



Constitution

1. The name of the Society shall be “**THE NORTH YORKSHIRE WINE SOCIETY**”, hereinafter called ‘the Society’.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to encourage the spread of knowledge of wine, viticulture and associated subjects.
3. **The Society** shall be constituted as follows:
 - a. The Honorary Officers as provided by Rule 4.
 - b. The Committee of the Society (hereinafter called ‘the Committee’) as provided by Rule 5.
 - c. Members as provided by Rule 6.
4. **The Honorary Officers** shall consist of a President and Vice Presidents to be elected by the Members as required.
5. **The Committee**
 - a. The Committee shall consist of the Officers, namely the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be specifically proposed and seconded as Rule 7b, and elected at the Annual General Meeting, together with not more than four ordinary Members, also proposed and seconded as at Rule 7b and elected at the AGM. The Committee shall select a Vice Chairman from the four elected members at the first Committee meeting following the AGM. The terms of office of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall not normally exceed two years.
 - b. Should there be no nominations for any of the three Officers, the Committee shall at the first Committee meeting following the AGM select one of the four ordinary members to fill the post until the next AGM. Should four ordinary Members not be voted in at the AGM the Committee has the power to co-opt to fill up to four posts until the next AGM.
 - c. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year to conduct the business of the Society and four Committee members, of which at least one should be an officer, shall constitute a quorum. If required the Committee has the power to appoint subcommittees for specific duties. These subcommittees shall report to the Committee. Only members of the Committee shall have the power to vote.
 - d. The office of Committee member should normally be for a maximum of seven years.

6. Members

- a. The qualification for membership shall be:

- i. Residence in, or close association with, the County of North Yorkshire, the County of Durham or the Tees Valley.
- ii. The payment of such annual subscription as the AGM shall decide.
- iii. To be at least 18 years of age.
- iv. An initial joining fee if the AGM shall decide.

7. Meetings

- a. **ORDINARY MEETINGS** of the Society shall be held at such times and places as the Committee shall decide.

b. GENERAL MEETINGS

- i. The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society shall receive the reports of the Chairman of the Committee and the Treasurer, the latter producing a statement of account for the financial year ended the previous 31st December; approve the appointment of the Honorary Officers as required; elect the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and up to four Committee members; may transact any of the ordinary business of the Society; conduct any business of which fourteen days' notice has been given in writing or by electronic means to the Secretary by any member and, by leave of the Chairman, any other urgent or important business. Nominations for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other Committee members shall be sent in writing or by electronic means to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting. At the discretion of the Chairman nominations for unfilled posts may be accepted at the meeting. Should there be no nominations for any Officer of the Committee then the procedure as at Rule 5b shall apply.
- ii. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS** may be convened by either Honorary Officers, the Committee or by a motion supported by no fewer than one third of the Members of the Society at a normal meeting of the Society. Both the motion and the notice convening the meeting shall state the agenda for the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- iii. Only a General Meeting may alter the Rules of the Society.
- iv. Twenty one days' notice shall be given of a General Meeting and Special Meetings and ten members shall constitute a quorum, of which at least three should be Committee members.

January 2013