the meeting ended at 11:30.

Minutes prepared by Sam Hauck

BRITISH COLUMBIA AMATEUR WINEMAKERS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MAY 9, 2004

1. Welcome by President Helmut Berner.
2. Toast by Italian Canadian Winemakers Club, Ernesto Salvi:  
"Wine - the drink of the Gods"
3. Attendance: Saanich Sommeliers, Rick Homer; Nanaimo Winemakers, George Gibson; Vinovan, Murray Allen; VAWA, Joan Collings; Chilliwack Zymurgy, Gordon Garlinge; Glenmore Wine Circle, Les McBride; Langley Fermenters, Axel Kroitzsch, Sunshine Coast Amateur Winemakers Assn., John Milne; Italian Canadian Winemakers Club, Ernesto Salvo; Observers, 19.
4. Agenda, approved.
5. February Council Minutes, approved.
6. Business arising, none.
7. Correspondence, none.
8. Our liabilities, guest speaker, legal counsel, John White.

John Matkovich explained the background of our concerns regarding Liability Claims and Insurance, noting that clubs had been refused venues for lack of insurance.

Mr. White went through several scenarios showing potential liability, and stated that although several instances of alcohol-related cases had been tried in Canada, these had been overturned on appeal due to technical reasons. Social Liability cases, although common in the U.S, are not, as yet, legal in Canada. He also advised that the holding of meetings, competitions and banquets whether for the purpose of wine education or wine tasting by amateur winemakers are illegal acts and, thus, are not insurable. For example, the Provincial Competition, should there be a related injury, could place liability first on BCAWA; second, on the host club; and thirdly, on individual directors. So, what to do to show that due diligence was followed?

1. Incorporate the club under the Society Act.
2. State in the Club's constitution that the purpose of the Club is wine tasting and education. This may provide relief for the Directors. Signing of a waiver by club members may not necessarily provide relief.
3. Use common sense:
  - limit consumption as much as possible
  - cut off those who appear intoxicated
  - communicate the necessity for drinking responsibly verbally, with signage, pamphlets, etc
  - provide transportation when needed
9. Liability Insurance: the speaker was not available due to a family emergency and will be re-booked.
10. Treasurer's Report: John Matkovich - Financial Statement attached. Moved to approve as circulated, 2<sup>nd</sup> Axel Kroitzsch, carried.  
John reminded the members that funds are available to all clubs for educational purposes such as the seminars in the past and last year's guest speaker.
11. 2004 Competition Steward's Report: Ernesto Silva

Ernesto expressed thanks to the many people who had assisted in making the competition so successful, in particular: John Matkovich, Garry Armanini, Steve Hill, Steve Blaschek, Val Cittone, Artura Cusinato. An innovative idea was the holding of a Stewards training session. There were 420 wines entered and 220 guests at the banquet. The financial report is not yet completed but it is expected the event will break even.

On behalf of the members, Helmut Berner congratulated the Italian Canadian Winemakers Club for a job well done.

The 2005 BCAWA Provincial Competition will be hosted by Langley Fermenters.

12. 2004 AWC Competition Steward's Report: Sonia Garlinge

The committee continues to meet regularly. Financial assistance offered by BCAWA will not be needed, but the offer is appreciated. A budget has been set and there should be no problem in realizing it. Thanks to VAWA for the loan of glasses. Fifteen judges have offered including those from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and B.C. Commercial judges have also volunteered.

Judging will take place August 14th at Skyway Hall on Industrial Way, Chilliwack.

Presentation of awards will take place at a salmon, steak and Chilliwack corn barbeque. The cost is \$30.

Accommodations have been arranged at:

- Best Western, Industrial Way, \$79 single, \$89 double - email - [kwood@rainbowcountryinn.com](mailto:kwood@rainbowcountryinn.com) attn: Gloria
- Comfort Inn, Luckakuck Way, \$95, Sr. \$85
- The Rhombus Hotel, near Five Corners, \$99, Sr, & BCAA \$91

There will be a Silent Auction, donations much appreciated.

There may be a Friday reception. Contact Sonia, 604-702-1032.

The AWC AGM will be held at Garlinge's Friday evening, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

More details on the BCAWA web site.

13. National Director's Report: George Gibson

Progress is moving slowly on a revision of the Amateur Winemakers of Canada Handbook. There is a moratorium on any changes in the class structure but discussion is encouraged.

Eligible competitors for the AWC National Competition will be notified shortly by e-mail.

The drop place for entries is Rob Belanger, 3855 Hillcrest, North Vancouver.

