

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR
WINEMAKERS



N.A.A.W.
Member

NEWS AND VIEWS
OCCASIONAL

MAY 1970



WINE AND WOMEN ARE ON THIS
EARTH EVERY IMAGINABLE JOY,
AND THROUGH THEM MAN
MAY REACH HEAVEN WITHOUT
HAVING TO DIE

—GOETHE.

19, Rowditch Ave.,
Derby
DE3 3LE.

Dear Members,

As you will see from the different address at the top of this letter, the Editorship has passed from Philip's very capable hands to my rather inexperienced ones. I feel rather apprehensive about following in his footsteps as Editor of News and Views, and hope that I shall be able to maintain his very high standard.

May I now introduce myself—Mercia Disney, a very keen winemaker and member of Derby Winemakers Circle, whose reins of Secretaryship I recently relinquished to become a founder-member and Secretary of a second circle called "The Derwent Valley Wine Society" which has just been formed in Derby to accommodate our flourishing winemaking fraternity.

Last November at the A.G.M. I had the honour of being elected to the Executive Committee of the N.A.A.W. where I am now enjoying my first term in office as Minute Secretary and Editor of News and Views. Part of the responsibility for the continued success of this letter lies with you, the members, so do please let me have your views and comments so that I can print them in future issues.

In conclusion may I, on your behalf thank Philip for all the effort, time and thought he has put into compiling and producing News and Views over the past two years.

ASSOCIATION NEWS—A.G.M.

As those of you who attended the National at Caister know, Mr. C. J. J. Berry was unanimously voted as President for 1970. The following members were elected to serve on the Executive Committee: Mr. S. W. Andrews, Mr. K. Hill, Dr. R. A. Webb, W/Commander. R. Woodyly and myself.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the first Committee meeting of the new year 1969-70, Mr. Andrews declined to accept the position of chairman again, owing to numerous commitments and demands on his time. Dr. Webb was proposed and unanimously elected as Chairman for 1970.

The second Committee meeting held early in March was spent mainly discussing details for Caister. Members were very sorry to hear of the resignation of Wing Commander Woodyly due to ill-health. He had served as a Committee member for a number of years and his efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Mr. Elvin Plant has been elected to fill the vacancy until the next A.G.M.

THE NATIONAL, CAISTER

It seems hard to realise that the long awaited weekend at Caister is over, but I am sure everyone agrees it came up to expectations. The only causes for complaint seemed to be the cold, both in the chalets and the east coast wind, but there was plenty of wine flowing to warm the interior, even if the exterior suffered.

Approximately 800 people attended, and a record number of 4,100 bottles were entered, although as Dr. Webb said in his closing speech, this ever increasing number of entries is raising a problem, both in the space required for staging, and also the number of Judges required, some of the classes being so large that three Judges were needed to judge them. In view of this the Committee are going to discuss ways and means of cutting down the entries; possibly by limiting the number per person, but more news of this later.

Mrs. Alma Beall has very kindly agreed to write her impressions of the National, and I am sure you will enjoy reading it.

Now that the intrepid adventurers are all safely returned from the icy steppes of furthest Norfolk may I record a few of my impressions of this year's National. The constantly expanding popularity of this Festival is causing much thought and worry to those who do the planning and organising to prevent it getting out of hand through sheer size. One hears many suggestions put forward for coping with this problem, none yet seem adequate or capable of being put into practice. As a Judge I find that over the years presentation has improved beyond recognition but quality has not kept pace. If only we could persuade would-be competitors to improve their standards and only enter really good wines of the right type for the class in which they are entered we should go a long way to keeping numbers within bounds, also we might persuade the confirmed "pot-hunters" to curb their enthusiasms just a little. Both difficult and touchy subjects needing great tact and diplomacy to carry out! Another type I'd like to discourage (somehow) is the one with the mistaken idea of pushing the numbers up (a remark I overheard during the Saturday afternoon). It might have had some dubious merit in the early days but definitely not now.

I was pleased to see better support from the trade stands this year with a few more in evidence. Many of us take this opportunity to "shop around" and buy items we haven't seen elsewhere. I would like to see still more next year if space permits.

Without exception everyone seemed to enjoy themselves completely at the evening dance, even the young lady singer who "belted" the songs out to her utmost vocal extent, as those of us who sat near one of the relay systems know full well.

What of the venue in general? I think from all sides I heard the same comment, as a holiday-camp much nicer than Butlins with less regimentation, with larger and better appointed chalets and everyone thought that the decor in the ballroom and dining room superior. Of course there were a few minor grumbles, human nature being what it is you can't please all of them all of the time.

The weather surely headed the list, but that was something no one anticipated and no one could do anything about—but wasn't it cold? I wonder how many like us returned with horrible sneezes and sniffles? The wind seemed to blow direct from the Arctic across the dunes making all and sundry muffle up in scarves. An Eskimo outfit would have been more appropriate, and then on Saturday evening—insult to injury to find only cold water when we returned to our chalets to tidy-up for the evenings jollifications, someone on the camp had “boobed” rather badly! Still we all came up smiling—you can't keep winemakers down when they are bent on enjoying themselves and I'm sure everyone would say it was worth it.

Congratulations to those committee members who arranged the acceptance and collection of bottles. It was one of the quickest and smoothest I've seen and I heard several other pleased remarks in the same vein.

May I air just one very small grouse of my own? That is the arrangements for tea in the afternoon. Those of us who were doing a stint of “Judges at the Bar” were unable to get to the stand for a longed for “cuppa” till after 5.30 p.m., when we had to join the queue and before many of us got that life-saver we were being chivied to “get up and go.”

