



## British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association

### Minutes of the November 21, 2015 General Meeting

**Date:** November 21, 2015

**NOTE: These minutes have  
not yet been adopted.**

**Location:** Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
1110 Gladwin Dr, North Vancouver

#### BCAWA Executive:

Present:	President: Past President: Secretary: Treasurer: Guild Master: 2016 Chief Steward: Director at Large: Director at Large:	Axel Kroitzsch - Langley ( <b>Chair</b> ) Sandy Bellows - Saanich John McMaster - VAWA John Matkovich - Vinovan Dave Ewen - VAWA Ron Thorne – SCAWA Larry McIntyre - VAWA Pepe Kubon – VAWA
Absent:	Vice President National Director	Mike Leeper – Vinovan Doug Markin - Nanaimo

#### Clubs / Representatives Present (Voting Members):

Belcarra Wine Makers	Rob Martino (Voting)
Chilliwack Zymurgy	[club not represented at this meeting]
Italvino Wine Club	[club not represented at this meeting]
Kamloops Wine Assoc.	[club not represented at this meeting]
Langley Fermenters	Axel Kroitzsch (Voting)
Nanaimo Winemakers	[club not represented at this meeting]
Saanich Sommeliers	Colin Nicholson (Voting)
Sunshine Coast	Ron Thorne (Voting)
VAWA	Larry McIntyre (Voting)
Vintners of Coquitlam	Mike Lesperance (Voting)
Vintners of North Van	Doug Ellis (Voting)

**(7 voting members present at this meeting)**

#### 1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kroitzsch called the meeting to order at 11:05 am and welcomed all present.

## **2 TOAST BY HOST CLUB**

John Matkovich gave the toast wishing BCAWA a successful year.

## **3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **4 MINUTES**

The following correction to the minutes was made:

The host club for the 2017 Provincial Competition was corrected to read "Italvino and Vintners of Coquitlam"

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

That the minutes of the BCAWA Annual General Meeting Dated May 3, 2014 be adopted as corrected.

**CARRIED**

## **5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

## **6 REPORTS**

### **6.1 PRESIDENT**

None

### **6.2 TREASURER – John Matkovich**

The Treasurer tabled his report and noted that for the first time in history all the club dues have been paid before the end of November. The treasurer noted that the association is in great shape with a bank balance in excess of \$8,000 with no major expenses expected.

A club rep asked if the Guild would be returning any money not spent from the \$2,000 granted to them earlier in the year and the Treasurer replied no, that was not a condition of the grant. A follow up question was if BCAWA had granted the Guild \$2,000 per year or if it was a one time grant – the Treasurer replied that it was a one time grant and was specifically designated for the Guild Judge training programs.

The Treasurer circulated a copy of the most recent BCAWA bank statement so the clubs could check the bank balance against the balance noted in the Financial Statements. The clubs concurred that it matched.

The Treasurer circulated a list of Club Representatives and asked for it to be corrected so that he could keep his records and the website up to date.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **6.3 2016 CHIEF STEWARD – Ron Thorne**

The Chief Steward reported that planning was well underway for the 2016 competition. They last had a competition meeting on November 8. The date is May 28, 2016 and the competition and banquet will be held at St Helen's church in Burnaby.

The Chief Steward stated that he would work closely with the Guild Master to ensure that Guild certified judges are utilized wherever possible.

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

### **6.4 NATIONAL DIRECTOR – Doug Markin**

In his absence, the National Director's report was summarized by John McMaster. [A full copy of the report can be found in this meeting's agenda package on the BCAWA website.]

The National Director reported that the 2015 National Competition was hosted by the Annapolis Valley Vintners in Kentville Nova Scotia. BC submitted 64 entries from 27 winemakers. Of the 64 entries submitted, 60 medals were awarded and two wines of merit.

The National Director thanked Axel Kroitzsch and Glen Mayer for their assistance in getting the entries packaged and shipped to Nova Scotia. He noted that 4 of the entries were broken in shipment but they managed to replace all of them in time for the judging.

The director noted that Alberta had volunteered to host the 2016 National Competition but that they have stated that they might need some assistance hosting an event of that size.

It was noted that the AWC is still without a president and that we had discussed this at a previous meeting and a recommendation was made that BC propose to the AWC directors that the Chief Steward from the host province be made the AWC president for the year of the competition, essentially making the AWC President a rotating position. No action appears to have been taken.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the BCAWA National Director make a motion to the AWC that the Chief Steward from the host province be made the AWC president for the year of the competition for which they are the host, essentially making the AWC President a rotating position.

**CARRIED**

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

#### **6.5 GUILD MASTER – Dave Ewen**

The Guild Master provided copies of his report to those in attendance and proceeded to summarize his report. [A full copy of the report can be found in this meeting's agenda package on the BCAWA website.].

The Guild Master stated that the main item he wanted to accomplish was to build up the relationship between the Guild and BCAWA so that BCAWA had a better understanding of what the Guild is trying to accomplish.

He noted the Guild had agreed that they wanted to get into the rotation of clubs hosting the Provincial Competition.

