



British Guild of Beer Writers

2026 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 7pm

Zoom

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Attendance

Present

Jonny Garrett (Chair)	Elizabeth Townsend
Michael Clarke (Director)	Fred Garratt-Stanley
Mike Hampshire (Secretary)	Gillian Hough
Phil Mellows (Director)	Imran Rahman-Jones
Rachel Auty (Director)	Jan Lichota
Robyn Black (Director)	Lotte Peplow
Rose Davies (Director)	Mitch Adams
Annabel Smith	Natalya Watson
Chris Claxton	Paul Newton
Daisy Turnell	Richard Dakin
David Nilsen	Will Simmons

Apologies

Amelie Tassin	Kate Hempsall
Emma Inch	Matthew Curtis
Jane Peyton	Paul Davies
Jeff Evans	Steve Williams
John Porter	

Declarations of Interest

Robyn Black (Fleet Street)

Rose Davies (Shepherd Neame)

Daisy Turnell (Tipple Marketing)

Gillian Hough (CAMRA)

Natalya Watson (WSET)

Resolutions

The following resolutions were resolved:

Resolution 1 - To approve the minutes of the 2025 AGM

No matters arising.

For 25, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolution 2 - To approve the minutes of the 2025 EGM

No matters arising.

For 25, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolution 3 - To approve the Chair's report

No queries from the floor.

For 27, Against 0, Abstain 0

Resolution 4 - To approve the Finance report

No queries from the floor.

For 26, Against 0, Abstain 1

Resolution 5 - To approve the Guild's accounts to 31st March 2026

No queries from the floor.

For 26, Against 0, Abstain 1

Director Election

To re-appoint Robyn Black

For 26, against 0, Abstain 0

Robyn Black is re-elected to the Guild board of directors.

There are two vacancies remaining on the board.

Any Other Business

Annabel Smith suggested that the AGM be held in person, given that the Guild awards was a well attended in-person event.

Jonny Garrett said another member had considered submitting a motion for the AGM to be held in person. He added that the reason for switching to online was because the 2023 AGM was attended by mainly board members and those nominated to become a director. He agreed that there ought to be more in-person events.

Annabel enquired as to the 51 complimentary members and what the qualifying criteria was for eligibility.

Jonny confirmed the eligibility criteria is for those aged 65 or over and who have been a member for 15 or more years, adding that Ros Shiel had recently been offered complimentary membership as an exception, given her previous role as secretary and awards organiser.

Michael Clarke agreed with the principle of Annabel's suggestion for an in-person AGM, noting however that it would be a technical challenge to bring together in-person and online attendees.

Jonny said an event would be looked into, but did note some recent in-person events haven't worked out. He said offering an extra reason to attend an in-person AGM may help, like a training event the same day. He added that travel and accommodation is expensive.

Natalya Watson agreed with Annabel but not necessarily in relation to the AGM. She noted Jonny using the word 'apathy' in his report. She said she really enjoys being part of the Guild including previously as secretary and a director. She said the important part for her was in-person networking. She said online sessions are great, but networking doesn't happen in the same way as in-person. She commended the efforts on running events outside of London. She said that perhaps one other in-person event would be good, not necessarily the AGM. She thanked Jonny for the good work.

Jonny acknowledged this was a strong view from the membership and asked Mike Hampshire to add an agenda item to discuss at the next board meeting. He added ambassadors are being recruited and there are three so far representing different regions. Their role is to encourage people to join as a member, and help organise local Guild events.

Daisy Turnell suggested tagging an event onto BeerX.

Jonny said it is a good idea to tag on to other events adding that there was good success with the Guild breakfast event at BeerX.

Daisy said people need as much notice as possible and although she attended the breakfast, she already had event tickets.

Jonny acknowledged notice periods for events need to be improved.

Daisy suggested an event around the Brewers Congress.

Jonny said this will be discussed at the next board meeting, either an event tagged onto another event, or something more enticing that would encourage people to travel for it.

Jonny extended his thanks to attendees, the board and secretary. He said the Guild is doing everything it can to help writers but the board is open to suggestions and he encouraged members to contact the board if they had any. Jonny said the summer party is expected to be announced shortly and will be taking place on 16th July (eve of London Craft Beer Festival) in Bermondsey.

Gillian Hough said on behalf of CAMRA (Gillian is National Vice Chair) "it is incredibly important to stress that we are not stopping books, we remain committed to publishing. We are simply reducing our commitment to publishing titles at the intensive levels that we have done in the past". A committee within CAMRA will be looking at all titles.

Jonny offered his appreciation to Gillian for raising this. He said this was in response to an email he had sent CAMRA with his concerns about the decline in opportunities for writers with Learn and Discover and rumours around the publishing arm winding down. He said if there is anyway the Guild can help CAMRA, to let him know.

Michael Clarke raised a query about the process on pitching books to CAMRA.

Jonny said apologies to Ash (Corbett-Collins) for not yet replying to the email, but added that he would include this query when he does.

Jonny reminded members about the party on 16th July and that there were free trade tickets for Guild members, then closed the meeting.

Minutes Sign-off

Signature
Date
Name
Position

Appendix

Papers

[Guild AGM 2026 Agenda and Papers](#)

[Guild AGM 2025 Minutes DRAFT](#)

[Guild EGM July 2025 Minutes DRAFT](#)

[Guild of Beer Writers - 25_26 Profit Loss](#)

[Guild Of Beer Writers - Balance Sheet - 31_3_26](#)

[Guild Of Beer Writers Limited End of Year Full Report 2026-03-31](#)

Zoom Text Chat

19:04:32 Michael Clarke: I will need to log on again in a few minutes on a different device.

19:07:16 Mike Hampshire: Links to AGM papers: Guild AGM 2026 Agenda and Papers Guild AGM 2025 Minutes DRAFT Guild EGM July 2025 Minutes DRAFT Guild of Beer Writers - 25_26 Profit Loss Guild Of Beer Writers - Balance Sheet - 31_3_26 Guild Of Beer Writers Limited End of Year Full Report 2026-03-31 Director Election Voting

19:17:39 Mitch Adams: The Morning Ad Lock-In podcast had an academic on talking about a report they did on closed pubs this week

19:37:59 Daisy Turnell: Thanks Jonny (+ Mike!)

19:38:18 Mitch Adams: Thanks Jonny, Mike et al!

19:38:37 Lotte Peplow: Thanks all and fantastic work, nice one!

19:38:41 Will Simmons: Thanks Jonny mike and the board

19:38:41 Nat: Thanks, all!

19:38:42 Annabel Smith: Thanks Jonny and great work Mike!

19:41:11 Fred Garratt-Stanley: Thanks a lot Jonny & Mike!

19:41:19 Gillian Hough: Cheers!