

BCAWA 2024 Provincial Competition - Chief Stewards report

The event this year was hosted by the Saanich Sommeliers. We had 120 tickets available but only managed to sell 107 of them. The following is a breakdown of where they went;

Free tickets for out of town Judges - 8

Paying guests;

Non BCAWA guests - 65

Saanich Sommeliers - 27

VAWA - 0

Vinovan - 4

Langley - 1

Naniamo - 2

Chilliwack -0

Belcarra - 0

Sunshine Coast – 0

Total Tickets 107

As you can see from above, there was not a whole lot of support from other clubs when it came to attending this event, even though we went to great effort to contact all BCAWA members and offer free billeting etc, in order to get them to come. Without non BCAWA guests attending, which accounted for just over 60% of available tickets, this event would have been a huge financial disaster. Billeting was a great incentive to get out of town judges and guests to come over.

The Friday Night Meet and Greet was held at Starling Lane Winery. Our club members supplied appetizers and everyone brought a nice bottle of wine to share. Attendance at this event was about 45.

The Saturday Morning Judging began at approx 8:30. We set up the room in the morning using a room layout template. This was helpful, as I did not have to keep telling people how to set up the room, they just had to look at the drawing taped to the wall. We did the same thing for the Saturday night dinner setup. I recommend other clubs use this as it is a very effective organization tool.

I had 10 sets of Judges and 10 stewards (plan on losing a couple of judges and stewards at the last minute due to illness etc) I had a couple of junior judge trainees that I had initially asked to be stewards, and told them in advance that I may need them to help judge if judges cancelled. That is how I adapted to judges cancelling out at the last minute. The 10 sets of judges were paired for the entire day with the same steward at the same table. This allowed for the judges to work through the flights at their own pace with no waiting for other judges to finish. They were assigned 2-3 flights for an average total of 20 wines. Judging was complete by 2 pm.

We had set up a separate area away from the judging venue where the judges could take a lunch break. This allowed the judges to take a break at their own convenience without disturbing the other judges that were still judging.

We had a total of 204 entries and awarded 169 medals, 37 Gold, 74 Silver, and 58 Bronze.

Organization is the key to a successful competition. We followed the BCAWA competition handbook and strongly suggest that everyone do this. Everything is in there, you just need to read it. We also created an organization chart, so that all volunteers knew who was in charge of various committees. Getting club member to help out is important. It is a lot of work to attempt this with only a few people. Without the support of many of our club members, this would have been an onerous task.

Financially this event was a success, however based poor attendance by other clubs not attending and by the low number of entries, it was not the success that we were hoping for. The financial success was due in large part to the work done by our silent auction committee. They raised \$5765.18 by doing a 50/50 draw, a raffle of a high value bottle of wine draw, and by doing a silent auction. They used technology in the form of the "Square" credit card system (www.squareup.com). This can be used on a smart phone, tablet, etc and allows people to use all major credit cards to pay for their silent auction purchases. The company charges 2.75% and deposits the money right into your bank account. There is no cost to register and it worked great for us.

We had a net profit of \$5765.18 to be split 40/60% between BCAWA and Saanich. BCAWA's share was \$2306.07.

A detailed financial statement is sent as a separate attachment.

Sincerely,

Rick and Mary Homer
2024 BCAWA Chief Stewards.