



**Campaign for Real Ale Society of BC  
Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting  
Held at Swans Hotel and Brewpub  
On March 19, 2016**

**In Attendance**

CAMRA BC Interim President:	Janna Gabrek
CAMRA BC Vice President:	Janna Gabrek
CAMRA BC Treasurer:	Ryan Baker
President of Powell River Branch	Paddy Treavor
President of South Okanagan Branch	Kim Lawton
President of Vancouver Branch	David Perry
President of Victoria Branch	Glen Stusek
President of South Fraser Branch	

**Regrets**

CAMRA BC Secretary	Carmen Castrucci
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Minutes by: Kim Lawton, President of South Okanagan Branch

Members in Attendance: See sign in list

**Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Janna, Interim President at 1:56 pm.

**Welcome and Presidential Update**

Janna welcomed everyone and explained that our mandate was to hold an AGM this year, so this is the first time we've had an AGM in some time 2015 year:

- Janna thanked Ari for her role as President for the first portion of the year before she had to step down for personal reasons
- Janna referenced the suspension of CAMRA South Fraser and explained there would be more updates on this later in the meeting
- Centralization of most branches onto a central server, other than Vancouver which is coming soon
- Vancouver testing a new membership program, which he hope to roll out more

broadly in 2016

### **Financial Statements**

- Ryan Baker presented the financial statements for the year 2015.
- For full year 2015, CAMRA BC experienced a net loss of \$2,475.31 in part because of new branch travel for summits etc. that was not budgeted for.
- **Glen motioned to accept the Treasurers Report as presented, Paddy seconded; Carried.**

### **Branch Updates**

David Perry presented an update on CAMRA Vancouver:

- 1152 members (slight decrease from last year due to a change-over in membership system where the old system didn't send out auto renewal emails)
- 48% increase in businesses offering Membership Benefits
- 9 large scale events; plus members at virtually every single craft beer event in the city
- Transitioned to a new website
- Conducted an intense membership survey
- Made roughly \$3,600 in profit
- David re-elected as President, CAMRA Vancouver

Paddy Treavor presented an update on CAMRA Powell River:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year operating
- things are exploding with craft beer in the region
- 130 members
- financially strong
- Good couple of events last year
- Ladies event coming up (Closet Drinkers – craft beer and clothes exchange program)
- Training servers on craft beer
- Potential for a new branch, although on hold pending results of new Society Act

Kim Lawton presented an update on CAMRA South Okanagan:

- Just celebrated their first year anniversary
- Is currently at 78 members and just starting their membership renewal process
- Have held monthly cask events and CAMRA meetings every month over the last year
- Held a successful Refer a Friend event which also included education and currently scheduling another one
- Do twice a month e-newsletters and have an active Facebook page
- Just launched their new website and online renewals with tremendous help from the CAMRA Vancouver webmaster
- Feature 10 Okanagan specific membership benefits
- Is incredibly thankful to CAMRA BC executive and branch executive for all of the help starting and growing the branch

- Looking forward to the start of year 2 with Okanagan Fest of Ale and Great Okanagan Beer Fest quickly approaching

Glen Stusek presented an update on CAMRA Victoria:

- Had their AGM a couple of months ago
- So much opportunity here in Victoria; lots of cask events & beer-paired dinners
- 150+ members
- Looking at doing a survey to see what members are looking for
- Trying to organize some presenters in for special training opportunities
- There is a very active home brew group that they would like to meld with their branch a bit more closely

Janna Gabrek and Ryan Baker presented an update on CAMRA South Fraser:

- CAMRA BC suspended the South Fraser branch mostly due to breaches with the Society's Act (Didn't do financial reports for 3 years running, worked in cash only; but deposits weren't going into the bank account)
- Had a meeting with the membership to explain what happened
- It was agreed that South Fraser does need its own branch; CAMRA Vancouver can support them, but the region does need their own branch
- Do have interest from the membership to step up as executive members and keep the branch; they are committed to fixing the issues
- Ryan put an accounting reconciliation together to get caught up
- Learning was that there needed to be more communication with the members; and a better explanation - the suspension did not suspend members it suspended executive members from operating the branch
- Other learning was that CAMRA BC needs more reporting from the branches
- The right people with the right energy in the right branches is crucial for the success of the branches

**Open Q&A Session with Outgoing 2015 CAMRA BC Executive**

- Paddy gave an update on the pending changes to the BC Society's Act; most of the changes are about financial reporting. The one major change that might impact us, is our ability to have branches.
- Some of the changes we are making now are to get things set up for the new BC Society's Act (ie. Bylaw changes, online membership renewal), which is coming in November
- There will be a 2-year transition to make changes once the new Society Act comes into effect
- Janna explained that CAMRA BC would like to take a more active advocacy position at a provincial level

**Dissolution of 2015 CAMRA BC Executive**

Janna officially declared the 2015 CAMRA BC executive dissolved.

