

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS
(AMATEUR)**

MINUTES OF 38th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held on Sunday, 31st. March, 1996
at Weston-super-Mare.**

1. **The Meeting was opened by the President, Mr. Norman Chiverton, at 11.12a.m. After welcoming everyone, and giving a brief resume' of the Federations/Circles visited during his first year in office, he handed the Meeting over to the Chairman, Mr. Lenn Drysdale.**
**Members present: 162 Individual members
13 Circle representatives
4 Federation representatives
were recorded in the attendance register.**

2. **Apologies for Absence were received from Jim & Pauline Chettle, Brian Edwards, Brian & Barbara Gent, Eric & Muriel Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ekins, Tom Wilson, Chris Charles, Brenda Holgate, Hedley Jackson, Jeff Cooper and Gerald & Maureen Mollart.**

3. **Minutes of the 1995 A.G.M.: with a correction to the spelling of "Marjorie Ives", these were taken as read. Proposed: P. Awbery
Seconded: D. Ives
Approved.**

4. **Matters Arising: The General Secretary (Dr. Jim Parrack) outlined a series of measures being taken largely as a result of comments made at the last A.G.M.**
 - a) **Investigation of advantageous "blanket coverage" insurance proposals, which should benefit all individual members and affiliated Federations and Circles.**
 - b) **Judge's Schedules and copies of "News & Views" are now distributed at the Judge's A.G.M. in November, thus cutting down on postal charges.**
 - c) **"News & Views" has been restricted to 3 issues for the present year.**
 - d) **A "Family" Conference Ticket has been introduced, and under-12's are now admitted free.**
 - e) **A variety of Open Classes had been included in the Show Schedule on a trial basis (more advanced publicity might improve the entry in future).**

5. **Chairman's Report: - attached.**

6. Treasurer's Report: - attached.

In speaking to her report, the Treasurer (Ms. Judith Irwin) indicated that this year had seen some improvement in the overall situation, with 320 attending Conference. The Commercial Winetasting by Hatch Mansfield Agencies had been given free of charge. Preliminary indications were that profits on:-

Tombola	would be of the order of	£180
Wine Raffle	" " " " " "	£149
Other Raffles	" " " " " "	£780

Membership was now 420: the Venue had cost £2,500 for an estimated 400 attending. "News & Views" was now absorbing £5 of a £10 Membership Fee.

Janet Atbury & Marjorie Ives were thanked for running the Tombola (in the absence of Brian Edwards through illness) and the raffle ticket sellers were also thanked. Judith apologised for her forceful comments in relation to the behaviour of the band on the Friday night, but pointed out that this was a last resort after a 60-strong Circle had threatened to walk out! The band on the Saturday night was supplied by the Corporation, and thus out of her control.

The problem of future venues and travelling distances was also aired, and finally thanks were given to Gwan Murray for her assistance with the finances.

In discussion, the following comments/suggestions were made:-

- a) How consistent is the overall cost of running the Annual Show? (Keith Simpson). Variable, depending on venue. The General Secretary undertook to attempt the preparation of a pro-forma that would allow at-a-glance comparisons to be made of costings for successive venues.
- b) Can the general tone of "News & Views" be made more positive? (K.S.)
- c) Should we go back to 4 issues of "News & Views", to keep members more in touch with problems? (Marion Morgan). Difficult to justify the extra expense at present.
- d) Duplication in sending correspondence to Individual & Circle Members (Denis Reed). Largely unavoidable.
- e) Proposal for additional single-sheet newsletter for circulation to Trade, etc. (Roy Butcher).
- f) The enormous effort required to secure even 1 new member. (Andrew Bristow). But if each member introduced only 1 new member.....!
- g) Distribute "News & Views" more widely (Eric Tappenden). At present, timing not right.
- h) Every member of the National Guild of Judges should also be a member of N.A.W.B. (Vernon Whitehouse, supported by Joy Dinnage and others). Might an Associate Membership be an acceptable alternative? (Judith Irwin). General feeling that this shouldn't be necessary.
- i) All Shows supported well from the South-west (Gavin Dixon) and from the North (Al Procter).
- j) Why can the Wales & West Federation regularly have an attendance of 1,000+, even when the venue is at a Holiday Camp? Is it due to constancy

of venue? (George Lashbrook).

- k) Ask Judges for a list of Circles that they attend for judging, and circularise all of these re. joining N.A.W.B. (Mike Bedwell). Well supported from membership.

The Chairman thanked the membership for constructive comments, and requested movement to accept the Report.

Proposed: Al Procter

Seconded: Denis Reed

Accepted.

Denis Reed on behalf of the members thanked Judith for all the hard work that she had put in.

- 7) Joy Dinnage, Lenn Drysdale and Judith Irwin retired by rotation under Rule 8(d), and, having been duly proposed and seconded, offered themselves for re-election. Dave Pulley had also tendered his resignation, due to increasing pressure of work. During the year, Alan Eldret had been co-opted, and, having been duly proposed and seconded, offered himself for election to the Committee. There were thus 4 nominations for 4 vacancies on Committee, and no need for an election. It remained to move acceptance of the reconstituted Committee.

