



**the**wine**society**

**2008 AGM**

**Questions on Notice**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2008**

From Alan Johnson, Member 1569

## 1. Minutes

Can we have a more expansive set of minutes? If the Society wants to encourage members to get involved shouldn't we indicate that there are some discussion on matters of interest?

Why not include the Questions on Notice with the Minutes? They are mentioned in the Minutes but not available to read unless you were at the meeting and got a copy.

Could we also consider getting a report of the AGM in the Magazine afterwards, written in a journalistic style which picks up the issues discussed and perhaps interviews some of the members and directors present. It would enhance our reputation as a co-operative and be an appropriate follow up to the AGM invitation on the website.

*Response:*

*Minutes are a record of the proceeding of a meeting, the contents of which have been established by convention.*

*Minutes must contain a full and accurate record of all business conducted including a list of who was present and all resolution passed. Minutes should be as concise as circumstances permit. A minute is not a report, therefore speeches, arguments and general discussion normally do not appear in minutes*

*Questions on Notice form part of the general business of the meeting and are tabled together with their responses. They will be made available of The Wine Society Website*

*In the context of what the AGM is meant to represent, the minutes present a fair representation of the AGM.*

## 2. Board membership

TWS is fortunate to have a very strong Board with a good skills and experience base. However would the Board consider providing another independent director to fill the current vacancy? This should not undermine the co-operative nature of the Board, and given the inevitable entrenchment of incumbents, might provide a better balance and diversity of views.

*Response:*

*Yes, the Board has recently undertaken a review of its own performance review and evaluation process within which it is required to review the structure of the Board.*

### 3. Financial Future of TWS

The Chairman gave an opinion of the future for the Society based on the economic climate current at press time for the Annual reports. Could he give an update given that indicators are still not encouraging and events keep on unfolding. I would appreciate some comment on the proposition that TWS has expanded its operational base and is carrying debt at a time when discretionary spending could be under threat. Reasonable and sound decisions made before the "crisis" may be under some strain.

*Response: An update will be provided as part of the Chairman's address in during the meeting.*

### 4. Alcohol Content

I raised this matter at the last AGM and have noted that we use the 12 % or less code, but I have not seen any move or advice regarding including the content for all wines in basic wine descriptions. If we are to encourage responsible and aware wine consumption it seems to make sense to include this information and encourage winemakers and reviewers to do the same. Could the Board state its position?

*Response: The labels of all wine bottles sold within Australia are required to state both the alcohol content of the wine (within a +/- 1.5% variance, soon to be moved to a +/- 0.8% variance) and the number of standard drinks within the container.*

*The Society supports and states its support for the responsible service and consumption of alcohol in all of its marketing and related material.*