

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTISAN WINEMAKERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of General Meeting, March 8, 2026

Location: Roma Hall; 940 Ewan Ave. New Westminster, BC; 11:15am

Attendance: Executive – Roger Ford (Coquitlam); John McMaster (VAWA); John Matkovich (VinoVan); Mike Leeper (VinoVan); Joe Zucchiatti (VAWA)

Brian McConnell (VinoVan); Axel Kroitzsch (Langley); Stephen Small (VinoVan); Doug Martin (Coquitlam); Doug Brain (Belcarra); Larry McIntyre (VAWA)

Via Zoom – Rick Homer (Saanich); Doug Markin (Nanaimo).

Visitors- Jim Canil; Mike Roman.

1. Welcome and Call to Order by President Mike Leeper:

Mike gave a hearty welcome to those attending, in person and via the internet. He re-iterated that the Association operated under the requirements of the 'Serve it Right' protocols.

2. **Toast** given by Doug Brain of the Belcarra club: Doug introduced himself as a Belcarra winemaker filling in for Brendan Frith. He expressed the *...hope that everyone was adjusting to the new, forever, Daylight Savings time. A phenomenon unheard of 8000 years ago when, apparently accidentally, wine was first fermented on the Georgian steppe. 8000 years later, and here we are, still trying to improve on the process. A process which brings us together here today. So, here is to wine and the enjoyment it brings us all. Cheers!*

Toasting wine: Sangiovese

3. **Approval of Agenda.** Moved – Axel 2nd- Doug Martin

4. Approval of March 9, 2025 General Meeting Minutes

Moved- Axel 2nd- Steve Small

5. Reports:

- a) Treasurer John Matkovitch- There are currently 131 members. He commended Clem Joyce for his work on the AWC gold key and tastevin. For specific financials, see his report on the website.
Motion to accept the report -Axel 2nd-Larry
- b) National Director Doug Markin- 2025/26 AWC competition venue is yet to be decided. Overall, entries were down, although there is optimism that next year will be better. Provincial competition is on tentatively June 27th, slated for Beban Park in Nanaimo (cannot confirm until April). This will be run jointly by the Nanaimo Club and the Nanaimo Guild. Doug will be the chief steward.

Motion to accept the report – Brian 2nd- Doug Martin

- c) Guild Master’s Report: Mike Leeper, speaking on Bill’s behalf, congratulated Saanich for their successful competition. Furthermore, he remarked that the Guild sessions were progressing satisfactorily with a number of new participants

Motion to accept – Axel. 2nd- Brian

6. Unfinished Business:

- a) Appreciation Workshop – no interest shown. VinoVan put forth the idea of offering this to the community via Capilano University or the like, including a 1 year membership? The idea was well received. Rick Homer will forward information on the experience of the Saanich Guild in this endeavour.
- b) Motion to create Class B2 as a new Digestif Class (as previously discussed) by Rick Homer. 2nd – Doug Markin. Passed unanimously
Rick has sent in an updated format, to John McMaster, who will enter it into the handbook.
- c) BCAWA Competition Registration System – status of project to develop a new competition registration system, as it needs refining/upgrading, or a completely new format.
Rick Homer that that Trevor Curtis of Camosun College has a group of 2nd year programming students, who would be able to take this on. They would provide software which could facilitate class selection

etc. This could allow for an administrator; 2 (or more) co-administrators to edit; a competition coordinator and provide start/end dates for entry submission.

- d) BCAWA Archives now on website- John McMaster has added all items, except editions of the Grapevine. Mike has offered to contact Sal Robinson in this regard.

7. New Business:

- a) 2026 Provincial Competition June 27 hosted by Nanaimo Winemakers and the Nanaimo chapter of the BCGWJ.
- b) BCAWA clubs request flexibility for determining 2026 competition dates. Mike - this has been built into the system, and while not hard and fast, it generally allows selection without double booking.
- c) 2026 BCAWA Club Crush Selection Committee- Brian McConnell needs one more member. Doug Markin has volunteered. Mike Leeper asked Jim Canil (our grape supplier), how things looked for this coming year? Jim began by thanking the Association for its past patronage. He went on to state that his suppliers were readily available. Rick Homer asked him to send a list of varietals/prices to John McMaster, to post at the BCAWA website. Jim will do this. He finished by stating that choices of varietals and volume, could be forwarded at any time (the sooner the better).
- d) Next Meeting – AGM, June 27, 20206 following the BCAWA Competition

Motion to accept- Doug Martin 2nd- Rick Homer

- e) Next Toast – Nanaimo (Doug Markin will sort it out).
- f) BCAWA website – volunteer required to manage it. Is a new website needed? Discussion followed. Rick stated it needed an update. John McMaster will undertake recommendations. Rick offered to manage it, as long as he could utilize Word Press.

8. Town Hall Session-

- a) Status of health of each Club-
Coquitlam- maintaining the status quo; Belcarra- same;

VinoVan- doing fine; VAWA – declining membership;
Langley- membership down; Nanaimo – healthy, 25 members;
Saanich membership up, 25 members.

9. **Announcements:** Brian will purchase a speaker, to better facilitate on-line participation in meetings (unanimous agreement to this).

10. **Adjourn**

Moved – Axel

2nd- Doug Martin