

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS



The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Sports Centre, University Park, Nottingham University, Nottingham on Sunday, 2nd April, 1978, commencing at 11-45 a.m.

Members and Delegates attending this meeting may obtain admission cards from the N.A.W.B. table during the period of the Show and Conference and no later than 10-00 a.m. on the day of the meeting on production of either :

(a) A current Membership Card in the case of Individual Members,

or

(b) A signed letter of identification from the Circle, Guild or Federation as appropriate.

Admission cards will be exchanged for voting cards, if needed, when Members and Delegates enter the hall.

Note : Constitution 4 (Voting) states : "Each paid-up Member is entitled to one vote on attendance at the General Meeting."

Unauthorised persons will not be admitted to the A.G.M. but arrangements may be made for spouses and partners of authorised persons at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

D. B. Ives
General Secretary, N.A.W.B.

AGENDA

1. The meeting will be opened by the President of the Association, Mr. F. Bastin.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 1977 Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Chairman's Report 1977-78.
6. Treasurer's Report 1976-77.
7. Election of members to the National Executive.
In accordance with Rule 8(d), one third of the 12 elected members retire, and there will be four vacancies to be filled.

The following nominations have been received, duly proposed and seconded :

Mr. P. Awbery, retiring member
Mr. R. Budge, Hounslow Wine Circle
Mr. N. Chiverton, Lutterworth Wine Circle
Mr. L. Drysdale, retiring representative (Circles)
Mr. N. Pease, East Grinstead Wine Circle
Mr. A. Smith, retiring member

Mr. and Mrs. L. Stagg retire as elected members but are not seeking re-election.

Mrs. S. Hill has been nominated to represent the A.W.N.G.J.

The names of one nominee each, to represent :

- (a) Member Circles
- (b) Member Federations

will be received, in writing, by the Secretary of the N.A.W.B. prior to the start of the A.G.M.

Where no such nominees are received for posts (a) or (b) above, the Executive may nominate a person to fill the vacancy. (Rule 8(c)).

8. Resolutions presented to the Meeting :
Amendments to Rules and Constitution.
 1. Proposed that: With effect from 1st July, 1978, the annual Subscription shall be £5.00 for joint membership of man and wife.
 2. Proposed that: With effect from 1st July, 1978, the annual Subscription shall be £3.00 for joint membership of man and wife who are both over the age of 65 years.
Reference for 1. and 2. : Rule 5 Subscriptions (b).
Both Resolutions Proposed by Mr. J.F. Chilvers,
Individual Member.

3. Proposed that: Rule 37 (Travelling Expenses) shall be amended to read: "Committee Members, when travelling on Association business, shall be entitled to reasonable travel and subsistence allowances not exceeding those rates currently in use by Nationally recognised bodies and applicable to the following circumstances:-
Day subsistence, Overnight accommodation and Agreed transport rates.
Such rates of allowances shall be as determined from time to time by the Executive Committee and displayed through the medium of the Newsletter and shall be reported, annually, at the General Meeting."
Reference: Rule 37
Proposed by the Executive.
9. Nomination of President of the Association 1978-79.
10. Other business, for discussion only: It is suggested that members be issued with a Membership Card containing the Rules and Constitution of the N.A.W.B. similar to those issued to members in 1974.
From Dick Garrett. Individual Member.
11. Presentation of the Executive. Retirements of Freda and Leslie Stagg.
12. The President will close the Meeting.

D.B. Ives
General Secretary, N.A.W.B.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the National Association of Wine and Beermakers (Amateur) held at the Spa Complex, Scarborough, on Sunday, 17th April, 1977.

Mr. L. Stagg in the Chair.

Members representing 180 Individuals, Circles and Federations attended.

There were no apologies for absence.

Mr. C.W. Martin, President of the Association, opened the meeting. In welcoming all attending he expressed his pleasure at meeting so many old friends. He thought that the Scarborough Council deserved a vote of thanks in appreciation of their very efficient organisation, so helping to produce another successful 'National'. In conclusion he recalled the early days of the Association and its Executive Committees and produced a photograph, recently taken, of the 5 ex-Presidents which he then presented to the Chairman. Mr. Stagg, in thanking Bill, assured him that the photo would be displayed at future AGMs.

The minutes of the 1976 Annual General Meeting, having been circulated were taken as read and unanimously adopted by the meeting. Proposed Stan Baker, Sec. Jim Chettle.