He noted that the Guild had created a Master Judge designation and it will be granted to judges who've been certified in at least 9 of the 16 classes. As of this date there are 8 Guild members who have qualified as Master Judges.

Currently the Guild has 49 judges and 24 trainees. The training programs are going well: level 1 courses have been completed on the mainland and an island program will hopefully be held soon. Level 2 and 3 courses are currently in the planning stages.

The Guild is still planning to enter the commercial judging arena and may do so as early as next spring.

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

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

In discussion it was noted that the only BCAWA member clubs can host competitions and the Guild is not a member club and in fact is not even a wine making club. A suggestion was made that the BCAWA rules would have to be changed prior to the Guild entering the rotation of competition hosts.

**CARRIED**

#### **7 SPECIAL ORDERS**

None

#### **8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 8.1** A motion to change the name of the British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association to British Columbia Artisan Winemakers Association was introduced at the BCAWA AGM on May 23, 2015 but further discussion and voting on the motion was postponed until this meeting.

The Chair noted that as this was a change to the BCAWA Constitution it is considered a special resolution and that our bylaws state that this motion would require a 75% majority to pass. It was agreed that with 7 voting members present a 75% majority would require 6 votes in favour for the motion to pass.

For the record:

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the name of the British Columbia Amateur Winemakers Association be changed to British Columbia Artisan Winemakers Association.

Discussion:

There was some discussion of the merits (or not) of the name change but as the points raised became repetitive of past discussions on the subject, the chair called for a vote.

**DEFEATED**

## **9 NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Communications with Clubs**

#### **9.1.1 BCAWA hosted event for executives from BCAWA and the Clubs**

The concept of a meeting between executives from BCAWA and member clubs was met with overall positive support. It was felt that the formal meeting should not only be brief, but should avoid lengthy (boring) administrative matters, and that doing this at the next general meeting (February 2016) would be a good idea. Concentrating on areas where the clubs could work together for mutual benefit should be encouraged. Ideas included: Province-wide “club” crush; sharing and possibly combining grape sources;

Axel offered to host the meeting at his house; after a short discussion it was agreed that BCAWA would cover reasonable travel expenses submitted by the Western clubs.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That all club executives would be invited to attend the next BCAWA general meeting (February 2016) and that BCAWA would reimburse reasonable travel expenses submitted by the Western clubs.

**CARRIED**

#### **9.1.2 BCAWA executive to attend club meetings**

The purpose of the visits would be to have a spot on the agenda for the BCAWA executive to explain what BCAWA does and to raise the visibility of BCAWA.

Concern was expressed that this was really the job of the Club Rep but that the increased exposure would be good. It was felt that this should increase awareness of who BCAWA is and what they do amongst the club members.

The discussion drifted back into the topic of what more BCAWA could do for the clubs and a common thought was enabling larger group purchases. It was acknowledged that this was happening already to some extent (e.g. Gilbert's group ordering corks, Clem Joyce ordering chemicals) and that all these efforts support the individual club members goal of making better wine.

It was suggested that this be discussed further at the club level and then discussed again at the next BCAWA general meeting.

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

That these ideas be taken back to the clubs for further discussion and perhaps even development of additional ideas then brought back for discussion at the next BCAWA meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 9.1.3 Road (Bus) Trips

Axel described how the Langley club has continued the tradition of wine related annual bus trips and how he thought that this was a very powerful way of keeping the club together. He noted that as the members age they are not making as much wine but still enjoy wine, so visits to wine regions such as Woodinville are appreciated and informative.

Discussion was supportive and it was felt that this concept should be combined into 9.1.1 (above) and added to the agenda for discussion at the next BCAWA meeting.

## 9.2 BCAWA Support for clubs

Dave Ewen suggested that all clubs spend a lot of time organizing and creating programs for their monthly meetings. Often club members wind up creating a program which only gets delivered once at their own club, yet could also be offered to other clubs but only if the other clubs knew about the program and that the author was willing to give the program to the other clubs.

Dave suggested that a section be added to the BCAWA website which would describe the program and provide the presenter's contact information.

This idea was met with a great deal of enthusiasm and support. It was noted by several members that if expenses were involved (e.g. ferry/fuel costs for the presenter; cost of wine used in the presentation) a club could apply to BCAWA for funding if they agree to open the event to all other BCAWA clubs.

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

That the BCAWA Webmaster be directed to add a section called "Programs", or something similar, to the BCAWA website to advertise programs available to all clubs.

**CARRIED**

### **9.3 BCAWA Support for Educational Sessions**

- 9.3.1 Have relatively short mid-week evening sessions rather than day-long weekend ones. The format would be an external industry speaker followed by time to socialize.

It was suggested that this could boost attendance as this time frame was likely more acceptable to club members. Costs should be lower as we would not need to have a meal catered. Very important to make sure there's enough time reserved for the social aspect of the event. It was suggested that perhaps the individual clubs would be willing to host such events (say once per year). The event would be open to all BCAWA club members. A larger venue than normal may need to be rented for the event.

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

That the Club Reps present this idea to their club and see if they'd be willing to put on such a program and report back. BCAWA would help offset some of the expenses from the \$1,500 per year already budgeted for this purpose.

