

THAMES AND CHILTERN VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 2013

1.00pm – 4.30pm Saturday 15th June 2013

Brightwell Vineyard, Wallingford

Agenda

1. Attendees & Apologies received
2. Minutes & actions from 2012 AGM
3. Vice-Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report 2012 & Membership update
5. Secretary's Report
6. Election of Officers & Committee for 2013-14
7. Motions to be passed
8. Any other business

1. Attendees:

Title	FirstName	Surname	Vineyard
Mr	Michael	Dean	Vernon Lodge Vineyard
Mrs	Kaye	Laithwaite	Pump Lane Vineyard
Mrs	Sian	Liwicki	Bothy Vineyard
Mrs	Margaret	McVey-Dymond	
Mr	Jan	Mirkowski	
Mr	John	Petersen	Dropmore Vineyard
Ms	Denise	Santilli	Linch Hill Vineyard
Mrs	Patricia	Stefanowicz	
Mr	Bob & Carol	Nielsen	Brightwell Vineyard

Apologies

Title	FirstName	Surname	Vineyard	Proxy vote
Mr	Tim	Chafor	Chafor Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Antony	Chapman	Hale Valley Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Paul	Cooper		Denise
Mr	Andy	Creighton	Mill Hill Village Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Michael	Gilbey	Pheasants Ridge Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Roy	Philips	Parhams Farm Vineyard	Denise
Mrs	Wendy	Sargent	The Old Forge Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Simon	Tooley	Fritsden Vineyard	Denise
Mr	Oliver	Richardson		Sian
Mr	Colin	Baker	Titchfield Vineyard	
Mr	Peter	Cridland		Denise
Mr	Peter	Dart	Stanlake Park Wine Estate	
Mr	Indrajit	Hoon	Gallowstree	
Mr	Nigel	Smith	Manor Fields Vineyard	

2. Minutes and Actions from 2012 AGM

The minutes and actions from the previous AGM held on 21st July 2013 were summarised as follows:

- AGM Held 21st July 2012, Stanlake Park, Twyford
- The following Officers & Members were elected to the committee for 2012-13:
 - **Chair:** Peter Dart, Stanlake Park Wine Estate
 - **Vice-Chair & UKVA Representative:** Bob Nielsen, Brightwell Vineyard
 - **Hon Treasurer:** Sian Liwicki, Bothy Vineyard
 - **Hon Secretary:** Denise Santilli, Linch Hill Vineyard
 - **Technical Advisor:** Patricia Stefanowicz
 - **Ordinary Members:** Richard Liwicki, Bothy Vineyard; Margaret McVey-Dymond; Phil Rossi, Oaken Grove Vineyard; Michael & Lin Gilbey, Pheasant's Ridge Vineyard; Andy Creighton, Mill Hill Vineyard
- T&CVA Wine Challenge held 21st July 2012
- Trade Tasting Day May 10th 2012: T&CVA table and 4 vineyards participated
- T&CVA website: updated and sponsored links approached for payment
- English Wine Festival 2013: members polled and decision to postpone until 2014

3. Vice- Chairman's Report (Bob Nielsen)

Peter Dart has resigned as Chairman of the T&CVA since he is selling Stanlake Park Wine Estate and will no longer be involved in the wine business. He nevertheless wishes to remain a T&CVA member. We thank Peter for his involvement in the T&CVA, and especially for the use of the Stanlake Park facilities for previous events. We hope that the new owners will join the T&CVA and make their facilities available in a similar manner.

2012 was a quiet year for the T&CVA due to several factors: i) competing national events such as the Queen's jubilee and the Olympics which kept our members busy ii) poor weather in 2012 coupled with previous year's poor harvest meant that wine stocks were low and therefore festivals and promotions were not warranted.

The objective of the T&CVA is to promote regional wines, but there is no marketing sense in promoting a product which we cannot subsequently supply in adequate quantities. Most commercial vineyards in the region have reported sufficient stocks to supply their own cellar door sales and local promotions for 2013, therefore it was decided, after polling our members to postpone the English Wine Festival planned for July 2013. If the harvest this year produces adequate stocks then we will consider holding the festival in 2014.