R.J. Spagnol's has not, as yet, committed to sponsoring the medals. A show of hands indicated that medals are desirable. It may be necessary to source funds from other resources as yet not determined

14. B.C. Guild of Wine Judges Report: Rob Belanger

Rob advised that the Guild continues to have three active chapters but they are hoping to develop more chapters in other areas such as Kamloops, Langley and Chilliwack; that they hope to work closer with BCAWA in providing service to all clubs; and expressed a wish for former Guild members to rejoin.

The Guild is holding its Annual General Meeting on June 13th at which time they will discuss the re-organization of their structure; downsizing their executive, establishing a closer relationship with BCAWA and perhaps having BCAWA advance funds which will be reimbursed, for their tastings.

15. Web Site Committee Report: Jack Ziebart

Shaw Cable has increased the web site's space from 15 MB to 100 MB at no cost. About 24% is being utilized.

The Discussion Forum has been moved from Tripod.net to the BCAWA site but is underused. Go to <http://www.bcawa.ca> then click on the "Discussion Forum" box..

Submissions of competition information and results have been very good. Results are forwarded to members for whom Jack has e-mail addresses.

An anti-virus program has been installed to protect the web site and incoming/outgoing messages. The site consists of 355 files and 242 graphics. The site has received over 32,000 hits. The most read pages are those on winemaking, <http://www.bcawa.ca/winemaking/winemkg.htm>. More winemaking articles are welcome.

16. Any Other Business:

John Matkovich, Ernesto Salvi:

"Moved to retain legal counsel to prepare a Constitutional phrase covering the purpose of the club, i.e. wine tasting and wine education. This wording to be forwarded to all clubs for inclusion in their Constitution should they so desire. Cost not to exceed \$2,000."

Carried.

Nanaimo Winemakers, George Gibson, Murray Allen

"Given the increased availability of Bordeaux type grape varieties in the Okanagan and the increasing popularity of the Bordeaux Style Dry Red Class, be it moved that a Cabernet Sauvignon class and a Merlot class be created, that the Bordeaux Style Class be reserved for "Bordeaux Blends", and that the Other Dry Red Class be the appropriate recipient of varietal Carmenere, Malbec, and Petit Verdot."

Defeated.

Mary Homer, George Gibson

"Moved that BCAWA support clubs by paying entry fees for the AWC National Competition for this year only."

Carried.

George Gibson, John Milne

Refer to the 1st. Executive meeting for discussion: "That only wines that have won a medal at a club competition be allowed entry into the Provincial Competition."

Carried.

17. Elections: Murray Mackie

The following Executive was elected by acclamation:

President: Axel Kroitzsch  
Vice President: Hans Opperman  
Secretary: Moira Jaateenmaki  
Treasurer: John Matkovich  
National Director: George Gibson  
Directors at Large: Rick Homer, Brian Nokleby, Sandy Grindlay  
Chief Steward 2005 BCAWA Competition: Wayne Crossen  
BC Guild of Judges representative: to be selected at their AGM

John Matkovich, on behalf of the members, expressed our sincere appreciation and thanks to Helmut Berner for his many years of providing leadership.

18. Appointment of Archivist: Charles Plant.

19. Next Council Meeting Host:

Bill Collings suggested that a schedule be established so that all clubs would participate in being hosts or co-hosts. Bill to work on such a schedule and forward a recommendation to the Executive for discussion.

Mary Homer advised that Saanich Sommeliers would host the next Council Meeting.

20. Adjournment: Axel Kroitzsch

Carried.

Minutes prepared by Joan Collings

**British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association**  
**Minutes of Executive Meeting**  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004