**CARRIED**

- 9.3.2 Wine Tasting / Appreciation Sessions

It was suggested that there are lots of people who would like to know more about wine but there's nowhere to learn at reasonable cost. The tasting would consist of a mix of commercial and homemade wines led by a panel of industry and club specialists. The objective would be to expose potential new club members to the idea that they could make excellent wines themselves. It was suggested that we might be able to avoid liability and licensing issues by holding the event at an already licensed facility like a restaurant or a hotel. Dave Ewen suggested that this idea may work well with the Guild plans to start judging commercial wines.

There was general agreement that this was a good idea. No motion was made but Club Reps agreed that they would take this concept back to their clubs for discussion.

On the topic of managing alcohol consumption and driving, Larry McIntyre noted that VAWA had very recently bought a number of one-time use breathalyzers for resale to club members. The cost of each unit is \$3.50. In addition, a few years ago VAWA purchased the same model breathalyzer that the police use for use at its functions. Axel noted that this was an excellent step towards reducing any potential club liability. Anyone interested should contact Larry for more information.

### **9.4 BCAWA Support for membership drives**

It was felt that this subject had been covered above.

### **9.5 New BC Societies Act**

John McMaster noted that BC had brought in a new Societies Act and we know that we're going to have to rewrite our Constitution and Bylaws to conform to the new legislation. He

asked for a motion to direct the him (as secretary) to draft a new Constitution and Bylaws for discussion and review possibly as early as the next AGM.

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

That the secretary be directed to draft a new Constitution and Bylaws for discussion and review possibly as early as the next AGM..

**CARRIED**

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

That BCAWA allow proxy voting and that the secretary be directed to include that provision in the new Bylaws.

Discussion: it was generally felt that this was undesirable because we want to encourage clubs to attend BCAWA meetings and have active discussions around the current topics. It was felt that allowing proxy voting would diminish attendance at the meetings.

**DEFEATED**

## 9.6 Provincial Competition Entry Class Changes

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

That class A (Aperitif Sherry) and class B (Aperitif) be suspended from the competition.

Discussion:

North American interest in Aperitif wines has been declining for years – and this is reflected in very low entry numbers in these 2 classes in the Provincial Competition. In addition, judges are not very interested in qualifying for these classes either. There was general agreement on this motion around the table and little discussion.

**CARRIED**

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

That class P (Sparkling Cider) be suspended from the competition due to lack of entries and that the description of class H (Sparkling) be modified to explicitly allow Sparkling Cider.

Discussion:

There are very few people making cider these days, we had one entry in the last Provincial competition. It was felt that sparkling cider could be judged in with class H Sparkling. There was general agreement on his motion around the table and little discussion.

**CARRIED**

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

That class S1 (Dry Red Grape Kit) and class S2 (Dry White Grape kit) be suspended from the competition due to lack of entries and that kit winemakers be encouraged to

enter their wines in any other appropriate entry class.

Discussion:

It was noted that there has been very few entries in the kit wine classes recently. It was also noted that these classes were introduced to the Provincial competition at the request of Spagnol's who were a major supporter of BC wine clubs at the time and obviously this is no longer a consideration. Kit wine makers are encouraged to enter their wines in the regular entry classes. There was considerable discussion of this motion and everyone seemed to be in agreement.

**CARRIED**

**9.6.4 It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That class C3 (Non-Vinifera White Grape) be added to the competition and that the Class Description for C3 be copied from the AWC.

Discussion:

It was noted that there is an increased local supply of non-vinifera white grapes (at least 3 vineyards) and this has increased interest in making wine with them. This is a very popular class in eastern Canada and the national competition does have this entry class. Concern was expressed that the Guild will have to train judges in this class but that was felt to be a good thing overall. There was considerable discussion of this motion and the majority seemed to be in agreement.

**CARRIED**

**9.7 Provincial Competition Entry Class Description Review**

Axel introduced this topic by saying that the current BCAWA entry class descriptions seem to be somewhat out of step with what both home winemakers and industry are currently producing and, of course, what people currently prefer to drink. For example, alcohol content seems to be creeping up and pH (at least for red wines) is creeping up as well. Based on the current class descriptions, many entries should be declared out of class, which is not desirable.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That BCAWA ask the Guild to form a panel of BCAWA and Guild members to review the current Entry Class Descriptions and draft recommend changes where appropriate.

Discussion:

Some concern was expressed that the Guild should not be put in a position to be telling BCAWA what to do, although there was general recognition of Guild expertise in these matters. It was felt that as long as we were clear that we were only asking for the Guild's opinion then such a review would be of great value.

**CARRIED**

## **9.8 Provincial Competition Statistics**

Axel and John McMaster introduced this topic and shared some of the statistics that are routinely produced by the competition system but have not been generally made available.

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

That Competition Handbook be modified to direct the Chief Steward to publish various competition statistics at the conclusion of each competition.

Discussion:

There was general agreement that this was desirable. Vinovan requested that similar statistics be made available at the club competition level as well.

**CARRIED**

## **10 Next Meeting**

The next BCAWA General Meeting will be February 20, 2016.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**