Another of our objectives is support and management of the UKVA. We should stay independent of other regions to keep our voice in the UKVA. Paul Langham sends regular e-mail missives to UKVA members: all T&CVA members should e-mail Bob Nielsen (our UKVA representative) if we wish to raise any issues with the UKVA.

Report back from National Activities

The EWP are becoming a stronger body in terms of commercial promotion of English & Welsh Wines; the UKVA are becoming more of a political body. The two should not be merged since it is in the best interests of all members if the two bodies remain independent. The UKVA is now in a strong position both financially and politically.

ICCWS 2016: the T&CVA made it's objection to funding this event heard at the UKVA AGM in January 2013, but we were outvoted. We did, however, manage to influence some of the conditions applied to the funding that the UKVA will provide: the £10k payment will not be a donation, rather a loan which will be repayable if the conference turns in a profit. The management of the company running ICCWS will have 6 shareholders, each with equal weight.

The UKVA subscriptions year will now run from August 1st each year. To enable regions to align their subscription collections, the subs sent in now will pay for an 18 month period i.e. January 2013 to July 31st 2014.

There will now be 7 Regional Associations – Wales is setting up it's own regional association.

Wineskills courses are still active at a substantial discount, but only for the next 2 years. We would advise T&CVA members to attend as many of these excellent courses as they can in the next 2 years to take advantage of these reduced fees.

Plumpton College have requested a grant from the UKVA towards the cost of a building. The UKVA declined this request. Instead, the UKVA have supported the expenditure of £2,500 to provide 2 pieces of specialist research equipment at Plumpton College since this is likely to benefit members more.

Wine Festival 2014: we will make a decision on this in December 2013.

EWP Trade Tasting Day: we definitely need to attend this event but it is not intended for all-comers – attendees need to have a commercial function.

The UKVA Annual Wine Challenge 2014 **will be hosted by the T&CVA.** The date is likely to be mid-June. We need to decide as a regional association how we wish to manage / capitalise on this event. Some facts to consider are:

- A suitable venue should be able to accommodate up to 200 wines, judges, members and possibly the public (see later point) and provide storage and catering for 2 days
- Accommodation for judges should be close by the venue.
- The competition is usually run over a Monday / Tuesday since the Judges have other commitments on a Thursday / Friday (but could this be changed?)
- There are circa 200 bottles of wine opened during the competition and it would be a shame to tip these away at the end, so we should consider opening up the event on the last evening to members of the public for a paid wine-tasting session.

- Since we considered holding an English Wine Festival in 2014, perhaps we could tag this onto the end of the UKVA Wine Challenge?
- BRI research Institute in Chipping Campden have offered their venue for free (Contact is Sian Liwicki). Other possible venues are Radley College Abingdon (Contact is John Petersen) and Kellog College Oxford (Contact is Carol Nielsen)

It was decided at this meeting that, after getting exact numbers and dates from Robert Cowley / Beardsmore, we should put together a position paper with the options available and call a committee meeting (end of Aug / beg Sept) to discuss the next steps.

Action: Denise to obtain numbers from Robert Cowley and set up date for Committee meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report for the Financial Period 1st March 2012 to 31st December 2012

THAMES AND CHILTERN VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION							
Income & Expenditure Account for the Period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012							
		2012		2011			
Income		£				£	
Main Account				Expenditure			2011
Membership Subscriptions	Total receipts	3315.91					
	Remitted to UKVA	3101.31			49.50		
	Less remitted to UKVA etc		214.60	0.00			
AGM Catering receipts		0.00		160.00			
Wine Challenge Catering	Part of Stanlake Festival	0.00		0.00			
Wine Competition Entries		90.00		93.00			
Donations		13.50		10.00			
Bank Interest (Reserve a/c)		0.58		1.30			
Adverts		0.00		0.00			
Total Income to Main Accounts		318.68		313.80			
Surplus for the period		47.17		0.00			
Balance Sheet for the Period 1 January to 31st December 2012							
		£	2012	£	2011		
Fixed Assests			0		0		
Current Assests							
Debtors		0		146.20			
Cash at Bank and in hand - Prom Fund		140.20		140.20			
Cash at Bank and in hand - General Fund		2836.12		2831.91			
		2976.32		3118.31			
Current Liabilities							
Trade creditors		90		507			
underpayment to UKVA		140.82					
		230.82		507			
Net current assets			2745.5		2611.51		

