

THAMES AND CHILTERN VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 2016

11.15-12.30 Sunday 10th April 2016

Cherwell Boathouse, Oxford

Agenda

1. Attendees & Apologies received
2. Approval of Minutes & actions from 2015 AGM
3. Chairman's Report: Bob Nielsen
4. Vice-Chairman's report: Patricia Stefanowicz MW
5. Financial Report 2014-15 & Membership update: Sian Liwicki (presented by Denise Santilli)
6. Secretary's Report: Denise Santilli
7. Election of Officers & Committee for 2016-17
8. Motions to be passed
9. Key Changes in the UKVA: Barry Lewis, CEO UKVA
10. Any other business

1. Attendees:

Title	FirstName	Surname	Vineyard
Mr	Barry	Lewis	CEO UKVA
Mrs	Kaye	Laithwaite	Harrow & Hope Vineyard
Mr	Jan	Mirkowski	Fairmile Vineyard
Mrs	Cherry	Thompson	Wyfold Vineyard
Mrs	Margaret	McVey	
Mrs	Patricia	Stefanowicz	MW
Mr	Bob	Nielsen	Brightwell Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Christopher & Leonie	Cooke	Winding wood Vineyard
Ms	Denise	Santilli	Linch Hill Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Tim & Stephanie	Chafor	The Chafor Wine Estate
Mr & Mrs	Robert & Frankie	Louth	Winding Wood Vineyard
Ms	Elisabeth	Else	Consultant
Mr	Andy	Creighton	Mill Hill Village Vineyard

Apologies:

Title	FirstName	Surname	Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Barbara & Tony	Laithwaite	Wyfold Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Anthony & Carol	Chapman	Hale Valley Vineyard
Mr	Jon	Leighton	
Mr	Mike	Dean	Vernon Lodge Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Oliver & Shelagh	Richardson	
Mr	Peter	Cridland	Ragged Hall Wines
Mr & Mrs	Stephen & Fiona	Duckett	Hundred Hills Vineyard
Mr & Mrs	Daniel & Rhaki	Goss-Custard	Stanlake Park Wine Estate
Mr	Simon	Tooley	Frithsden Vineyard
Mr	Ian	Bowler	
Mr	Ed	Mitcham	Mitcham Viticultural Services
Mr & Mrs	Richard & Sian	Liwicki	Bothy Vineyard
Mr	Phil	Rossi	Oaken Grove Vineyard
Mrs	Anne	Linder	Theale Vineyard / Direct Wines

2. Minutes and Actions from 2015 AGM

- AGM held 16th April 2015, Stanlake Park Wine Estate, Twyford
- 7 new members joined in 2015
- The accounts were approved: net assets were £2068.40
- The following Officers & Members were elected to the committee for 2015-16:
 - **Chair & UKVA Representative:** Bob Nielsen, Brightwell Vineyard
 - **Vice-Chair & Technical Advisor:** Patricia Stefanowicz
 - **Hon Treasurer:** Sian Liwicki, Bothy Vineyard
 - **Hon Secretary:** Denise Santilli, Linch Hill Vineyard
 - **Ordinary Members:** Margaret McVey; Phil Rossi, Oaken Grove Vineyard; Kaye Laithwaite, Harrow & Hope Vineyard; John Petersen, Dropmore Vineyard
- T&CVA Wine Challenge held 13th Sept 2015, Chafor Wine Estate: 36 wines entered
- T&CVA Stickers purchased to affix to winning wines: available to buy
- Engraving of trophies: costs to be borne by T&CVA
- T&CVA subscription fees: increased from £10 to £20 per annum

The minutes were approved, and all actions completed.

3. Chairman's Report (Bob Nielsen)

Bob continues to represent the interests of the TCVA members at UKVA meetings. The details of recent changes to the structure of the UKVA can be read in the March 2016 edition of The Grape Press. The TCVA Chairman believes these changes to be a High Risk / High Return strategy and commented that the appointment of a CEO and management committee was contentious issue at the recent UKVA meetings but was nevertheless voted in by a majority decision.

The main concerns were the following:

- The tasks that the UKVA need to do should have been defined in order to inform the job the description of the CEO position and the appointment of a management committee. Instead the CEO position was appointed and the job description subsequently defined.
- UKVA cash reserves should be used as “bridging “ money for events at which UKVA members can participate to generate income to replace these reserves e.g. ICCWS and IWF. The concern is that paying for the new structure will eat into these reserves and not generate sufficient income to become self-sustaining.
- The hectare levy is extremely unpopular and has led to some members evading payment and using private consultants to do the job of the UKVA instead. This membership fee structure needs to be revisited if we are to retain members in the UKVA and attract new members.