Item	Action
<b>1. Welcome by the President</b> President Axel Kroitzsch welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7.30pm	
<b>2. Attendance</b> In attendance by teleconference - Axel Kroitzsch, Helmut Berner, John Matkovich, , Moira Jaatteenmaki ,Brian Nokleby, Wayne Crossen, Sandy Grindlay and Hans Operman.. Absent: George Gibson, Rick Homer.	
<b>3. Approval of Agenda</b> The following items were added to the Agenda: Item # 16 from the AGM, Provincial Competition re hosting, New Club Applications, Constitution and By-Laws, BCAWA and Guild merger, Educational Sessions	
<b>4. Approval of Minutes</b>  <i>Moved/Seconded</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Moira Jaatteenmaki/John Matkovich</i></span> <i>"To accept the minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 AGM as circulated.</i> <i>Carried.</i>	
<b>5. Business Arising from Minutes</b> The following motion was carried at the AGM : "Refer to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Executive meeting for discussion: 'That only wines that have won a medal at a club competition be allowed entry into the Provincial Competition'. It was noted that this or a similar motion has been presented to the membership three times previously and defeated. Member agreed that there no new reasons for this motion which originally arose due to this being followed in Ontario. After discussion it was agreed that education was the answer and that those entering wines either pull the cork and taste the wine to make sure it is not faulty and/or have it prejudged.	Axel to include this in his next Grapevine article.
<b>6. Financial Statements</b> John will have a budget circulated by the end of the week. He noted that our balance is approximately \$11,000. Expenses since AGM have included paying of entries to the National Competition. He has circulated the Financial Statement for the Provincial Competition.	John to circulate proposed budget by week end.
<i>Moved/Seconded</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>John Matkovich/Hans Operman</i></span> <i>"To accept the report of the Treasurer"</i> <i>Carried</i>	
<b>7. 2003 Provincial Competition Report</b> Nothing other than the Financial Statement.	
<b>8. National Director's Report</b> None	

**Item**

**Action**

**9. 2004 AWC Report**

No Report. There was discussion on a problem that arose which has also happened at other competitions. A wine that was judged gold was not put aside to be rejudged in best of show category and when it came to judge that category, the bottle was empty. This is an issue to be addressed by the Guild and Chief Steward in their instructions to judges and stewards.

Axel to include in Grapevine report under Competition Etiquette.

**10. 2005 Provincial Competition**

Wayne reported that Coyote Creek Golf Course has been reserved for this. All events will take place there with the only cost being that for the dinner. They are working on donations for the Silent Auction. Information has been posted on the web site re dates and location. Wayne queried if the full cost of judges' dinners was to be covered and was informed that it is policy that they be covered. He said they were trying to have local wineries do a wine tasting for the Friday evening.

**11. New Business**

**11.1 Hosting of Provincial Competition and Council Meetings**

Helmut has made a proposal that BCAWA take over the organization of the Provincial Competition and hosting of Council Meetings. This is due to the difficulty in finding clubs willing to do this thus putting BCAWA at the mercy of goodwill of the clubs.

*Moved/Seconded*

*Helmut Berner/John Matkovich*

*"That BCAWA be the permanent host of provincial Competitions and Council Meetings".*

*Defeated*

At the AGM, Bill Collings suggested that a schedule be established whereby clubs would have a definite date to be hosts or co-hosts. It was questioned as to how this could be enforced. The expectation is that as a member club of BCAWA that each club takes a turn hosting a meeting or competition. It was decided that a list be drawn up showing Council meetings in October and February and the Competition and AGM in May. This list to be taken to the Council meeting in October. It was noted that a host for 2006 Competition is needed and everyone should talk to the clubs and again include in Grapevine.

Axel to include in Grapevine report

**11.2 Group Entries**

Helmut questioned the appropriateness of group entries as opposed to individual entries. He felt that only individuals should be entering. The main concern appears to be that the members of the group are not known and that the group is not a member of BCAWA but the individual members are. It was decided to put this on the agenda for the Council meeting

Include in Agenda for October Council meeting.

**11.3 Educational Sessions**

There was a lengthy discussion re educational material and sessions for members and member clubs. There are considerable funds available for this. The seminars have been successful and Vancouver club holds very good educational sessions for members only. John outlined the excellent speaker on fermentation they have discovered for a Vinovan session. Wine problems would be a good topic also with questions submitted in advance. Sandy and John will look at organizing something for possibly February. Sandy also suggested we make visits to clubs to promote BCAWA and include education opportunities at that time.

Axel to mention availability of financial assistance for clubs in Grapevine report.

**Item**

**Action**

**11.4 New Club Applications**

Spagnols has recently introduced a policy that only BCAWA clubs will receive the 15% discount. This has generated several enquiries as to membership. However, when John has contacted them, it becomes obvious that they are not interested in BCAWA just the discount. John will speak to Spagnols re this.

An application for membership has been received from RCMP – Royal Canadian Malt Patrol. John has contacted them and recommends we accept their application. There were no objections.

**11.5 Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Review**

John is working on this.

**11.6 BCAWA and Guild merger**

It was decided that we should wait for a response from the Guild on this.

**12. Adjournment**

Axel asked anyone with items for the Council meeting to send them to him.  
The meeting adjourned at 9.13pm

Agenda items to  
Axel

Moira Jaatteenmaki,  
Secretary