Arising from these minutes the Chairman explained that paragraphs (g) and (h) of Rule 5 are now deleted consequent upon the amendment to Rule 5 at the 1976 AGM. He required the agreement of this meeting to this course of action. Carried unan.

The Chairman, in presenting his Report, recalled reference to economic depression and rising costs at last year's AGM and was therefore now happy to state that our financial situation is a little healthier, due, in the main, to the success of the Nottingham 'National'. He now thought it right and proper to reveal to members that, during the period of concern as to whether Nottingham would be a financial success or not, each member of the committee had readily made a personal guarantee of £25 to funds, to be used to offset any deficiency. Happily, no such situation arose.

He then discussed, at great length, the current argument as to the siting of future 'Nationals' — central or nationwide? There is no doubt that Conference towns are becoming more expensive each year and with the attendant costs of travelling and accommodation there may well be an argument in favour of a central venue. But what constitutes 'central' and to what extent would travelling be reduced to those members who would always be on the fringe of such a central venue?

Explaining that Conference towns have now formed an Association and, by offering similar facilities, do not compete with one another as in recent years, the Chairman then detailed the effects of this upon ourselves. Whilst we were once able to make a charge for attendance, including Civic Receptions, and could charge Trade Stands for space, this is now not so as any such charges would be levied upon ourselves by the Civic Authorities and could also result in the loss of free offer of rooms. Thus we now have great difficulty in defraying the cost of producing the Show and Conference and at the same time minimising the expense to members.

We always like to think that our Conference is open to all, including non-members, but, when no charge can be made for attendance, as at Conference Towns, then in deference to members — who, after all, have paid an annual subscription, — we have to devise a means whereby a member shows a distinct advantage over a non-member and so have introduced such schemes as Temporary Membership and Spouse Rate, even although the latter has sometimes resulted in only one partner renewing full membership.

The alternatives to Conference Towns are Holiday Camps and Universities, neither of which can offer Civic Receptions but at least we can state our requirements and obtain them — by paying !

The main limitation to either of these types of venue is size, to meet our requirements for holding the Show and Dance, but both show certain advantages. Accommodation and food can be cheaper, access easy and car-parking ample, and standards higher than at other venues of comparable cost.

The big question mark over the argument for a central, permanent, venue is that affecting the local Circles of that venue. Would we be able to continue our present policy of calling upon them to provide the manpower for general stewarding. Or will they say once is enough?

The Chairman implored members to give full thought and consideration to this subject and to use our 'News and Views' as a forum for discussion and argument.

Mr. Stagg then went on to mention the very good working relationship which exists between ourselves and the Association of Federations and pointed out that two of our committee members serve under both headings. He also reminded the meeting that a line of communication exists between NAWB and the Circles by means of the Circle Rep. It is possible that his services have not yet been used to the full.

The meeting was informed that two co-options were made to the committee — one to fill a vacancy caused by resignation due to ill-health and the other to create a Local Liaison Officer.

The Chairman closed his rather lengthy Report with a word of thanks to the whole of the committee for their support during the year.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mr. Peter Awbery who presented the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th June, 1976. This showed an excess of income over expenditure amounting to £1658.88. Mr. Awbery then discussed the Balance Sheet stating that stringent economy had been the continuing theme of the year's activity and whilst income had benefitted by some £2000 from increased subscriptions and from admissions to the 1976 Show etc., this was somewhat offset by the increase in facility charges of approximately £500, contained under the heading of "Committee, travelling and Show expenses."

However, the "Excess of Income over Expenditure" increased the working reserve and the carry-forward figure contained a sum available for contingency use.

The Treasurer explained that the reason for holding a somewhat large amount in the Current Account was in order to settle accounts with Nottingham University and as soon as these were paid a further sum was transferred to the Deposit Account. In answer to a question from the floor Mr. Awbery stated that, in his opinion, we hold ample funds for present needs at the moment.

Proposed Mr. Elvin Plant, Seconded Mr. Ben Turner, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Election to Executive Committee :

One third of the 12 elected members having retired, in accord with Rule 8(d), and because of a resignation due to ill-health, five vacancies existed. There were six nominations and a Ballot was held. The following were elected to serve for a maximum of three years :

Messrs. G. Christmas, B. Edwards, K. Hill, D. B. Ives and J. Chettle.
Mr. N. Pease was unsuccessful.

The tellers were : Mr. P. Delmon for the Members and Mrs. F. Dobson for the Executive.