## 2016 CAMRA BC Board Elections

John Rowling chaired the Elections of 2016 CAMRA BC Executive:

- He first explained the process and explained that nominations ceased January 31, 2016 and that all of the nominees are indicated on the agenda
- 2016 CAMRA BC President – by acclamation – **Jeremy Noonan**
- 2016 CAMRA BC Vice President – 2 candidates – John called for a show of hands to vote for each candidate and **Janna Gabrek** was elected
- 2016 CAMRA BC Treasurer – by acclamation – **Ryan Baker**
- 2016 CAMRA BC Secretary – by acclamation - **Julie Hall**
- The new 2016 CAMRA BC executive was declared and a photo was taken including the branch presidents

Janna called for a brief recess at 2:59pm

Janna called for the meeting to recommence at 3:12pm

## CAMRA BC History

- John Rowling, the founding member of CAMRA BC spoke about the history of CAMRA BC
- Thanked all of the out of towners for attending
- Explained how CAMRA BC got started
- Decided to form a society for CAMRA BC started here in Victoria; at that time, there was one craft beer pub in the province (Spinnakers)
- Happy to see the advocacy role taking a larger focus now; we are probably one of the largest consumer advocacy groups in the province

## Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Paddy explained that 75% of attendees must vote in favour for a motion to pass; Janna counted and there were 30 attendees; so 23 votes required to pass each bylaw

Proposed amendments to the bylaws were reviewed:

1. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes **Bylaw 18(1)** be changed from:

**18 (1)** A society may, if authorized by its bylaws, establish and maintain one or more branch societies with the powers, not exceeding the powers of the society, that the society confers.

to

**18 (1)** The society is authorized, as per section 18 of the Society Act, to establish and maintain one or more branches with the branch powers not exceeding the powers of the society conferred on the society under the Society Act.

Rationale:

The current BC Society Act, under S 18 allows for societies to establish branch societies if it is allowed under the society's bylaws. Even though we have had branches established and those branches have been approved and registered, we have never written into our bylaws the "authorization" to do so. This change officially gives us that authorization in our bylaws to establish and maintain branches.

This may be very important moving forward as the new Society Act of BC is repealing section 18 and will no longer allow branch societies. If there is a grandfather clause enacted, we will at least have this authorization written into our bylaws so we may have an argument to keep operating as is. Without the change, we will have no legal standing to defend our practice of establishing and maintaining branches under the CAMRA BC incorporation.

**Brian Stennes moved to accept Proposed Amendment 1; seconded by Ryan Baker. Carried. Unanimous.**

2. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes **Bylaw 22** be changed from:

- 22** (1) A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.
- (2) Voting is by show of hands.
- (3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

to:

- 22** (1) A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote *in all matters of business requiring a vote at the meeting. In votes pertaining to elections of directors for all society branches, provincial or local, all members in good standing are entitled to one vote.*
- (2) Voting by show of hands *in all matters of business requiring a vote at a meeting. Voting in elections of directors may be conducted by mail, electronic e-mail, during election periods outside of meetings determined by the board of directors for the branch holding the election and/or by a show of hands at a general meeting.*
- (3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Rationale:

In order to allow all members to have a say in branch executives, it is essential that we allow voting by e-mail. Proposed by-law and constitution changes need to be held at a meeting so proper debate and amendments can take place therefore conducting these votes by mail or e-mail is not appropriate.