4. Vice-Chairman's Report (Patricia Stefanowicz MW)

Thames & Chiltern Valley Vineyards Annual Wine Challenge 2015, 13th September 2015

“The discovery of a wine is a greater moment than the discovery of a constellation. The Universe is too full of stars.” *Benjamin Franklin*

Before awards, the judges, I and the rest of the T&CVA Committee would like to extend thanks to **Chafor Family Vineyards** for hosting our Annual Wine Challenge. Thank you, Stephanie and Tim and **pup**, who made our judging day so easy. Thank you, especially, to Denise, our intrepid Secretary, and Sian, our equally hard-working Treasurer, who pretended that looking after us after us wayward judges was a “doddle” in the Park, more like looking after the Zoo at ZSL!

Judging and results

Under an almost cerulean sky, the team tasted 36 wines, although a few samples went missing. My fellow judges are a lovely group: Yannick Joseph (Head Butler and buyer at Balliol College), Elizabeth Kelly (from one of our beloved giant supermarkets), Lindsay Oram (Wine Consultant and Food Technologist) and me. Extremely professional. I believe that this team of judges are so dedicated to our English wines here that they have been fair. I thank them profusely.

I also thank Bob, our Chairman, and the rest of the committee for keeping us ‘in the game’ as our own local Association. We are becoming more professional in our wine production, not just within the UKVA, but also here in T&CVA. And the results show that.

So, the Awards: Gold (2) 5.5%; Silver (10) 28%; Bronze (12) 34%; Highly Commended (9) 25%. 92% awarded=a jolly good result! Were we judges soft? I don't think so; I trust my fellow judges, truly

experts. The wines were simply very, very good, a tribute to all our producers, including our non-commercial sector.

Finally, although sparklings are our 'greats', I'm throwing my hat into the ring for Bacchus as the quintessential English variety. Ortega seems to work well in Thames & Chilterns Valley and Siegerrebe gets a little look-in. In a good year there's nothing like Pinot Noir, the Holy Grail. Dornfelder and Rondo are viable and, especially in blends, make rather delicious wines with just a tiny bit of chilling, they can be delectable.

Reds

Interestingly, the red still wines were successful, despite our phlegmatic climate. There were a couple of very good wines. And we know how difficult the category is. Well done to the producers.

Rosés

Whether dry, nearly dry or even medium-dry or medium, the wines performed well. We were delighted to find silver, bronze, and highly commended. Balance between sweetness and acidity is extremely important; winemakers beware! Lovely wines overall.

Dry Whites

Generally, an excellent-to-good class. Some might benefit from just a bit more ageing in bottle, but let's sell when we can.

Interestingly there were no wines entered in the **medium-dry-to-medium-sweet** classes. And not a single wine in the sweet (45g/l+) class. Fine by me. If a style does not work in parts of England, do not bother. Personally, I think that where we in Thames & Chilterns Valley Vineyards succeed among whites are the drier styles.

Oaked Whites

In Thames & Chiltern Vineyards we are very careful with the use of oak, if any. Possibly for Chardonnay or other neutral varieties. As in other aspects of wine-making, keep oak-usage under control, please?

Interestingly there were no wines entered in the **medium-dry-to-medium-sweet** classes. And not a single wine in the sweet (45g/l +) class. Fine by me. Personally, I think that the white wine styles we in Thames & Chilterns Valley can produce most successfully are meant to be consumed young and are the drier styles.

Sparkling Wines

The sparkling wines excite. Delicious overall. Sparkling wines, like no other style, divide judging panels across the globe in local, regional, national and international competitions. As one of my much-esteemed fizz-expert colleagues laments, "It is so difficult a category to judge without letting one's own prejudices get in the way, even for me."

Our top wines in 2015 Challenge were Sparklings and they were equally spectacular. Congratulations to our Chairman (and his wine production team) and to Wyfold Vineyards on producing two of the best ESW (English Sparkling Wines) in our known-universe.

In summary, my colleagues and I think this was a successful T&CVA competition and we wish you a good vintage and, of course, positive sales and distribution of your very lovely wines.

It is worth noting that we are a par with (or even better than) other regional competitions in terms of how our wines stack up in winning awards. The panel of judges we assemble each year are exceptional and I, as the Chairman, rely on their integrity and reliability.

Thus, we should give ourselves a great round of applause. Please continue to make excellent wines to give pleasure and excitement.

5. **Treasurer's Report** : The accounts were handed out at the meeting.