Proposed: Gerard Sparrow

Seconded: George Lashbrook

Accepted.

- 8a) Joy Dinnage proposed "To change the N.A.W.B. year to run from 1st. Jan. - 31st. Dec." Judith Irwin spoke, both in her capacity as Treasurer and as an Individual Member, against the advisability of making any change (particularly at the present time), and this view was supported by the majority of speakers from the floor, notably Doug Ives, Peter Awbery, Harry Rose, Gavin Dixon, Roy Butcher. Summing up, Pauline Pearce suggested the beginning of the calendar year was a natural time to renew subscriptions, prompting Julien Daniels to suggest that payment by Standing Order might solve the problem, without involving additional expense. There were no valid amendments.

When put to the vote, the motion was defeated by a majority of c. 5:1.

- 8b) In the absence of Tom Wilson, Al Procter spoke to the motion "To replace the Hidalgo Trophy by a replica". Comments from the membership included:-
- a) a reminder of the value of the Trophy - £1,000+ (Dave Pulley)
 - b) a proposal to melt down, and strike medals for the winners (Doug Hodgkinson)
 - c) donating the Trophy to Scarborough Museum in return for the Corporation's past generosity to N.A.W.B.

When put to the vote, the motion was carried virtually unanimously, and was accompanied by a rider to the effect that the Committee should come up with proposals for the disposal of the Trophy (Doug Ives), which met with general agreement.

9) Any other Business.

1) Peter Awbery proposed the advantages of attaining Charitable Status.

The General Secretary pointed out that:-

a) some members of the Committee were still, or had recently been providing (cut-rate) services for N.A.W.B., and were thus "benefitting financially" from the Association. Modification of the system would require either:- i) increasing expenditure, or

ii) such members being made "*ex-officio*".

b) as a Charity, we would have to open Conference doors to the public and charge admission (thus creating a situation in which Scarborough Corporation would charge for use of the Spa Complex, thereby negating any financial advantage the status might confer).

The only alternative to this latter problem at present envisaged would be to include the Conference Fee in the Annual Subscription (open to the public), which would lose us membership of all those who did not attend the Conference. other possible alternatives are being investigated.

2) Various suggestions for increasing membership by:-

a) liaison with CAMRA and their newly-formed Craft Brewers Association - contact James McCrory, Darden Park Beer Circle. (Keith Simpson, Lesley Cooper);

b) advertising for membership in newsletters of these and similar organisations (Gillian Pearce), including the National Beekeepers Association (Peter Awbery);

c) more extensive media advertising in general (George Lashbrook).

3) Could the Committee go ahead with the implementation of Standing Orders without waiting for the next A.G.M.? (Harry Rose). Yes.

4) Future Venues. Items raised under this heading included:-

a) Travel and associated problems. Should we use only Scarborough and Weston-super-Mare (alternately) as being apparently generally acceptable? (Derek Pearce). We can't afford to lose money if some members involved in extreme distances felt unable to travel (Judith Irwin).

b) Several venues in the Midlands had been examined unsuccessfully (and this in itself was a drain on finances) (Reg Redfearn). Telford were mentioned again (Stan Drinkwater), but had proved too costly (R.R.)

c) The National Guild of Judges now operate from one reasonably central venue, without any appreciable change in the total numbers attending: both Weston-super-Mare and Scarborough should be suitable for N.A.W.B. in future. (Doug Hodgkinson).

d) Scarborough has excellent facilities for a permanent centre - but would support the use of both venues (Al Procter).

- 5) Stagnant membership noted at Nottingham (D. Norman)
- 6) Could Circles and/or Federations hold events, part (or all) of the proceeds of which could be dedicated to N.A.W.B. (thereby also helping to publicise N.A.W.B.)? (Anne Parrack).
- 7) Were Kit Beers under consideration for inclusion in classes from which Master Wine/Beeremaker would be chosen? (Phil Hardy). This had been considered, but defeated, and there was no proposal to raise it again. (Alan Eldret).
- 8) Proceedings during the Awards Ceremony on the Saturday night were inaudible to those seated on the balcony, and could this Ceremony be rearranged to the Sunday morning, when facilities were much improved. (Lesley Cooper).
- 9) Could a presentation be made to Dave Pulley, in recognition for all the work that he had done for the Association over many years? (Roy Butcher)
- 10) Presentation of the Committee. In view of the lengthy discussions, the Chairman gave only a brief indication of the various posts occupied by the Committee Members, and thanked them for their efforts over the past year.
- 11) Date & Venue for Next Conference. The Chairman reminded members that the 1997 Conference venue would be at Scarborough during 21st. - 23rd. March.
- 12) Close of Meeting. Peter Awbery thanked the President for officiating at the Meeting, which the latter closed at 12.45p.m., after wishing all members a safe journey home.

J.D. Parrack
General Secretary.