



# Annual General Meeting of the British Guild of Beer Writers

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 7pm

Zoom

# Apologies

Matthew Curtis, John Porter

# Agenda

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Apologies for Absence		Jonny Garrett
Declarations of Interest		Jonny Garrett
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Approval of Chair's Report		Jonny Garrett
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Approval of Accounts to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026		Jonny Garrett
Director Elections		Jonny Garrett
AOB		Jonny Garrett

## **AGM 2025 Minutes**

[Guild AGM 2025 Minutes DRAFT](#)

## **EGM 2025 Minutes**

[Guild EGM July 2025 Minutes DRAFT](#)

# Chair's Report

Submitted by Jonny Garrett.

Dear members,

It's been a really successful year for the Guild on many fronts, but perhaps a difficult one for our members.

Let's start with the positives! Since this time last year we have hosted several successful training sessions: a session on writing award-winning work, new British hop varieties, essentials of press release writing, finding stories and a discussion on the future of pubs. We also held our annual Summer Party at Thornbridge's Colmore in Birmingham, hosted a bacon sandwich and coffee breakfast at SIBA's BeerX, and had perhaps our best Annual Awards Night in the Guild's history – with record attendees, a record awards pot, a record entries in terms of people. In fact, the only area where we haven't kept up to speed is in our mentorship scheme, which was supposed to launch again in January but ended up beginning in June – our apologies to those who applied.

Our marketing and events coordinator Kimberley has done a brilliant job organising the training and socials while also growing our social presence. There's plenty of work to do, but the board's directive to reach out more in a bid to recruit members and spread the wonderful work done by our members has been well received.

A lot has gone on behind the scenes as well. Our glorious secretary Mike has gone above and beyond in producing a new website that will dramatically cut the costs of maintenance while improving our members area (now with videos of all training sessions) and simplifying the awards entry process for members. Mike has also led a cost-cutting scheme throughout all our operations, including moving from Google to Zoho mail, which has the added benefit of giving all board members their own Guild email addresses. If we couple this with the fact that this year's awards night broke even, the Guild is in excellent financial and systemic shape.

That might come as a surprise to anyone who skipped straight to the financial report. As you will remember, last year we decided to move when we bill our Industry Partners back from March to April, and as a result our accounts show a £20,000 loss. Please rest assured that this is fully expected, the money is rolling in, and will be reflected in next year's accounts instead – as will any tax we need to pay on that income.

And so to the negatives. As you will likely be aware, the wider world and the beer industry are still in turmoil. This is making life as a freelancer communicator in particular very difficult. In July 2024 we lost Good Beer Hunting, a vital source of great writing and work for our members. The closure of outlets has continued at pace, and this year sadly it seems CAMRA is slimming down a lot of its communication channels with What's Brewing going from quarterly to biannually, Learn & Discover being shelved, and the future of its publishing arm uncertain. I have written to CAMRA to express our concerns but also to offer any support we can.

I think that, as a result of wider issues, the main issue the Guild seems to battle is apathy. Attendance for this AGM is at an all-time low, despite offering all the trainings asked for in our annual survey attendance for those were equally poor, Kimberley is struggling to get members to contribute content for her social campaigns, we have had no-one put themselves up for the empty

spaces on the board, and our appeal for ambassadors around the country was responded to by just two members.

As chair I have to take responsibility for that, and work to get people more engaged again, but I just want to say that you get from the Guild what you put into it. When I joined in 2015 I had a tiny YouTube channel and a blog, and very few contacts in the industry. The Guild is one of the main reasons I still have a career in beer writing, thanks to the training, networking, friendships and indeed small amount of income I get from it. Read the first two paragraphs of this report to see just how much is on offer to those who want it, and see that these things only happen because the passionate people on the board – plus Mike, Kimberley and the lovely people at Tipple – put time aside to make sure it does. We'd love more help to go further, and more of a steer on what you want and need from the Guild.

Best,

Jonny

# Finance Report

## Associated Documents

[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](#)

## Accountant's Update

Submitted by Laura-Ashley Huckerby.

### Final Accounts Summary

The 2025/2026 accounts have been reviewed, and all entries are complete. This is the final draft and will not change. Due to the change in date when the Guild invoices corporate subscriptions (agreed at the previous AGM) the Guild recorded a £20,471 loss, owing £0 in Corporation Tax.

These invoices are due to be raised in the next coming weeks because they are now processed in the financial year they relate to. Without this change, the Guild would have made a slight profit of approx £2.5k. The apparent loss is purely down to timing. This will no longer be an issue from the 2026/2027 tax year as all income will come in at the correct financial year it relates to.

### Bank Account and Profit

Below is the Guild's bank balance within the financial year, while this has dropped, there is a significant cash injection to come in from the to be billed corporate subscriptions.

- Opening balance (1 April 2025): £33,449.05
- Closing balance (31 March 2026): £25,128.38
- Net cash decrease: £8,320.67

### Guild Awards 2025 – Financial Overview

Here is a summary of the 2025 Awards finances.

Income:

- Sponsorship: £47,000
- Ticket Sales: £8,279
- Entry Fees (Non-Members): £312
- Total Income: £55,591

Expenses:

- Venue Costs: £14,100
- Organiser Fee: £17,950
- Trophies: £946
- Judging Fees: £1,200
- Prize Money: £17,527

- Other: £683
- Total Expenses: £52,406

Net Profit: £3,185

Some prize money has yet to be claimed, therefore the profit is slightly higher than forecasted.

### **Summary**

I am pleased to see the Guild has taken note of its previously non-viable income stream. The awards are now self sufficient and the rest of the Guild's day to day running is to be covered by the member and corporate subscriptions. I expect next financial year for the bank to stabilise and potentially see a profit.

### **Sign-off**

Electronically Signed,

Laura-Ashley Huckerby

28 April 2026

## **Director Elections**

The Guild board would like to thank the hard work of both Phil Mellows and Charlotte Turner who have decided to retire from the board.

There are currently three board vacancies, with the following candidate(s) standing at the AGM.

[Please click here to cast your vote for, against or abstain](#), full individual members only.

### **Robyn Black**

Current Director, facing re-election by 3-year rotation rules.

Whilst on the board, Robyn has been instrumental in retaining existing and on-boarding new awards sponsors, and supporting relationships with the Guild's industry partners. As a result of her work, last year's awards dinner broke even.