THAMES AND CHILTERN VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION						
Income & Expenditure Account for the Period 1 January 2014 to 31 July 2015						
Income		2014/15	2013	Expenditure	2014	2013
		£	£		£	£
Membership Subscriptions	Total receipts	4435.66				
	retained by TCVA		384.42			
	Remitted to UKVA	4051.24	233.31			
	Underpayment to UKVA	0.00				
AGM Catering receipts		20.00	0.00	Catering, speakers, expenses for AGM	486.78	0
Wine Festival Receipts		1476.83	0.00	Wine Festival	1582.01	
Wine Competition Entries		108.00	75.00	Wine Challenge Judges expenses, etc	192.19	244.54
Donations		0.00	0.00	Other meetings	137.57	14.00
Adverts		0.00	72.00	Website Fees and management	183.59	90.00
				Secretarial (include postage)	28.33	0.00
				Hon Treasurer's postage	0	0.00
				Msic Award labels	380.40	
				TCVA banner	72.00	3.88
Total Income		1989.25	380.31	Total Expenditure	3062.87	352.42
Surplus/Deficit for the period		-1073.62	27.89			

Balance Sheet for the Period 1 January 2014 to 31 Jul 2015				
	2014/15		2013	
	£	£	£	
Fixed Assests	0.00		0	
Current Assets				
Stocks	380.40	1		Note 1: stocks of labels
Debtors	180.00 *	2	0	Note 2
Cash at Bank - Promotional Fund	336.20		480.20	Debtors are a few unbanked
Cash at Bank - General Fund	1508.37		3799.95	payments for AGM lunches
	2404.97		4280.15	
Current Liabilities				
Trade creditors	0.00		39.59	
underpayment to UKVA	0.00		1361.96	
	0.00		1401.55	
Net current assets	2404.97		2878.60	

As this is a 18 month report, ending in July 2015 the comparisons with 2013 are not precise. More Expenditure this period, but a little less income (only one set of subs collected). Main financial points :

- Wine Festival (reported previously)
- 1 set of subs collected over an 18 month period
- 2 AGMs
- Start of TCVA website maintenance
- Gradual use of Promotional budget

Because we only collected subs once in 18 months, but continued to spend over that time, there is a deficit in the In and Exp of just over £1000 (£1073 to be precise). However, the overall net current assets (as seen in the Balance Sheet) at the end of that period is still very healthy £2404.97.

The deficit arose in areas that were planned and are not surprising :

- 2 AGMs, at which we paid for a speaker and travel costs, subsidized part of meals at Stanlake, etc
- 1 social at which we again paid for some coffees, bottled water, etc
- Wine Festival (discussed at former meeting) where we made a loss of about £100
- Website – now that it is set up, there are annual maintenance costs. But it does serve a function as new members visit it before applying. But could we do more with it?
- Award Labels – there is now a good stock and this cost will be re-couped as members buy them from us through the years
- Wine Challenge – judge’s expenses are very low. Most of the cost relates to engraving. This is seen as a very useful event and actually all the volunteers and host work very hard to make it a success. Could be easily more profitable if we had a few more entries (or vineyards in our region), but its marginal loss should not be seen as a failure.
- We spent a modest amount of our Promotional fund on a new banner.

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

2016 Membership update: we have 4 new members this year (Highlighted in red below)

Title	FirstName	LastName	Vineyard/Business	Town
Mr & Mrs	Colin & Nicola	Baker	Titchfield Vineyard	Titchfield
Mr & Dr	David & Eileen	Bell	Hendred Vineyard	Wantage
Mr	Anthony	Bilton	Tyringham Hall	Newport Pagnell
Mr	Ian	Bowler		Faringdon
Mr & Mrs	Tim & Stephanie	Chafor	Chafor Wine Estate	TINGEWICK
Mr	Antony	Chapman	Hale Valley Vineyard	WENDOVER
Mr & Mrs	Christopher & Leonie	Cooke	Winding Wood vineyard	HUNGERFORD
Mr & Mrs	Robert & Fankie	Louth		
Mr	Paul	Cooper	Dreaming Squires Vineyard	Great Milton
Mr	Andy	Creighton		LONDON
Mr	Peter	Cridland	Ragged Hall Wines	ST ALBANS
Mr	Michael	Dean	Vernon Lodge Vineyard	TOWCESTER
Mr & Mrs	Stephen & Fiona	Duckett	Hundred Hills Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Mr	David	Ealand	Chiltern Valley Winery	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Ms	Elisabeth	Else	But Is It Relevant?	Farnham
Mr	Alastair	Field	Reading Agricultural Consultants	READING
Mr & Mrs	Daniel & Rakhi	Goss-Custard	Stanlake Park Wine Estate	READING
Mr	Patrick	Hurd	Hale Valley Vineyard	Lee Common
Mr	Matthew	Kerry	Maggie Lane Vineyard	Amersham
Mr & Mrs	Lawrence	Kimber	Dinton Wines Ltd	AYLESBURY
Mr & Mrs	Henry & Kaye	Laithwaite	Marlow Vineyard and Winery	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Mrs	Barbara	Laithwaite	Wyfold Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Ms	Anne	Linder	Theale Vineyard and Windsor Vineyard	THEALE, READING WINDSOR
Mr & Mrs	Richard & Sian	Liwicki	Bothy Vineyard	ABINGDON

