



National Association of Amateur Winemakers

N.A.A.W.
Member

News and Views

Occasional

November, 1969



"I led a very normal life until 1½ years ago.
Then I started winemaking."

From a letter received from Mr. A. E. Wasco
—our first U.S.A. member.

Dear Member(s),

It seems a long time—indeed it is a long time—since the last Newsletter came your way, but in fact the majority of the news of the Association and its members is found during the six winter months. During the summer we meet at various shows, discuss winemaking, disport ourselves in the sunshine, and meanwhile little seems to be happening in the world of winemaking. But in fact the Executive are meeting and things do jog along steadily, and there are now several items of interest for me to publish. Much of this may be concerned with Caister next April, but then, Caister is the most important event in the Wine-making Calendar next year.

Plans for the National are being made, and then re-made, throughout the whole of the year, and gradually the final details emerge. On looking back to the January News and Views, I see that a bold heading declares BRIGHTON in 1970, whereas now (as I hope everybody knows), it will be Caister-on-Sea Holiday Camp in 1970. We have all had much argument in the past as to the relative merits, or otherwise, of a Holiday Camp as compared with a Conference Town, but I feel sure that at Caister we shall have all the advantages of one and none of the disappointments of the other. We shall have the whole camp to ourselves, with no day visitors, no restrictions on drinking our own wine at any time, a range of accommodation to suit all tastes, plenty of space for all our activities, and no organised distractions to tear us away from our primary purpose. All this and a Gala Dinner together prior to our usual Saturday evening dance.

I visited the camp a few days ago, and although the sea was uninviting for swimming purposes, I think that for all "National" purposes this camp is ideal. And for the gourmet, too, the chef proudly considers his menus to be a highlight of a visit to the camp—and no one who has sampled a meal there would dispute that. (I quote from the camp brochure!)

Since I 'volunteered' to undertake all the accommodation bookings for next April, I will apologise at once for one slight nuisance that you will find. When you come to make your actual bookings, there will be two forms to complete. I am sorry about this, but the camp require their own form to be completed, and the Association will require another. I sincerely hope that you will find both of these forms simple to fill in—because if you don't, I am going to be the one that suffers!

There are five types of accommodation, all in chalets of course, but of different sizes.

TYPE A has two bedrooms, sleeping two in each, and also a small lounge (with cooking facilities), but I must warn you that this type of chalet is in a separate part of the camp, not too far away, but you cannot be next door to any friends in any other type of accommodation.

TYPE B. Chalets with two rooms, one with a double bed, and one with two singles. Bathroom and toilet en suite. Suitable for families—or three ladies—or three gents.

TYPE C. One room chalets with bathroom and toilet en suite. Suitable for two persons, or two plus child.

TYPE D. Single chalets with bathroom and toilet.

TYPE E. A one room chalet with toilet facilities but no bathroom. Sleeping two persons.

All except type A are arranged around attractive playing fields, so that friends in different types may be accommodated close to each other.

Games rooms, tennis courts, bowling greens, bars, etc. will be available for use if required.

As usual, the schedules, booking forms, programmes, etc. will be available early in January, and current members of the Association for whom we have correct addresses will receive their literature then.

AND THE NEXT?

So much for Caister—we shall all meet there in the spring. What about 1971? The committee are already investigating several possibilities, mainly in the northern half of the country. But the southerners need not despair—we shall be coming there in 1972. Eastbourne (suntrap of the south) has already been booked for 1972!

THE SCHEDULE

Some amendments have been made to the schedule for the actual wine and beer classes at the coming show, and I would advise our members in advance of one or two of these. We hope that all members appreciate our desire to improve the show by such changes—and if you do feel a particular change is wrong, then do please write and say so.

What is known as the “Circle Championship”—actually it is the Marconi Club Trophy that is awarded for this—is no longer to be awarded to a single winner of a single class, but there will be three classes for the circle to enter. Maximum points in the three classes, Table White, Table Red and Dessert Red, will win the trophy. There will be four extra classes for individual members—Aperitif Dry, Aperitif Sweet, Table Red Medium and the three bottle class. The beer and stout classes will be increased to accommodate a Lager class, and this class will have the Itona Tankard, a new trophy which will be awarded annually, presented to the winner.

The Artistic Exhibit section will be omitted due to the lack of support for this class in recent years. I know that several of our more artistic friends will be disappointed because of this—as indeed were the photographers when their section was dropped—but although we would all agree that these exhibits add to the general interest of the show as a whole, they do not warrant inclusion when only two or three exhibits appear on the benches.

Some re-arrangement of the trophies will be necessary to keep in line with these changes. Another new trophy will also be making its appearance on the list. This is the “Sweet 'n Dry Trophy”, kindly presented by Mrs. Gallimore, and it will be awarded to the Associate Member gaining most points in the show.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION?

As you may have noticed by the quotation on the front page of this issue, we now have a member in the U.S.A. Renee Martin has been receiving long and interesting letters from him, and from the great keenness evident in these letters, we shall soon be having an Affiliated Circle over there. Anyway, I am sure we all welcome him as a fellow winemaker, and always hope that some day we shall meet.

BITS AND PIECES

The Association does have a block of the National Emblem, which is available on loan to Affiliated Circles wishing to use the emblem on their stationery. Mrs. Martin will gladly give details to any Circle that is interested.

Please **DO** notify any change of address to the Membership Secretary. The Committee really cannot hold itself responsible for lost schedules, letters, tickets, etc., where this has not been done.

I did not get a very good response to my request for offers of help to newly-formed Circles. I think only three members were willing to give the time to go and speak to such Circles, to help them along, and rather than put these three names before a large number of hopeful Circles, I will hold them back for a while hoping for a few more (fifty or so) volunteers.

So far as advertising Federation Shows is concerned, it is my fault here that more wasn't done. I find that nearly all of them are over for this year, so I have missed my chance to advertise them. But remember, there is always next year's Show, which, like the National itself, is **always** a better Show than the previous year's. So, when you know the date of next year's Show, let me know it please.

Last of all—a question to you all. Do you really want to see the name and Circle of all competitors on the actual bottle on the show-bench? It takes a terribly long time writing them all out. We have always been prepared to do this, in the belief that visitors to the Show want to see for themselves who entered in each class—and who had failed to get an award. Would you all be just as happy looking at the prize cards to see who has won, but with no actual names on all of the bottles? It will be very much easier for the organisers this way. What do you think?

This, then, is our news of today. Doubtless there will be a great deal more very soon, with the report on items at the A.G.M., and with your comments on some of the above. Please let us know of your comments—the address is at the top.

Hoping to see everybody at the A.G.M.

Philip Delmon