



SWAS 'Bin Ends'

Sussex Wine Appreciation Society Minutes of the 2021 SWAS Annual General Meeting

AGM held at 17 Vicarage Lane, East Preston, BN16 2SP
On Saturday 4 December 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

- James
- Sally & Peter
- Sioned & Peter
- Jill & Bryan
- Bill
- Andrew and Jan
- Alex
- Sue
- Ian & Iryna
- Christopher & Elizabeth
- Ted & Jackie

Via Zoom:

- Mike & Claire
- David
- Dinah

Introduction

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

1. Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM
It was proposed by Bryan that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record, seconded by Mike and unanimously agreed.
3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
4. Treasurer's Report
Alex handed out a summary Income and Expenditure account for the year ending 30 November 2021. Sally read the figures out for the benefit of those on Zoom. There was an excess of income above expenditure of £76.29 and the bank balance at the end of the year was £839.07. Alex reported that the current year had not been largely different to the previous year. It was proposed by Peter V and seconded by Dinah that the accounts be accepted and unanimously agreed.

5. 2022 Subs

After discussion it was proposed by Bill to keep the subs at the same level of £5 for a couple and £3 for a single person. This was seconded by Peter V. It was agreed that this should be reviewed at the next AGM.

6. Secretary's Report

- i. Sally reported that her first year as Secretary had been different from what she would have expected.
- ii. Zoom tastings continued in the New Year until the first tasting in July hosted al fresco by Bill and attended by 22 members. Christopher provided some sauternes to add to the tasting.
- iii. The tastings in September and October were cancelled due to lack of numbers. Eleven members attended the November tasting, hosted by Christopher and Elizabeth with some exceptional wines.
- iv. Zoom tastings continued on a once-a-month basis following David's suggestion of following a theme. We are looking for further volunteers to lead themes in the future.
- v. Thanks were expressed to Mike for maintaining the website to a very high standard, to Alex for being treasurer and to all the hosts who help to keep SWAS running.
- vi. The future of SWAS needs to be considered with members getting older and less able to host in the way that tastings have traditionally been held. To be discussed later in the meeting.

Mike gave a vote of thanks to the Secretary.

7. Election of Secretary and Treasurer

Sally agreed to stand as Secretary again. It was proposed that Sally be Secretary again by Mike and seconded by Ted. Unanimously agreed.

Sally explained that Alex was very busy with her own work. Bearing this in mind she proposed that Peter be elected as Treasurer. Seconded by Ian and agreed unanimously.

Sally thanked Alex for her work as Treasurer and this was reiterated by Mike, particularly as Alex had taken over the role at a difficult time.

8. Recruitment

Sally explained that the article she had submitted to the All About magazines had only appeared in the edition that was published bi-monthly in some villages. It was suggested that an article be submitted again. Andrew and Jan suggested the Goring Guide and the Goring Residents Association. James suggested the Brightonian. They will send contact details to Sally. Christopher will try to recruit from members of the Sussex Wine School. Bill will put some flyers in Majestic.

9. SWAS 2022 Calendar

i. Format of future tastings

Sally read an email she had received from David with suggestions for changing the format of tastings as the present model has stopped working. Members are getting older and are less able to provide a full meal and not all members have the space to accommodate a tasting. Sally proposed that the "normal" tasting should just offer cheese and biscuits or something similar with the option for hosts to offer a full meal if they want to. For hosts who offer cheese and biscuits they should claim for what has been bought. If a full meal is offered then the host will receive £8 per guest as at present. It was also proposed that the tastings could be offered at different times of day, eg in the afternoon giving guests more opportunity to use public transport.

Both these options were agreed by those present. It was also agreed that the format with regards to timing and what food is to be provided would be the choice of the host.

ii. Dates and Hosts

- a. All face to face tastings are held on the first Saturday in the month.
- b. The planned tastings at present are:
 - February – Billy & Tina
 - March – Sally & Peter
 - April – David

May – Mike & Claire

Dinah offered to host a meeting in Ringmer in June.

- c. Peter H reminded everyone that there is wine in the SWAS cellar that is getting past its best drinking window. He asked that hosts check what is in the cellar by looking at the website and adding these wines to their tasting.

iii. Virtual Tastings

It was agreed to continue with the virtual tastings at present. The next one will be in January and David agreed to choose a theme and will email Sally with his suggestion.

10. AOB

End of financial year

At present the end of the financial year is the end of November with the AGM in December. This gives very little time to prepare final year accounts. Sally proposed that the end of the financial year be changed to 31 March and that the AGM be held in the summer. This was agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.