Title	FirstName	LastName	Vineyard	Town
Mr	Adrian	Marsh	Walnut Cottage	Chalfont St Giles
Mrs	Margaret	McVey-Dymond		WINNERSH
Mr	Jan	Mirkowski	Fairmile Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Mr	Ed	Mitcham	Mitcham Viticultural Services	Didcot
Mr	Nigel	Morgan	Daws Hill Farm	HIGH WYCOMBE
Mr	Tom	Newey	Alder Ridge Vineyard	HUNGERFORD
Mr & Mrs	Bob & Carol	Nielsen	Brightwell Vineyard	WALLINGFORD
Mr	Douglas	Palin		LONDON
Mr	David	Palmer		LONDON
Mr & Mrs	John & Feona	Petersen	Dropmore Vineyard	BURNHAM
Mr & Mrs	Roy & Lavinia	Philips	Parhams Farm Vineyard	SHAFTESBURY
Mr	Matt	Press	Seer Green Vineyard	BEACONSFIELD
Mr	Phil	Rossi	Oaken Grove Vineyard	LONDON
Prof & Mrs	Rob & Denise	Santilli	Linch Hill Vineyard	STANTON HARCOURT
Mrs	Wendy	Sargent	Fawley Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Mr & Mrs	Nigel & Ina	Smith	Manor Fields Vineyard	Weedon, Nr Aylesbury
Mrs	Patricia	Stefanowicz		LONDON
Mr	Rob	Sutton		Chalfont St Giles
Mr	Alex	Taylor	Bridewell Organic Gardens	CHIPPING NORTON
Mr	Simon	Tooley	Frithsden Vineyard	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
Mrs	Cherry	Thompson	Wyfold Vineyard	HENLEY-ON-THAMES
Mr	Richard	Woodward		COMBE

Life members 2016

FirstName	Surname	Vineyard	Town	County
Dorothea	Fisher		READING	Berks
Jon	Leighton			
Gerry	Fowles		READING	Berks.
Oliver	Richardson		Wem	Shropshire

- 49 members in total
- 4 new members in 2015-16
- 2 members left this year: Mr Blyth & Mr Rao
- 2 members died this year:
 - David Wheeler: life member
 - John Petersen: Dropmore vineyard will continue with Feona and family managing it

6. Secretary's Report (Denise Santilli): 2015 Activities Completed

Date	Event name	Venue	Times	Hosted by / contact details	More about this event
Sunday lunchtime 22 nd Feb 2015	Lunch & Wine Challenge Trophy awards	Cherwell Boathouse Oxford	12 – 3pm	T&CVA	22 members attended for lunch and Wine Challenge trophies and certificates were awarded– see the photos on the website
Sunday Lunch 19 th April 2015	T&CVA AGM & members Lunch	Stanlake Park, Twyford	11.30- 3pm	T&CVA Denise Santilli 07721 744020 Denise.santilli@outlook.com	AGM with presentations by Elisabeth Else & Chris Cooper, followed by lunch & networking
Monday 11 th May 2015	EWP Trade & Press Tasting Day	One Great George Street, London.	10.30am -4.30pm	English Wine Producers Julia Trustram Eve - Marketing Director julia@englishwineproducers.com	T&CVA (Brightwell & Laithwaites) participated at the UKVA shared table
Saturday 23 rd May until Sunday 31 st May 2015.	English Wine Week	All vineyards in the UK	To be decided locally	English Wine Producers English Wine Week Co-ordinator: Zoë Davey - Tel: 07970 340069 EWP Office - Tel: 01536 772264 wineweek@englishwineproducers.co.uk	Local activities were undertaken e.g Sculpture in The Vineyard at Bothy Vineyard
July	UKVA Wine Competition	Dorset		UKVA – Robert Beardsmore to send out details	T&CVA members were invited to send wines to the competition
Sunday 13 th September	T&CVA 2015 Wine Challenge committee mtg	Chafor Wine Estate, Tingewick	10-2pm	Tim & Stephanie Chafor T&CVA Denise Santilli 07721 744020 Denise.santilli@outlook.com	36 wines from 10 vineyards 2 Gold,10 Silver, 12 bronze, 9 commended Committee meeting followed the competition

