

BOTTLING

I can never remember how much priming sugar to add to each bottle. Is it a teaspoonful or a tablespoonful? Best to compromise with a dessertspoonful. No heading liquid was available, but the shampoo would possibly do the same service. Perhaps it was a lucky accident after all.

APPRECIATION

The first few bottles were taken to a circle committee meeting for criticism. Our secretary and treasurer tasted it and rushed out clutching their throats. Great kidders, these boys, but inclined to be unduly melodramatic.

"Would you class it as a pale ale?" I asked our tame beer judge.

"Well, it could be," he replied. "Those two were pale enough when they left."

The rest of the committee were content to savour the bouquet.

"Do you think it should have been fined," I asked the chairman.

"A long prison sentence would be more appropriate," he replied, hilariously.

That is the trouble with our circle, people will just not be serious about important things. Perhaps I can keep a bottle in a cool place for next year's National. The judges there should give their honest opinions. It might even win a trophy.

Oh, and I must remember to take a couple of bottles along to the friendly chemist. Surely if anyone deserves to drink it, he does.



Musical moments

by Philip Delmon

Song No. 4 (Tune: *Maybe it's because . . .*)

Maybe it's because I'm a winemaker
That I like making wine.
To brew a pot of ale or stout or lager
Is some's idea of fun—but it isn't mine.
My dinner never feels the same inside of me
If with beer I wash it down
And now I've said I'm proud to be a winemaker
Make mine a pint of brown.

NEW JUDGES GUILD FORMED

A new organisation calling itself "The British Amateur Wine Judges Guild" has now been formed, the ostensible reason being that it disagrees with the ruling by the existing Amateur Winemakers National Guild of Judges that judges should not reveal their markings.

It clearly intends to parallel the work of the existing Guild, and the name is sufficiently similar to be bound to cause confusion.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. F. Robinson, of 71 School Lane, Freckleton, Preston, writes:

"Our prime aim of course is to make the Guild truly nation wide, but I must stress the point that we really feel that there is room in the country for another body of judges, as well as the National Association, and the various County Federations, and we sincerely hope that we are all three able to work side by side to give winemakers and organisers of shows and competitions all the help and encouragement that we can muster.

"Something that we do want to bring into being is a training scheme for the training of people who have had a number of years of winemaking experience and who would like to become judges, and who may have a view to becoming one of the 'Guild of Judges'.

The first meeting of the proposed Guild took place on Sunday, 22nd August, 1971. The people who attended this meeting decided that they would form this new body. After six hours of talking and discussion 'The British Amateur Wine Judges Guild', came into being with an elected committee of six, three principal officers and three committee workers. The new Guild sent members out for the first time on 28th August, to a wine and beer competition and show being organised by the 'Tawd Vale' Wine Circle at Skemerdale in Lancashire.

The Guild is organising a national competition for the best design for a diploma prize card incorporating its title.

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