

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE & BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR),  
HELD AT PONTIN'S HOLIDAY VILLAGE, CAMBER SANDS,  
AT 10.30 am, SUNDAY MARCH 24th, 1991

THE PRESIDENT, Mr Roy Butcher, opened the Meeting. He said he had been attending the National since 1963, and the main change had been the growth in the number of Trophies and Classes. This was our first visit to Camber; the accommodation was reasonable, as was the weather, and he was sure everyone had enjoyed themselves. He passed the Meeting to the Chairman, Mrs Judith Irwin, who called on Mr Lenn Drysdale, Hon. Secretary.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE had been received from Mrs J Burrow, Mrs Chiverton, Mr S Baker, Mr C Lucas, and Mr & Mrs J Tompkin.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM: were proposed for acceptance, by Mr J Gorton, seconded by Mr D Reed, and accepted as a true record by those present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mrs Irwin said this was her third year as Chairman. Her first year's report had been 'ad libbed', she had not had time to prepare her second year's report, and this year she had done her homework in time. Attendance was down this year, and many members had missed a very good weekend, and an annual get-together to meet friends. She remarked we needed more ladies on the Committee, and then commenting on Camber, she said it was at least warmer than the holiday camp at Caister, which was part of NAWB's history. The whole country was suffering from the recession, and the Committee had been well aware of the need to economise. Expenses had been cut by reducing the EC Meetings

to three a year, and EC Members were encouraged to work on their own initiative. (Applause)

With regard to the future, we had difficulty in booking sufficient Judges. One possible solution was to hold elimination rounds, with only the winning wines going forward to the final at the National. Members were invited to write to News & Views to comment and put forward their own ideas. About a dozen Federations are members of NAWB, and they would be invited to supply copy for an issue of News & Views. Mr W E (Wally) Grainger was present, with the remarkable record of having judged at the national for 25 consecutive Shows. It was nice to see our older members. We hope to recruit a lot of new members too, hopefully to remain in NAWB for many years. The Chairman thanked: Mr & Mrs P Awbery for all the preparatory work they had done; the General Stewards, (and reminded them to collect their souvenir glasses and certificates); Mr & Mrs Chiverton. Unfortunately Sara was in hospital at present, and we wished her well. Judith said it was probably her last year as Chairman, and she thanked all present for attending, and all members for their support during her term of office.

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS** The Treasurer, Mr M Hayter presented the Accounts for the year to 30 June 1990. 1989/90 had been a good year, closing with a surplus for the year of £1762.74. This was due to a variety of factors, mainly the rise in interest rates, increased subscriptions, and three new Patrons. A High-Interest account had been opened with Barclays Bank. Some venues are cheap for conference, which gives us the chance to build up capital reserves, as a buffer against a bad year in the future. Notes to the Accounts were provided on a supplementary sheet.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mr I Morgan,

seconded by Mr D Reed, and approved by the Meeting. Mr Hayter announced that there would be no change in the subscription rates, but everyone should endeavour to recruit new members.

ELECTIONS: Mr R Mitchell, retiring, did not wish to stand for re-election to the EC. Mr D Pulley and Mr P Johnson were due to retire, and were standing for re-election. Two nominations had been received, for Mr J Carpenter and Mr R Redfearn. On a ballot, Messrs Pulley, Johnson, and Carpenter were elected.

MOTIONS: Mr E Tappenden spoke in support of his Motion to introduce 110 ml 'Medical Flats' medicine bottles for the Liqueur Classes, and was supported by Mrs J Wright and Mr D Swift. Mr I Morgan, Mr R Marsdon, Mrs B Mallinson, Mr G Dickson, and Mr B Gent spoke against the Motion, which was lost on a show of hands.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

VENUES: Mr G Lashbrook pressed for the National to visit the South West, and gave cogent reasons to support his views.

SCHEDULES: Dr B Lamb asked for changes to make the Schedule notes match the Judges Handbook. Mr D Pulley said this had been done generally, but there had been an oversight in this instance. It was also suggested that the Table Wine classes for Grape wines should be extended or divided to allow entries of different types of grape, as several specific types of grape concentrate could now be purchased.

TIMING: Mr A Procter asked if the AGM could start at 10 am in future, for the benefit of those with long journeys home. There was usually some delay if trophies had to be collected.

JUDGES & STEWARDS BRIEFING: Mr J Gorton asked if the Committee would consider holding the briefing in a separate room from the Show. He as a Judge found it very embarrassing this year when the Convenor could hardly be heard at times, due to the amount of background noise.

CIRCLES & FEDERATIONS REPRESENTATIVE: Mr B Edwards said that all Circles and Federations had had letters from the Guild of Judges and NAWB, and he wished to record his appreciation of this cooperation. He asked that Circles and Federations should reply if they haven't done so already, so their views could be made known to the EC.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT: The Chairman advised the Members that Mr Roy Butcher would complete his term of office as President at the end of the AGM. It was proposed that at that point Mrs Sybil Hill would become President, and Mr Jim Chettle Vice-President. All present in favour.

#### COMMITTEE

EXPENSES: The Chairman announced that the car mileage allowance had risen and fallen by 2p per mile during the year; it might prove necessary to increase it again after the Chancellor's Budget.

PRESENTATION: Mrs Irwin then introduced each serving member of the Executive Committee to the Members, explaining the duties of each, and thanking them and their ladies for their support and help during the last year.

NEXT CONFERENCE: The Chairman announced that Conference will next be held at the refurbished Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, on April 10-12, 1992. We had been quoted £21.50 per day, Bed & Breakfast, and £29.50 including evening meal. These figures included VAT at the old rate, and would need adjustment. Single rooms carried a £4 surcharge.

CLOSE OF AGM: The retiring President then thanked Mrs Irwin very much for everything she had done. He intimated that she had been a strong Chairman, giving positive leadership to the Association over the last three years, and he called on the Members for a vote of thanks.

This had been our first visit to Camber, and he thanked the management and staff for their help and encouragement. He then asked the Past Presidents present (Messrs K Hill and P Awbery) to stand, as he handed over the President's chain of office to Mrs Hill. He knew that the new President and Vice-President were much involved in Wine Circles, and hoped the EC would keep them informed of their deliberations.

Mr Butcher then formally closed the Meeting.

The new President took the opportunity of briefly addressing the members before they dispersed. She thanked the retiring President for his good wishes. Mrs Hill said she had been a member of NAWB since 1961, and had served for many years on the Executive Committees of both NAWB and the NGWBJ. She promised to do all she could as President to keep NAWB flourishing.