- Proposed social event at Oxford Brooke's University Hospitality Department Spring 2016 – deferred to 2017
- Professional photos of Trophies have been taken – will be uploaded to website for use by T&CVA
- Wine Challenge stickers now available from Denise: cost £20 per 500 stickers
- Also able to download artwork from website for use online / to print directly onto labels members in publicity materials

2016 Planned Activities

Date	Event name	Venue	Times	Hosted by / contact details	More about this event
Sunday lunchtime 10 th April	AGM, Lunch & Wine Challenge Trophy awards	Cherwell Boathouse Oxford	11 – 3pm	T&CVA Denise Santilli 07721 744020 Denise.santilli@outlook.com	AGM, Lunch, Wine Challenge trophies and certificates to be awarded Presentation by Barry Lewis UKVA
Monday 9 th May 2016	EWP Trade & Press Tasting Day	One Great George Street, London.	10.30am -4.30pm	English Wine Producers Julia Trustram Eve - Marketing Director julia@englishwineproducers.com	T&CVA participation at the UKVA shared table
Saturday 28 th May until Sunday 5 th June 2016	English Wine Week	All vineyards in the UK	To be decided locally	English Wine Producers English Wine Week Co-ordinator: Zoë Davey - Tel: 07970 340069 EWP Office - Tel: 01536 772264 wineweek@englishwineproducers.co.uk	Local activities at T&CVA vineyards
Fri 26 to Sat 28 th May	9 th ICCWS	Brighton	9-6pm	info@iccws2016.com £600 + VAT for 3 days, £250 + VAT for single day – discounts available for UKVA members!!	3 day international symposium on cool climate wine growing + gala dinner & wine tastings
Sunday 4 th September	T&CVA 2016 Wine Challenge and committee meeting	TBD	10-2pm	Hope & Harrow Vineyard, Marlow	Annual Wine competition
	Other activities?			Proposals are invited for activities which can be supported by T&CVA funds!	

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 2016-2017

Resignation from the committee were received by John Petersen. The T&CVA would like to extend our thanks to him for all his help over the years. The following were proposed, seconded and approved as officials and committee members for 2016-17:

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, Kaye Laithwaite

8. Motions voted on and approved at this meeting:

T&CVA subscription fee for 2016-17: this will be decreased to £15 per year from August 1st 2016, since we have not spent any reserves since last year which currently stand at £2700. Proposals for activities upon which we could wisely spend TCVA reserves were invited.

It was agreed that the T&CVA committee have the authority to approve the UKVA subscriptions and hectare levy for 2016 (£42.00 individual fee + £7.50 per 0.1ha up to 7 ha)

9. Presentation: Key Changes to the UKVA : Barry Lewis CEO

- Barry's background can be read in the March 2016 edition of The Grape Press. Since he comes with a wide range of experience he hopes he can bring a wealth of skills to the UKVA that will benefit members directly. He acknowledged the concerns expressed by the Chairman of TCVA and hoped that the appointment of both CEO and management committee will quickly become self-sustaining financially.
- The English Wine Industry has moved on but the UKVA has not kept pace with the changes which became very apparent upon examining the business at the outset, so the CEO's actions will address this disconnect in several ways.
- One of the first actions will be to revamp the UKVA website using a marketing budget of around £5k, to ensure that it is more useful for UKVA members and enable people to better communicate and get advice. New "plug-ins" will be added e.g. training modules.
- Meeting with the Wine Standards Agency: by closer working with them, this should improve the information held by them and UKVA and may attract funding as well.
- Campaigning: the key is to have good relationships with Westminster and to find local MPs who can act as "Wine Champions" who can support our issues e.g. regarding pesticide use, as well as promoting English Wine in Europe. A couple of local MP's are almost signed up to this list.
- UKVA watchlist: this highlights the issues we have if we lose more pesticide labels and will use a red/ amber / green traffic light system. It also highlights the disconnect between Central European label approvals and those in the UK. A questionnaire will shortly be sent to UKVA members regarding impact of leaving EU.
- Hectare Levy: this needs to be reformed including exemption for newly planted vineyards until they become wine-producing.

10. Any Other business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.30pm followed by lunch and networking