



N.A.A.W.
Member

National Association of Amateur Winemakers

News and Views

Occasional

November, 1971



“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),

Your Newsletter appears yet again in a different format, but it now has a look about it which will become increasingly familiar to you as the years go by.

My general plea in the last N.A.V.O. for constructive ideas of improving the National status and operation of our Association did not bring in hundreds of letters. It did not bring in one! However, your Executive Committee **DO** think seriously about such things; they do realise their responsibility to the Association in this matter; and they do intend doing something about it. Meanwhile, of course, the arrangements for the next Show go on, and the plans for Eastbourne begin to materialise. The Conference hotel will be :

PRINCES HOTEL, LASCELLES TERRACE, EASTBOURNE

The Show is being held in the Winter Garden and Pavilion—next door to the Congress Theatre—so if you wish to book into other nearby accommodation write to addresses in the Wish Tower area.

Would you note that in the schedule for 1972 there will be a class for Barley Wine—among the beers, not among the wines—so any brewer who specialises in a Barley Wine will have good time to prepare his entry. In the schedule for 1973 will be a photographic class. A set of six 35mm colour transparencies on a winemaking theme. (Wine drinking or wine showing sets are not intended).

The only letters I have received since the last newsletter are :

(1) A complaint from a circle secretary that we have not published the name and address of our membership secretary. This post has been held for several years past by Mrs. D. R. Martin, 78 Broomhill Road, Farnborough, and she will be very pleased to receive subscriptions either from circles or individuals at any time.

(2) A reply to Stan Baker's suggestions (printed in my last issue) and coming from Mr. George Purton. He writes : "Please tell Stan, NO, NO, NO. His idea would split the movement into Big Heads and Little Heads. Some time ago there was a movement afoot for specialist clubs, but as I haven't seen any news of them lately, I assume they have died the death. Even with regional shows they tend to try and outdo one another as far as North v South is concerned. Stan's friend, Mr. Drysdale, must be joking—or they have held some Nationals that I haven't heard of. Anyway, I have made some wonderful friends in the North [Me, too—Ed.].

No, Stan, let's keep the National as it is. You can always try Oxford again".

He then continues with a constructive suggestion :

“I would, however, like to see a Winemakers’ Weekend, on the same scale as the National, but with no competitions. Simply Saturday and Sunday given over to meeting old friends, with quiz panels, talks at all levels, demonstrations, commercial tastings, etc., and, of course, a Dance/Social on the Saturday evening”.

I will assure George Purtin, and any other winemakers who feel this “National without the Show” has some merit, that I am currently making enquiries towards holding a One Day Symposium. This will not be quite the wide ranging scale suggested above, but it will produce lectures at a higher factual content than we often hear, and it will give opportunity to meet old friends, or young ones, over coffee and over lunch. If it were held on a Saturday, in a college building, not everybody would be able to come, but with sufficient interest shown there is no reason why the same four “papers” cannot be presented at several day Symposia held in different parts of the country. Has anyone got a contact with a Technical College that would hire out a hall and provide coffee and lunch for 200 on a Saturday?

And now to the “meat” of this letter.

The Association is proposing to produce a series of leaflets on all the winemaking matters which will be helpful to individuals, to Associations and to Federations. We frequently receive letters asking for advice and we feel that part of our function is to publish such assistance as we can give to our members. Accordingly, a loose-leaf binder will be issued to Member Circles, and into this can be collected all this National literature. Publications of all types will be uniformly presented, and can be filed for easy reference, and will be kept up-to-date by new issues as necessary. In addition to all our present reminders, newsletters, chairman’s letter, advance notices, etc., we would hope to produce lists of speakers, dates and places of shows, circle secretary address lists, reports on new books and equipment, winemaking and wine showing information, etc.

Is this not what a National Association **should** be doing?

It is what we shall be doing.

We have, of course, been warned over and over again that it is impossible to keep an up-to-date list of circles and speakers. This may be so. But it does not prevent us from **trying**—with your help. Will you help us by filling in to the best of your knowledge, and with others in your circle, any speakers on wine subjects (for whom you can give some form of recommendation), and any circle secretaries known to you—whether members of N.A.A.W. or not. We on the executive will then get things moving. In the meantime, you could be advising non-member

circles that there is now some advantage to be gained from membership of the Association.

Next year's shows, etc.

April 7th, 8th, 9th	National Show and A.G.M.	Eastbourne
April 29th	Hertfordshire Show	Welwyn Garden City
October 7th	Middlesex Festival	Southall
October 21st	Midland Region	Solihull

Before closing this letter I must on behalf of all our members wish our President, Ben Turner, a speedy recovery from his forthcoming operation.

Philip Delmon