

## **Rules of the South West Vineyards Association - April 2006.**

### THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The primary objects of the Association are to provide its Members with an opportunity to meet each other and to increase their knowledge and experience of viticulture and winemaking and to promote the production and sale of wines grown in the South and West of England and in Wales.

The secondary object of the Association is to provide support to the United Kingdom Vineyards Association.

### MEMBERSHIP

2 a) Any person, or the representative of any vineyard, or partnership, or limited company, may apply for admission to membership. Such application shall be in writing, shall be signed by the applicant, who shall undertake to pay the Association Subscription together with the appropriate share of the UKVA Affiliation Fee. The Association shall have full and unrestricted power to grant or refuse membership as it sees fit and in the case of refusal shall not be bound to assign any reason.

The Membership Year commences on 1 June.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year in addition to any other meetings in the year. Not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of the AGM and that of the next. At each AGM the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the previous financial year, together with the Auditor's report thereon, shall be considered, and if thought fit, adopted. All Members will be notified in writing of the date of the

AGM not less than four months before the AGM.

4 a) Any Member intending to propose a Resolution at the AGM shall give the Secretary sixty days notice of such proposed Resolution and such Resolutions shall be circulated to all members with the Notice of the Agenda of the AGM not less than twenty-one days before the AGM

b) Any Member may propose a Resolution at the AGM which, if duly accepted by the Chairman and agreed to by a majority of the Members present, taking into account the proxy votes properly received, shall be binding upon the Association for one year only until either confirmed as future policy or rejected in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

5 a) Members shall have one vote at the Annual General Meeting, and at all other general meetings. The vote may be given in person or by proxy. Members shall also be entitled to vote at the AGM and other meetings of the UKVA in accordance with the UKV A rules provided either (a) that they shall have paid the hectarage levy, or (b) that they are members of the Large Growers and Producers Group, or (c) that on the 31 March 1996 they were Associate Members of the EVA or Members of an Affiliated Regional Association.

b) A quorum of Members shall be nine Members present when the AGM proceeds to business.

### THE COMMITTEE

6 a) All the business and operations of the Association shall be conducted and managed by a Committee of not less than five nor more than fifteen Members. The Committee shall be elected each year at the AGM.

b) Any Committee member wishing to continue to serve the Committee shall notify the Secretary not less than sixty days before the AGM. Any other Member wishing to stand for the Committee must

notify the Secretary and be proposed and seconded by two Members of the Association not less than sixty days before the AGM.

c) The names of those willing to serve on the Committee for the coming year shall be circulated to Members not less than twenty-one days before the AGM. Those Committee members wishing to continue to serve on the Committee, together with the other Members duly proposed and seconded as above, shall comprise the Committee for the coming year provided only that where there is a total of more than fifteen Members prepared to serve on the Committee those to be appointed shall be decided by a ballot of Members or their proxys at the AGM.

7 a) The Committee shall, as soon as possible after the AGM, appoint from among its members a Chairman, and Secretary, for the coming year, together with such other office holders as the Committee shall decide.

b) The Committee shall in addition appoint the Association's Representative Council member to serve on the Council of the UKVA, together with one named alternate for such Council member.

c) If in any year a full Committee has not resulted from the procedures in Rule 6 herein, the Chairman may co-opt up to a further three Members to serve on the Committee.

d) A quorum of the Committee shall be five members present when the Committee proceeds to business.

#### EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

8 a) The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, may call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at any time in the interests of Members. Not less than twenty-one days notice shall be given in writing to all Members

b) A quorum of Members shall be fifteen Members present when the EGM proceeds to business.

#### ACCOUNTS

9 a) The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept by the Association with respect to all sums of money received and expended by the Association and for an audit by a suitably qualified member of the Association to be carried out each year.

b) The Association shall pay to its office holders, duly appointed as above, all expenses which may have been properly incurred by them in the furtherance of any of the Association's business which has been authorised by the Committee.

c) In the event of the winding-up of the Association the net assets of the Association shall be apportioned among all who are Members at the date of such winding-up.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

11 a) All Members shall pay an annual subscription to be decided at each AGM. The Committee shall each year make its recommendations for the coming year's rate of subscription to be circulated with the Notice of Agenda of the AGM.

b) Members will be asked to re-new their membership by paying the annual subscription shortly after the AGM. The UKVA affiliation fees are payable at the same time. New Members subscriptions and affiliation fees are payable upon joining, save that for those joining in the second half of the subscription year, half of the SWVA subscription will be payable.

c) Membership will lapse if due fees are not paid by 1 September.

#### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

12. The Committee shall cause proper minutes to be kept with respect to the proceedings at all General meetings and meetings of the Committee, and shall produce these to Members upon reasonable demand.

**END**