It was proposed by Denise Santilli and seconded by Patricia Stefanowicz that the accounts be adopted. This was passed unanimously.

Membership update: we have 2 new members this year, Thomas Charge and David Palmer. 2 members have left: The Callaghans, Hendred Vineyard and Andrew Harrison of Wimbush.

2013 Members are:

FirstName	Surname	Vineyard	Town	County
Jonathan	Abbott	Grange Farm Vineyard	CHIPPING NORTON	Oxon.
Colin & Nicola	Baker	Titchfield Vineyard	Titchfield	Hampshire
Thomas	Charge	Tyringham Hall	Newport Pagnell	Bucks
Tony	Castle	St Andrew's Vineyard	LONDON	
Tim	Chafor		TINGEWICK	
Antony	Chapman	Hale Valley Vineyard	WENDOVER	Bucks
Paul	Cooper		OXFORD	
Andy	Creighton	Mill Hill Village Vineyard	LONDON	
Peter	Cridland		ST ALBANS	Herts
Peter	Dart	Stanlake Park Wine Estate	READING	Berks
Michael	Dean	Vernon Lodge Vineyard	TOWCESTER	Northants
David	Ealand	Old Luxters Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	Oxon
Alastair	Field		Woodcote	READING
Dorothea	Fisher		READING	Berks
Gerry	Fowles		READING	Berks.
Michael	Gilbey	Pheasants Ridge Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	Oxon.
Andrew	Harrison	Wimbushes Vineyard	CHISWELL GREEN	Herts
Indrajit	Hoon	Gallowstree Vineyard	LONDON	
Barbara	Laithwaite	Wyfold Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	Oxon
Henry	Laithwaite	Pump Lane Vineyard	MARLOW	Bucks
Jon	Leighton			
Richard & Sian	Liwicki	Bothy Vineyard	ABINGDON	Oxon
Anne	Linder	Theale Vineyard (Direct Wines)	THEALE	Berks

FirstName	Surname	Vineyard	Town	County
Jan	Mirkowski	Henley Road	MARLOW	Bucks
Margaret	McVey-Dymond		WINNERSH	Berks
Nigel	Morgan	Daws Hill Farm	HIGH WYCOMBE	Bucks
Bob	Nielsen	Brightwell Vineyard	WALLINGFORD	Oxon
Tom	Newey	Cobbs Farm Vineyard	HUNGERFORD	Berks
Douglas	Palin		LONDON	
Matthew	Press	Seer Green Vineyard	SEER GREEN	Bucks
David	Palmer		LONDON	
John	Petersen	Dropmore Vineyard	SLOUGH	Berks
Roy	Philips	Parhams Farm Vineyard	SHAFTESBURY	Dorset
Oliver	Richardson		Wem	Shropshire
Phil	Rossi	Oaken Grove Vineyard	LONDON	
Rob & Denise	Santilli	Linch Hill Vineyard	STANTON HARCOURT	Oxon
Wendy	Sargent	The Old Forge Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES	Oxon
John	Shields		LONDON	
Nigel	Smith	Manor Fields Vineyard	Nr AYLESBURY	Bucks
Patricia	Stefanowicz		LONDON	
Rob	Sutton		Chalfont St Giles	Bucks
Alex	Taylor	Bridewell Organic Gardens	CHIPPING NORTON	
Simon	Tooley	Frithsden Vineyard	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	Herts
David	Wheeler		MAIDENHEAD	Berks
David A	Wheeler		CHIPPING NORTON	Oxon
Richard	Woodward		COMBE	Oxon

