



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Mentorship Scheme Update

Matthew Curtis

Dear Members

I'm pleased to announce that following a paper pitched to the Guild Board of Directors in early 2021 it was agreed that I, along with the assistance of fellow director Annabel Smith, would develop a brand new mentorship scheme for the Guild.

The aim of the scheme will be twofold. Initially there will be an initial offering to associate members in order to develop a clear pathway for associates to full membership. Following a successful implementation of the scheme for associate members we hope to roll the scheme out to all members, thus broadening the already significant benefit to Guild membership.

The scheme is currently in a "pilot" stage, in which we've recruited two experienced Guild members—Phil Mellows and Adrian Tierney-Jones—to mentor two associate members who have volunteered for the scheme—Gabriele Bertucci and Dan Lyons. The pilot stage will run for the next six months, and will be monitored by myself and Annabel so that processes can be fine tuned before the next stage of the rollout to all associate members. We hope to reach this next stage by the end of 2021, with the rollout to all guild members taking place in early 2022.

After feedback from the board on our initial proposal we have already put several structures in place to ensure the scheme operates in a fair and unbiased way. For example: directors such as Annabel and myself cannot serve as mentors, and this includes the members of the membership sub-committee, which includes John Porter and Bryan Betts. The mentors themselves were selected after asking associate members directly who they wish to be mentored by. If guild members are interested in becoming a mentor in the future, please contact me directly.

Our hope is that the successful implementation of the mentorship scheme will not only offer further benefits to existing members, but also attract new members, especially those new to beer writing looking to improve their skills in an increasingly competitive field. In addition, despite stepping down as a Guild director at this AGM, Annabel will continue to assist with the pilot stage of the scheme, for which I wish the record to state I am hugely appreciative of.

I look forward to updating the Guild with our progress over the next few months.

Matthew Curtis
Guild Director