

GAWAIN COX

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LEADER & INTERNATIONAL BREWING INDUSTRY ADVOCATE

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Digital and information governance leader with over 25 years advising boards and executive teams on digital strategy, transformation and cyber risk for organisations where reputation and public trust are paramount. In parallel, an established leader in UK craft brewing: Chair of the Board of the London Brewers' Alliance, Co-Founder of an independent craft brewery, and a judge of over 30 beer competitions internationally — including CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain finals and Yakima Chief's Alpha King Challenge (US). Currently leading the Alliance's transatlantic outreach programme — in active dialogue with the Brewers Association (US) on reversing the UK's declining World Beer Cup entry numbers, and building a reciprocal relationship with a US state brewers guild toward a festival exchange model. Now taking on select consulting, non-executive and ambassadorial work spanning digital leadership and international brewing industry advocacy.

KEY SKILLS

- Digital strategy & transformation leadership
- Information governance, compliance & cyber risk management
- Board-level governance & non-executive experience
- International trade body relations & transatlantic industry outreach
- Brewing industry strategy, governance & competition judging

INTERNATIONAL BREWING INDUSTRY OUTREACH

Leading the London Brewers' Alliance's transatlantic outreach initiative, connecting London's independent brewers with the US craft beer sector.

- Builds on an export-focused sub-committee I launched in 2023 to explore post-Brexit EU/international opportunities for London breweries — the precursor to this transatlantic programme.
- In active dialogue with the Brewers Association (US) on reversing the decline in UK entries to the World Beer Cup (down from 50+ in 2018 to just 15). Commissioned and ran an LBA member survey to diagnose the causes — cost, shipping logistics and awareness — now informing a proposed consolidated-shipping and discount model.
- Building a reciprocal relationship with a leading US state brewers' guild toward a festival exchange model (London breweries pouring at US festivals and vice versa), drawing on the Great British Beer Festival's long-running US Cask Bar as precedent, plus a transatlantic import/export trade relationship for LBA member breweries.

DIGITAL & TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Senior Digital & Information Governance Leadership

2018 – Present

- Principal advisor to an executive leadership team on digital strategy, transformation, cyber resilience and information governance within a major UK heritage institution; supported Cyber Essentials Plus certification.
- Delivered a digital strategy that increased operational efficiency by 30% and online engagement by 20% year-on-year.

Chief Technical Officer — High Level Electrics

2017 – 2018

- Led digital transformation during a period of rapid organisational growth, improving efficiency by over 60%.

Digital Project Manager — Royal Air Force Museum

2008 – 2017

- Managed technical programmes using PRINCE2 and Agile; supported Heritage Lottery Fund applications totalling over £26m.

BREWING & INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

Chair of the Board — London Brewers' Alliance

2022 – Present (Vice Chair & Communications Lead, 2019 – 2022)

- Elected to lead a trade body of nearly 100 member breweries, succeeding John Keeling; restructured sub-committees, created a new Finance Committee, and grew board capacity by four members.
- Launched an industry mentorship scheme advancing diversity & inclusion in brewing (2023) and an export-focused sub-committee on post-Brexit international opportunities (2023).

Co-Founder & Strategic Director — Pinnora Brewing

2018 – Present

- Direct strategy, digital and e-commerce for an independent craft brewery; manage regulatory compliance and governance.

COMPETITION JUDGING

Judged 30+ beer competitions internationally: Judging Captain, SIBA; CAMRA judge incl. Finals Judge, Champion Beer of Britain (GBBF); judge, Yakima Chief's Alpha King Challenge (US); Great Taste judge; international beer judging, Frankfurt.

Cicerone Certified Beer Server (working toward Level 2) · IBD Beer Sommelier (in training) · Member, British Guild of Beer Writers

PRESS & INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

Quoted/interviewed in trade press on brewing economics & consumer trends (PA Training); LBA's mission, mentorship scheme & export strategy (2023) and UK distribution/tied-pub access (2024), both via Beverage Trade Network / London Beer Competition; backing SIBA's national Indie Beer campaign (The Brewers Journal, 2024).

Other governance roles: Governor & Finance Committee Chair, Cannon Lane School (2017–21); Pay Negotiation Committee Chair, RAF Museum (2013–17); Vice Chair, Pembroke Park Residents' Assoc. (2010–16). Full work & voluntary experience available on request or via LinkedIn. References available on request.