#### THE NATIONAL GUILD OF WINE AND BEER JUDGES



# 61st AGM at Peterborough, Saturday 26th October 2024

The Chair, Elaine Robinson, invited the President, Pauline Pearce to open the meeting at 15.30.

## **President's Opening Address**

NGWBJ President, Pauline Pearce, said a very warm welcome to a very small but select few for attending the 61st Annual General Meeting. She also thanked the committee for all the hard work they do and handed over to the Chair, Elaine Robinson.

#### **Attendance**

There were 17 members present, and the Honorary Secretary had received 11 apologies by mail, email and listed at the meeting. Members present were Geoff Fryer, Pauline Pearce, Lesley Cooper, Richard Brooksbank, Peter Robinson, Colin Hotham, Elaine Robinson, Mike Davey, Charles Hill, Chris Evans, Kevin Martin, Kate Edge, Peter Coombs, Steve Bennett, Ron Williams, Alan Hinch and Richard Baldwin. The apologies were as follows: Roger Down, John Scottow, Geoff Cooper, Colin Tweed, Geoff Howells, Terry Ford, Dave Pulley, Arthur Hills, Bruce Graham, Nigel Rapley and Bernard Lamb.

#### Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes were taken as read and agreed unanimously by all members present at the meeting.

Proposed: Kate Edge Seconded: Peter Coombs

#### **Matters Arising**

None

### Chairman's Report

Elaine said that 23 people have attended this year's conference; it was 26 at one point, but Bernard and Brenda Lamb were unfortunately unable to attend due to Brenda being in hospital.

I asked judges who were placed at this year's NAWB show if any could provide some aperitifs for our pre-dinner drinks. Response was very slow, but there were eventually some aperitifs.

The beer tasting session was organised by Colin Hotham and was Fullers Vintage ales. The wine tasting on Saturday afternoon was 'Taste the Difference' (with no reference to Sainsburys) by Peter Robinson.

Pauline Pearce will co-ordinate Saturday evening. I have given her a list of who the various speakers are for the toasts.

I asked the attending judges to let me know whether they will be entering the wine / beer assessment and how many bottles they will be entering when they sent in their hotel booking form. The bottle labels were attached to the bottles on Friday evening as the assessment took place on Saturday morning.

The 2025 conference has been booked for 31 October -2 November 2025.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Colin thanked Geoff Cooper for auditing the accounts. Copies of the accounts were available and included with these minutes.

There are a few members that have still not changed their standing orders from HSBC to Metro Bank.

Don Hawkins is the person causing most concern as he is paying in £17 monthly and he has so far been uncontactable. Does anyone live near him?

Once the HSBC accounts are closed all payments into the account will be transferred to Metro Bank, I hope.

I am hoping to close the HSBC accounts next week when Dave Pulley comes up to see me and visit the bank. He is the master holder of the account, so he needs to authorize its closure.

As of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the accounts are Metro £4,888.75 HSBC £0.76.

That the treasurer's report and audited accounts be accepted

Proposed Chris Evans Seconded Steve Bennett

Meeting unanimously in favour

**Registrar:** Colin advised that currently we have 68 active members 18 non-active members 2 overseas members

Chris Evans asked how we knew who was active and who was not, and Colin replied that it was assumed they were active unless they advised to the contrary.

#### **Propositions:**

There were none.

#### **Election of Committee:**

Elaine advised the meeting that the Committee were prepared to stand again en-bloc but asked if anyone would like to stand for one of the positions. There were no volunteers. Proposed: Kate Edge

Seconded: Kevin Martin.

## **Any Other Business:**

Ron Williams thanked everyone for the kindness of people sending cards wishing him well earlier in the year.

There is no further i9nfo on Jim Moon who fell ill at the recent Soth West Counties Shoe. Update: he had a minor stroke and is back home now.

Next years conference will be 31st October to 2nd November 2025

Wine and Beer Assessment: It was agreed it would be a dry white wine and a dry stout.

Kevin asked why no interest was being shown on the Metro account and Colin explained that the Metro Community Account pays no interest, but it then does not charge for all payments in or other bank charges.

There being no other business, Elaine closed the AGM at 15.55.

Richard Baldwin. (Honorary Secretary)