**Ryan Baker moved to accept Proposed Amendment 2; seconded by Bill Riel. Carried. Unanimous.**

2b. David Perry, Vancouver Branch member in good standing, proposes that the **second sentence of Bylaw 22(2)** be changed from:

Voting in elections of directors may be may be conducted by mail, electronic e-mail, during election periods outside of meetings determined by the board of directors for the branch holding the election and/or by a show of hands at a general meeting.

to:

*Voting in elections of directors may be may be conducted by mail, electronic e-mail, or otherwise appointed digital voting system during election periods outside of meetings determined by the board of directors for the branch holding the election and/or by a show of hands at a general meeting.*

**Ryan Baker moved to accept Proposed Amendment 2b; seconded by Paddy Treavor. Carried. Unanimous.**

3. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes **Bylaw 23** be completely repealed. It currently reads:

**23** A corporate member may vote by its authorized representative, who is entitled to speak and vote, and in all other respects exercise the rights of a member, and that representative must be considered as a member for all purposes with respect to a meeting of the society.

Rationale:

CAMRA BC made a decision in the Fall of 2013 to discontinue the practice of accepting corporate memberships, and agreed all those corporate members who were members at the time would be allowed to have their memberships run the duration of their current validity, then be allowed to lapse without possibility of renewal. This decision, which passed with a 100% vote in favour of the motion to discontinue corporate memberships, was made to provide a visible distance between CAMRA BC and the hospitality and craft beer industry to further legitimize CAMRA BC's assertion that they were an dependent, consumer advocacy group.

Corporate members were contacted and advised of the change and told that if they wanted to have individuals within their businesses join as individuals they would be welcome. Businesses that were corporate members at that time were encouraged to keep offering CAMRA BC members discounts, if they felt it was beneficial to their businesses, and were assured that CAMRA BC and its branches would continue to help support craft beer oriented businesses the same as always.

Since the ending of the corporate memberships, there has been no visible damage done to CAMRA's relationships with craft beer oriented businesses in the community and many branches are still able to offer their members significant opportunities for discounts at craft beer oriented businesses in their communities. Since CAMRA BC currently sees this move to discontinue the corporate memberships as a positive move for the society and has no current plans to revitalize the corporate membership option, section 23 is redundant and no longer relevant or needed.

**Joe Klovance moved to accept Proposed Amendment 3; seconded by Ryan Baker. Carried. Unanimous.**

4. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes **Bylaw 58** be changed from:

**58** A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail to the member at the member's registered address.

to:

*58 A notice may be given to a member, either personally, **by electronic e-mail** or by mail to the member at the member's registered address.*

Rationale:

Include e-mail in the ways of delivery to reflect today's use of on-line communication and to cut costs of mailing by Canada Post which is expensive.

**Ryan Baker moved to accept Proposed Amendment 4; seconded by Bill Dexter. Carried. Unanimous.**

5. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes **Bylaw 59** be changed from:

**59** A notice sent by mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle.

to:

**59** A notice sent by:

*(1) mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle.*

*(2) electronic e-mail is deemed to be delivered when the-mail is not returned to the sender as undeliverable.*

Rationale:

To be consistent with proposed change of section 58 to include e-mail.

**David Perry moved to accept Proposed Amendment 5; seconded by Ryan Baker. Carried. Unanimous.**

6. Paddy Treavor, Powell River member in good standing, proposes the following amendment to our constitution from:

1. The name of the society is the Campaign for Real Ale Society of British Columbia.
2. The purpose of the society is to actively promote and encourage a greater range of choice of quality beers. The society is a consumer organization that believes beer should be distinctive in flavour and body, and that every beer should have - above all things – quality.

to:

1. The name of the society is the Campaign for Real Ale Society of British Columbia.
2. The purpose of the society is to advocate on behalf of the craft beer consumers of British Columbia by supporting and protecting BC liquor policies that positively impact craft beer consumers and advocating for changes to those BC liquor policies that negatively impact BC craft beer consumers. The society is a member-funded, consumer organization that believes in the promotion of craft beer related education, the development of a vibrant homebrewing culture in BC, the promotion of responsible alcohol consumption and that a wide variety of quality, BC-brewed craft beers should be readily available for craft beer consumers everywhere within British Columbia.

Rationale:

I believe the original constitution does not properly reflect the true purpose of CAMRA BC and I want our constitution to be more descriptive. I also want it to include that we are member funded as there are changes coming to the Society Act that give benefits and leeway to member funded societies.

**Mark Blaseckie moved to accept Proposed Amendment 6; seconded by Brian Stennes. Carried. Unanimous.**

With no further business, Janna thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:44pm.