



Sussex Wine Appreciation Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 57 Lansdowne Road, Worthing, BN11 5HB
On Saturday 9 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: James
Sally & Peter
Bill & Lindsay
Christopher & Elizabeth
Ted & Jackie
Nik & Karen
Mike & Claire
Sue
Dexter (guest)
Andrew & Carolyn (guests)

Introduction

Sally welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that Peter take the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies have been received from Billy & Tina, Alex, Jill and Bryan, Sioned and Peter
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM
It was proposed by Karen and seconded by Mike that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record and unanimously agreed.
3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
4. Treasurer's Report
Peter presented the accounts. Peter explained why we had made a loss during the year and that suggestions would be sought during AOB as to how this might be rectified in the future. Mike proposed that the accounts be accepted as a true record, seconded by Ted and unanimously agreed.
5. Secretary's Report
 - i. Sally stated that her report covers the period from August 2022 to July 2023
 - ii. There have been some excellent tastings over the last year:
September - "Australia" hosted by Christopher and Elizabeth
November - "The Years Go By" hosted by James
December - "Old White Burgundy and 2010 reds" hosted by Bill and Lindsay
February - "A Horizontal Tasting" hosted by Christopher and Elizabeth
March - "Back to Italy" hosted by Peter and Sally
April - "Roam Around Spain" hosted by Bill and Lindsay
June - "Raising the Iron Curtain" hosted by Nik and Karen with Gusto Wines

- iii. The tastings in October and July were cancelled due to lack of numbers and there was no host for May.
- iv. Sally urged members to put the first Saturday in the month in their diaries.
- v. Sally wished to express thanks to Mike who maintains the website to a very high standard. She also expressed thanks to Bill and Lindsay for hosting the AGM. Finally thanks to all our hosts.

6. Election of Secretary and Treasurer

- i. Sally has agreed to stand as Secretary for another year. Peter nominated Sally as Secretary, seconded by Nik and unanimously agreed.
- ii. Peter has agreed to stand as Treasurer for another year. Proposed by Mike and seconded by Ted and unanimously agreed.
- iii. Mike thanked Peter and Sally for agreeing to carry on.

7. SWAS 2023-2024 Calendar

a) Dates and Hosts

- i. All face to face tastings are usually held on the first Saturday in the month.
- ii. The planned tastings at present are:
 - October – Christopher and Elizabeth
 - November – Peter and Sally
 - December – Nik and Karen
- ii. There are no planned tastings for 2024 at present. Sally asked for volunteers and asked that they email her.

8. SWAS Going Forward

Following Peter's report there was discussion about how to avoid losses in the future.

- i. Karen proposed that if the number needed to break even on a tasting was not reached that those attending could be asked to pay more for their ticket. For example if there were 12 places at £25 each but only 10 signed up then the shortfall of £50 would be added to the tickets of those attending, ie an extra £5. There would of course be more wine per person on the night. This was unanimously agreed.
- ii. Sue proposed that there should not be automatic refunds for those who cancel their place after booking and this was generally agreed by those present. After discussion it was proposed that anyone cancelling within one week of the tasting should forfeit the cost of the ticket unless there were exceptional circumstances. This allowed for the fact that food is often bought in that period. This was agreed by those present with two abstentions.
- iii. It was agreed that this be reviewed at the next AGM.

9. AOB

- i. Gusto are organising a wine tasting at Highdown Vineyard on Friday 24 November. Sally will forward the email to members. Several members attended last year and found this to be well worth attending.
- ii. Mike kindly offered to continue organising the website but not charging for the hosting of it.

The meeting closed at 1925