I understand that next years National is to be held at Hull, again on the East Coast. From previous experience many of us will feel happier that it is being held in a town again.

Without doubt this was another very successful National which neither weather, cold water or any other small pinprick could mar, but I wonder how many people have any idea or even stop to think of the worries and headaches that so often crop up behind the scenes when arranging a successful venture such as this from which we all get so much enjoyment? I think a big thank you should be accorded from everyone to all those committee members who gave their time so generously and worked so hard (one member I know was still working at 10 p.m. when the dance was in full swing) to make sure our weekend was a pleasant and memorable one. The first to arrive and last to leave, still working and clearing up when the rest of us were saying goodbye to old and new friends. Here is my own personal and sincere “thank you” to every member of the committee who made it possible for me to enjoy another very delightful National.

ALMA L. BEALL.

After that very comprehensive report what can I say but thank you Mrs. Beall, and let's all hope that Hull 1971 is as successful and enjoyable as Caister. For the many friends who were unable to be with us here is a list of Trophy Winners:

Marconi Club Trophy—West Kent.

Eric Malin Trophy—Mr. R. Ward, Coventry.

Vina Trophy—Mr. D. Gray, Stockton.

Bastin Cup—Mrs. M. Gregory, Twickenham
Mr. A. Skinner, not attached.

Cedric Austin Cup—Mr. A. Francis, York.

Atcherley Trophy—Mr. and Mrs. M. Sims, Solihull.

Sweet 'n' Dry Cup—Mr. A. Myers, Canterbury.

Shaw Porter Cup—Mr. D. Bowler, Derby.

Andrews Cup—Mr. and Mrs. A. Webster, Norfolk.

Bilham Tastevin—Mr. D. Usher, West Kent.

Roycroft Cup—Mrs. M. Stead, Manchester.

Southern Vinyards Trophy—Mrs. J. Tanner, Reading.

Loftus Cup—Mr. G. Holt, Epsom Downs.

Hidalgo Trophy—Mr. V. Owen, Reading.
Mr. D. Gray, Stockton.

Bournemouth Masters Winemakers Cup—Mr. D. Bowler, Derby.

Hill Cup—Mr. and Mrs. M. Sims, Solihull.

Turner Trophy—Mrs. J. Evans, Woolwich.

Itona Tankard—Mr. D. Morgan, B.E.A., Silver Wing.

Wilf Newson Cup—Mr. P. Cusnett, Twickenham.

Temple Tankard—Mr. D. Morgan, B.E.A. Silver Wing.

Gordon Instone Cup—Mr. W. Lax, Harrow.

Amateur Winemaker Shield—West Kent.

Lucas Cup—W. Aggas, Bournemouth.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Moving on to the rest of the year, here is a list of major Shows and Festivals for 1970. If your Show is not listed here and you would like it included another year, please Secretaries, write and advise me so that it can be included in future, as this is one sure way to avoid a clashing of dates.

Southend Show—25th July, 1970.

Hull Show—31st July and 1st August, 1970, Mr. A. Akroyd, 23,
The Parkway, Willerby, Hull, HU10 6AP.

British Timpkin, Duston, Northampton—28th and 29th August,
1970.

Herts Horticultural Society—Sept. 5th and 6th. Miss A. Stokes,
26 Poplar Ave., Luton, Beds.

East Midlands Amateur Wine Makers Festival, Nottingham—12th Sept., 1970, Mr. B. Cross, 90 Ranelagh Grove, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 1HU.

Wales and West Wine Show, Cardiff—19th Sept. 1970, Mr. J. Toule, Chateau Carna, 40 Bromley Heath Rd, Downend, Bristol.

Yorkshire Federation, Harrogate—9th, 10th, 11th Oct., 1970.
Mr. A. Akroyd, 23 The Parkway, Willerby, Hull HU10 6AP.

Midlands Region Federation, Rugby—17th Oct., 1970.
Mr. J. Chaplin, 22, Browning Rd., Hillmorton, Rugby.

Wickford Show—17th Oct., 1970, Mrs. R. Dodds, 13 Cromwell Road, Southend-on-Sea.

North Western Federation, Morecambe—23rd, 24th, 25th Oct., 1970, Mr. J. Gibbs, 2 Broadacre Place, Caton, Lancaster

Guildford Show—5th and 6th Sept. 1970, Mr. J. Ramsay, Little Haye, Priors Field Road, Hurtmore, Godalming, Surrey.

Another event to look forward to for later in the year is the Summer School. This is to be held at Devonshire Hall, University of Leeds, from Friday 4th Sept.-Sun. 6th Sept. Cost £8, anyone wishing to apply should write to Mr. S. W. Andrews.

In response to the request for help for newly formed Circles, I have had two replies passed on to me. Mrs. G. Andrew, High Delf, Coleford, Glos.; Mr. A. J. Ball, 25 Gisborne Crescent, Allestree, Derby (Derby 58463); Mr. R. Garret, 20 Runfold Ave., Luton.

If anyone else is prepared to go along to a newly-formed Wine Circle and help by giving a talk or offering advice re organisation, please let me know so that I can publish them in the next issue.

Finally, a request from the Membership Secretary. Do please notify her of any change of address or Secretary, as otherwise schedules, letters, etc. will go astray. Also may I remind you all that Subscriptions will be due from July 1st.

Now I shall sit back and wait for the letters to roll in, from which I hope to form the basis of the next newsletter.

Until the next time then,

MERCIA DISNEY.