Additionally, the following nominated representatives were elected to serve for 1977/78 :

Mrs. S. Hill, A.W.N.G.J., Mr. L. Drysdale, Circles and Mr. M. Matthews, Federations.

Resolutions presented to the meeting :

1. Amendments to Rules and Constitution.

(a) The Executive proposed that the annual subscription should be at a single rate of £3.50 per member. Mr. Marshall, Individual Member, asked if the Temporary Membership still exists. The answer was 'no'. When put to the vote the Resolution was carried, two votes against.

(b) The Executive proposed that the closing date for Membership be moved from 30th November to 31st July for any year.

An amendment from Mrs. J. Burrow, Leeds Wine Circle, that the date should be 30th September as one month did not seem to be sufficient, was Seconded by Mr. Hughes, Enfield.

A further amendment in favour of 31st August was Proposed by Mrs. Wise, Mid-Cheshire and Seconded by Mr. R. Allen, Cardiff Wine Circle.

The main reasons for moving the date at all were given on behalf of the Executive by Mr. A. Smith who detailed costs due to late renewals, posting to members who eventually do not rejoin and administration difficulties of keeping up-to-date lists of current members. He quoted an average figure of 200 who do not rejoin per year resulting in approximately 20p per head to NAWB. Mr. Allen, from the floor, said that if the next item on the Agenda was to be carried (rescinding of the £2.00 re-Registration fee) then the numbers of non-renewals would be even higher.

When voting was called for, both amendments were defeated and the Resolution was carried.

(c) Mrs. Tilly Timbrell Individual Member proposed that the £2.00 re-Registration fee be rescinded and spoke at length on her reasoning. No-one spoke against and the Resolution was carried unanimously. Tilly thanked the Executive for a wonderful Conference.

- (d) Mr. Elvin Plant, Individual Member, proposed that the Chairman appoint a sub-Committee to consider proposals for a scale of Committee Expenses to amend the existing Rule 37, such scale to be flexible and cognisant of changing prices and costs. As an ex-committee member, Mr. Plant spoke of the devotion shown with little regard to personal cost and reminded the meeting that the present scale of expenses was agreed some three years ago when petrol was about one third its present price.

The Chairman explained the procedure which would be adopted in the event of acceptance of the proposal and stated that any amendment to the existing Rule would be presented to the next AGM for adoption.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

At the request of the Chairman and by agreement from the Proposer and Seconder the paragraph of the Proposition, relating to retrospective payment, was deleted.

2. Other Resolutions

- (a) A Proposal, by Mr. Stan Baker, Individual Member, that past, present and future Committee members should receive a small memento upon retirement was defeated. Two votes for.
- (b) A Proposal, by Mr. Stan Baker, Individual Member, that the practice of awarding replicas to Trophy winners be discontinued for reasons of costs and that, instead a special Certificate be designed and presented, was also defeated. One vote for.

The Executive nominated Mr. F. Bastin to be President of the Association for the year 1977/78.

Fred Bastin was introduced by the Chairman who spoke of his long history of connections and service to the Association. The nomination was accepted by the meeting and Fred, in his reply, said that he was deeply conscious of the honour bestowed upon him and it was his intention, so far as it was within his power, to uphold the aims and objects of our Constitution. He and his wife will attend as many functions as is possible during the ensuing year.

At this stage the Chairman produced replicas of Badges of President's Office which had been especially struck for past-Presidents. These were presented to Messrs. Cyril Berry, Ben Turner and Andy Andrews. Mr. Stagg would deliver and present one to Mr. Cyril Lucas.

The token exchange of President's Badge of Office then took place between Bill Martin and Fred Bastin whereupon Mr. Bastin presented a replica to Mr. Martin.

Presentation of Committee:

Mr. Stagg introduced to the meeting each member of the Executive in turn, repeating his thanks to all of them.

Close of Meeting:

In his closing remarks, the Chairman said what a sad moment it was to lose Bill and Rene Martin who had discharged their duties magnificently throughout the year, and especially so at Scarborough, tirelessly touring the Show, contacting and talking to as many Members and Delegates as was possible and passing and sharing their own wines around.

In reply, Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Stagg for his very kind remarks and said that socialising was a prime function of a President. He then addressed his own thanks to the Committee for their hard work throughout the year, having had first-hand knowledge as to how onerous some of the jobs can be.

He expressed his delight in his replica Badge of Office - he would like to show it to everyone at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Martin then welcomed Mr. Bastin as the new President and closed the meeting at 1.05 p.m.

DOUG IVES
General Secretary.