



September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 30th September 2025 7:30pm
Zoom

Please note that some board discussion topics are confidential and not included within this summary.

Attendance

Present

Jonny Garrett (Chair), Charlotte Turner, Christian Gott, Michael Clarke, Myles Pinfold, Phil Mellows, Rachel Auty, Mike Hampshire (Secretary).

Apologies

Robyn Black, Rose Davies.

Declarations of Interest

Charlotte Turner (St Austell).

Previous Minutes

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Previous meeting actions were discussed and updated accordingly.

Board

Deputy Chair

Rachel Auty has agreed to take on the role on a temporary basis, with a review in January 2026.

Supporting Journalism Charities

The board discussed an email from a member regarding supporting journalism charities. The board agreed to review overall how the Guild partners with charities.

Finance

Report

Mike H presented an update. No questions or comments raised.

Awards

Jonny noted that judging workload had been halved by the entry rule changes, and that the numbers of people entering had declined slightly with a shift in how many people are entering things into each category. He added that there was a decline in diversity and sustainability entrants, but an increase in audio visual.

Jonny said that there did seem to be more confusion on how to enter. Mike H said next year would be a chance to wholly review this as the new website can handle the entry process, rather than having to use Google Forms.

Sponsorship

The board agreed to WSET's proposal of providing tote bags rather than a hosted stall at the awards.

Food

The board agreed to go ahead with the stew.

Charity

The board agreed to go ahead with a local charity.

Events and Marketing

AI Event

The planned AI event did not proceed after concerns were raised from the membership. Jonny said that any further plans would not be rushed to ensure it caters for the needs and concerns of the members.

Future Training

Kimberley is working on a Q&A panel featuring Michael Jackson Award Winners.

Membership

Mentorship

Christian provided an update, with all six people who applied to be mentees accepted into the scheme. The next step is to identify and partner with mentors.

Diversity Grant

Charlotte will lead this and has been briefed by Jonny and Mike H.

Sharing Academic Research

Phil is continuing working with the DSN and has identified an opportunity to share academic work with Guild members. Pending the approval of the DSN board, the Guild board agreed to proceed.

Membership

Industry Partners Report

Report generated on 24th September 2025.

All members are fully paid and each have been contacted with a request to review their listings on our web directory.

Individual Member Report

Report generated on 24th September 2025.

Total members – 268 (51 complimentary memberships)

New and returning members since last report (15th July 2025) – 5

Lapsed since last report (15th July 2025) - 2

Overdue renewals – 0

Secretary Report

Submitted by Mike Hampshire

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on what activities the Secretary is performing and how long the activities take. Categories may change.

The below is for the period 15-07-2025 to 23-09-2024.

Activity Category	Time	Notes
Event	2h 25m	WSET
Event Admin	2h 42m	How to Find a Story, WSET, Awards
Finance	5h 18m	
General Admin	11h 43m	
Marketing	28m	
Meetings	11h 59m	Chair, Board, Finance, EGM, Awards
Meeting Admin	6h 43m	Chair, Board, Finance, EGM, Awards
Membership Admin	12h 26m	
Newsletters	23h 45m	
Project	58m	Mentorship, Diversity Grant
Website	6h 10m	Email Migration

Total time spent – 84h 37m

Next Meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on the afternoon of the Guild awards on 27th November 2025.