

Hanney Wine Circle

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The association shall be called the Hanney Wine Circle (Wine Circle).

2. THE AIM

The aim of the Wine Circle shall be to provide an environment in which to pursue the interests of the Members in the tasting and appreciation of wine and related matters in Hanney.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Each person subscribing to the Wine Circle shall be a Member. A prospective new member shall apply to the Secretary. The Committee shall decide on the maximum number of Members.

If the maximum number of Members is reached then the Secretary shall maintain a waiting list. Persons on the waiting list shall be considered for membership in strict order of application, but in exceptional circumstances priority may be given at the discretion of the Committee.

Any Member who fails, without giving advance notice or apology, to attend six or more monthly meetings in any one period of 12 months shall be deemed to have ceased to be a Member and shall not be eligible to renew their subscription, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

There shall be an annual subscription as proposed by the Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting, which shall be due on 1st January in each year and payable following the Annual General Meeting. A Member not paying their subscription by 31st March shall be deemed to have ceased to be a Member.

5. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The business of the Wine Circle shall be conducted by a committee (Committee) on behalf of the Members for the benefit of the Wine Circle; and the Committee shall consist of four officers (Officers) and not less than two and not more than four other Members.

The Officers shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Elections for Officers and other members of the Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting. At each Annual General Meeting there shall be a minimum of two vacancies on the Committee to be filled. When vacancies do not reach the minimum of two, the required vacancy or vacancies will be created by the retirement of those one or two Officers or other members of the Committee who have served for the longest consecutive period. If several Officers or other Committee members have served the same length of time, the retiring Officers or members, unless they otherwise agree amongst themselves, shall be determined by lot.

Officers and other members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of three years. Retiring or resigning Officers and members of the Committee (except the Chairman) may be re-elected to the Committee. The retiring Chairman shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee for one year.

All Officers and other members of the Committee shall be nominated by at least one Member; in the event of that there are more nominations than vacancies, a ballot of the Members present at the Annual General Meeting shall be taken. Nominations for membership of the Committee must be received by the Secretary by the 1st January.

The Committee may elect any Member to fill any vacancy and to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Committee may from time to time be fixed by the Committee and unless so fixed shall be four, including at least one Officer.

The Committee may, at its discretion, co-opt any Member as an additional Committee member.

The Committee may delegate to a Sub-Committee consisting of such Members as it thinks fit. Any Sub-Committee so formed shall conform to any regulation that may be imposed on it by the Committee.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Wine Circle shall be held during January in each year. The chairman of the Meeting shall be the Chairman of the Committee or in their absence the Vice Chairman or in his or her absence the Members present shall elect a chairman from amongst themselves.

The Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting and must do so within one month if requested in writing by not less than one third of the membership, or eighteen Members, whichever is the less, stating the nature of the business to be discussed and voted upon (if a vote is requested). No business shall be discussed or voted upon at an Extraordinary General Meeting other than that for which the Meeting was called.

The Secretary shall give at least fourteen clear days notice in writing of General Meetings to all Members.

Voting shall be by show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by one third of the membership, or eighteen Members, whichever is the less. The chairman's decision on any point of order shall be considered final. In the event of an equal vote the chairman shall have a casting vote.

A Member, who is unable or does not wish to attend a General Meeting, may, upon notice to the Secretary, nominate a proxy to vote on his or her behalf. Such notice shall be received by the Secretary in writing or by email, not less than 48 hours before the start of the General Meeting.

No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business, this quorum being one third of the membership or eighteen Members, whichever is the less, including at least one Officer.

7. ACCOUNTS

Accounts shall be prepared annually and laid before the Members at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall receive all subscriptions. The Treasurer shall keep a proper account of all receipts and disbursements, which may be inspected by any Member upon reasonable notice. The Committee shall appoint a Member who shall not be a member of the Committee to examine the accounts if requested.

8. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

At a General Meeting, called for the purpose, the Wine Circle may by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present or half the membership of the Wine Circle, whichever is the greater, alter the constitution provided that notice of any proposed alteration is served upon each Member with the notice required to be given for a General Meeting.

The Committee shall be the sole authority responsible for the interpretation of these rules.

9. LIABILITIES

No Member shall commit the Wine Circle to any financial or other liability without the authorisation of the Committee.

All Members shall be liable to indemnify any Member against proceedings, losses, costs, damages, claims and demands in respect of the conduct or affairs of the Wine Circle.

10. DISSOLUTION

At a General Meeting called for the purpose, the Wine Circle may be wound up by a resolution approved by the two thirds of the Members present or half the membership of the Wine Circle, whichever is the greater. Any funds remaining in the Circle after all debts and outstanding accounts have been settled, shall be paid to such charities or organisations, and in such shares, as the Members present at the General Meeting shall decide.

11. CONSTITUTION

Any Member is entitled to a copy of the Constitution on request.

12. DATA PROTECTION

Members shall be deemed to have consented to:

- The Wine Circle creating and maintaining a database of personal data regarding their membership ("Data");
- Data being held, maintained and used solely for the benefit of the Wine Circle and the Members; and
- Data being supplied to other Members for the purposes of the Wine Circle.