5. Secretary's Report (Denise Santilli)

Activity	When	Outcome
Approach website links to charge advertising fee from August 1 st 2013	The commercial links on the website have been approached in order to charge an advertising fee of £72/yr (big institutions) or £36/yr (small firms) – this is level of fee set by SEVA. Suggest that academic / wine industry institutions will not be charged.	Awaiting to hear back from the following: £72/yr: Decanter Magazine, Harpers Wine & Spirit Trade Review, The Wine Law Centre, VIGO. £36/yr: Simon Day Wine Consultant, Wine Growers Supplies.
AGM	Held on Saturday 21 st July 2012, Stanlake Park. 12-1.30pm meeting, followed by Lunch and Wine Tasting	18 attendees, officers & committee members elected.
Local PR activities (press, radio, local TV)	English Wine week 26 ^h May – 2nd June 2013	Individual vineyards provided necessary facts /interviews to media. No centralised T&CVA activity
Trade Wine Tasting Day	10 th May 2012; one Great George St, London T&CVA table & attendees	T&CVA table hosted by Bob Nielsen: 4 vineyards participated
T&CVA English Wine Festival	Not held in 2012 due to too many conflicting activities (Jubilee celebration & Olympics). Proposal made to hold this at Stanlake Park Wine Estate, 20 th & 21 st July 2013	Members were polled regarding the proposal to hold the Wine Festival in 2013. The proposal was rejected by the membership – too few wines following poor 2012 harvest. We will aim to hold the Festival in 2014 instead at Brightwell Vineyard.
Annual Wine Challenge	Morning of July 21 st 2012	37 entries from 10 vineyards judged by 4 masters of Wine: 2 Golds, 14 Silvers, 12 Bronze, 3 Commended. Patricia Stefanowicz will donate a trophy for the best Rose wine for the 2013 challenge. Certificates for 2011 & 2012 Challenges now ready.
Wineskills courses hosted at member vineyards	Throughout the year	Individual members registered with Wineskills directly. Individual vineyards offered to host the courses as the need arises.
Vintners Hall Reception & Dinner	Feb 13 th 2013: Objective – PR exercise with Trade bodies and Wine Buyers. Paid for by Vintners Company.	Attended by Bob Nielsen, Peter Dart, Patricia Stefanowicz & Denise Santilli in the presence of HRH Duchess of Cornwall (President of UKVA).

The AGM agreed the fees proposals to large/ small institutions for advertising on our website.

It was agreed that Press activities for English Wine week should continue on a local level supported by an e-campaign on the T&CVA website.

Annual Wine Challenge: the secretary will obtain gold, silver and bronze stickers that can be affixed to winning bottles of wine and will ask medal winners how many stickers they require. The cost of the stickers will be ascertained. If approved by the committee, this cost will be borne from the entry fees to the competition and T&CVA reserves.

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2013-14

The following were proposed, seconded and approved as officials and committee members for 2013-14: -

Chairman & UKVA Rep	Bob Nielsen
Vice Chairman & T&CVA Technical Advisor	Patricia Stefanowicz
Hon Secretary	Denise Santilli
Hon Treasurer & Mem Sec	Sian Liwicki
Ordinary Members	Margaret McVey-Dymond, Phil Rossi Michael and Lin Gilbey Andy Creighton, Kaye Laithwaite

7. Motions to be passed

It was agreed to maintain the T&CVA subscription fee for 2013-14 to £10 per year

It was agreed that the T&CVA committee have the authority to approve the UKVA subscriptions and hectarage levy for 2013-14 when they are agreed at the next UKVA AGM (usually in January).

8. Any Other business

It was proposed that we hold a T&CVA Christmas social event – details to be discussed at Committee meeting in September. The Secretary will then poll members to gauge interest / attendance.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16.30

Next Committee meeting beginning of September.