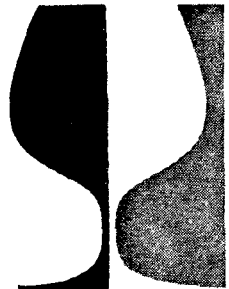


THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS

**news and  
views  
occasional**



# The National Association of Wine and Beermakers

President: Mr. S. W. Andrews

## Members of the Executive 1974 - 1975

Chairman:	Mr. K. Hill	18 Laxton Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool. 25.
Secretary:	Mr. D. Ives	33 Heworth Road, York.
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Awbery	
Show Manager & Vice Chairman:	Mr. L. Stagg	
Membership:	Mr. K. Bilham	24 Wilson Road, Chessington, Surrey.
P.R.O. & Programme:	Mr. P. Delmon	
Entries:	Mr. A. Briggs	
Supplies:	Mr. H. Ritchie	
Schedules:	Mr. F. Bastin	
Convenor of Judges & Assistant Secretary:	Mrs. S. Hill	
Chief Steward:	Mrs. F. Stagg	
Awards Secretary:	Mr. R. Butcher	
Assistant Show Manager:	Mr. B. Edwards	
Accommodation & Social Secretary:	Miss S. Varley	
Newsletter:	Mrs. M. Leggett	31 Kings Road, Birchington on Sea.

## On Putting Down One Pen and Taking Up Another

Quite a fraudulent title if you think about it, for if you read the list of Executive responsibilities for 1974-75, you will see that, although I have at last laid down the Secretarial Pen, I haven't, in fact, picked up another. I find that I have been assigned by my colleagues to a more verbal and organisational role, and that the Newsletter pen is now in the more delicate hands of Mrs. Peggy Leggett. However, I have been allowed one last scribble as it were, to produce the first NAVO for the NAWB.

How horrible these abbreviations can be at times. I thoroughly disapprove of this ever growing habit of abbreviating titles to somewhat unpronounceable four-letter words. But these ugly words DO save printing costs. We can include more information for our members to read if we cut down space on elegant titles. So perhaps we should accustom ourselves to such abbreviations as NAWB, NAVO and even PJD.

I will assure you all, however, that we will not extend this to the Show Schedule, and you will not be reading abbreviations for such classes as

Dry Aperitif, (Medium) Non-members,  
or Medium Or Unexceptionally Sweet Elderflower.

Looking back over my time as Secretary I can honestly say that there was very much pleasure in serving the Association in this way, though it also had its disappointments. More often the letters I received as Secretary were letters of criticism and complaint — usually of some minor point that required an explanation as reply rather than an abject apology, for very frequently the error was not on the part of the Executive. Why, I wonder, don't members write letters of praise when things go right rather than so readily putting pen to paper when something goes amiss?

I will recommend to you all Doug Ives who has been my highly capable assistant secretary as well as a very good friend while I have been residing in the far North. I am sure he will do the job far better than I did, and I would suggest you might cheer his early days as secretary by writing to him of all the things that went right for you at Margate. Well, perhaps not ALL the things that went right, but at least those for which the dear old NAAW was responsible.

Yes, the dear old NAAW has gone. The AGM at Margate approved the new Constitution and Rules, which will come into being financially on July 1st this year. The metamorphosis did not take place without some criticism — as indeed is only right, for nobody can expect a completely new set-up to be completely satisfactory to everybody all at once.

The main complaint we heard at Margate was that the new arrangements for membership will be too confusing, and with certain of the built-in complications, the new Executive will not be able to cope with the administration properly. This, I feel, is a very fair comment. Certainly worthy of a considered reply within this editorial.

Yes, the new membership arrangements **are** more complicated. They have come about simply because the sub-committee who drafted the original suggestions for membership were working to try to unite those winemakers who held extreme views at either end of the spectrum. There were, and there still are, those who hold that winemakers are individuals, and so only individuals who are winemakers can possibly form the Association. Equally there were (and there still are) those who hold that the "three tier" system of members belonging to Circles, of Circles belonging to Federations, and of Federations forming the National Association is the only logical form of association — even in spite of the fact that thousands of winemakers in this country are not even members of Circles.

So now we have in existence a compromise which is intended to satisfy all the extremes of opinion as well as the majority of us who sit quite unconcernedly in the middle of the spectrum. The complications (such as they are) are due to this compromise. But the Executive feel that they can administer it as effectively as the previously unwieldy system of different classes with different numbers of votes — even the Associates with one tenth of a vote!

Surely if the Executive members are prepared to give of their time and effort to operate this new Association, all of our winemakers will buckle to and support their only National Association. The Membership application form is here with this Newsletter. How about your support now? Today?

Enough of this written exhortation. Let us delve into our Association newsletter. Let us read of winemakers and winemaking. Let us read too of beermakers and beer-making. Let us all, for heaven's sake, **feel** that we are all members of an Association that cares about the hobby and the people in it.

P. J. D.

### **Lord Marples addresses the Conference**

It would be an impossible task to cover all the facts, advice, encouragements, exhortations and humour that Lord Marples, our main speaker, packed into his hour long lecture at Margate. It was, however, a highlight of the weekend, and it is only right that our members who were unfortunate enough to miss it should at least have some outline of the points which he made. Even without the many anecdotes which he used to spice his lecture, the four very bare facts which have been selected here as messages, should be of value to all winemakers.

Using his considerable knowledge of the culinary art, we were reminded that you cannot make a good dish unless you have the right materials to start with. So with wine, the basic raw materials must be good, and you must know what these materials are capable of producing. There is in every case a correct end product from given starting materials, and it is of no value to try to produce some end product other than this correct one.

With commercial wines, of course, the weather, the grape variety and the soil all have their own effect upon the resultant wine. And so do the vineyard workers. Their results too can be very variable. Just as the owner needs to know all the routine operations himself in order that he is not fooled by excuses, so we received the advice — "learn all you can of every stage in the process you are operating. Only by doing so will you be in complete control of what wine is eventually produced".

Generally speaking, people are drinking far too much of highly fortified alcoholic beverages. It would be far better if more importance were attached to the lighter, more delicate wines which are available. They too have their merits, and their value is far higher than is generally realised.

The vigneron are now beginning to put all their efforts into making wines which will be ready for drinking in shorter time spans than used to be the rule. Quite apparently they are succeeding in this trend, and the days of the long-matured vintages are numbered. The home winemakers too should be able to speed up the processes of maturing and ageing by similar skills.

## What of the next NAVO ?

Well, first of all somebody else will be writing it. And she will need your help to bring our Association to life through its newsletter.

Myself, I've always believed that the newsletter should be a main reason for joining the Association, as it could well be one of the main benefits of membership. Not all of our members can go to the Conference and Show each year — not all of them can afford it! But all of them will be in touch with winemakers and wine-making through the NAVO. Just look at one or two of the items we could pack into it.

### “What the Speakers are Saying”

Up and down the country, our experts on winemaking are continually lecturing to try to improve the standards of our wines, and to help us to understand some of the technicalities. Surely some of the advice they give could be included in these pages? So, if you hear a good talk, why not act as a reporter on behalf of the NAWB and let the newsletter editor have a paragraph or two?

### “Consumer Research”

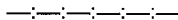
A harder undertaking, but not an impossible one. We are not subsidised by advertisements, and we are not therefore duty bound to say that a poor product is a good one. On the other hand, without full laboratory facilities and a lot of willing “product testers” we are in no position to condemn a product out of hand.

What we could well do, is to recommend (or decry) a product — say a new book, a tin of ingredients, or a winemaking gimmick — by statistics. Suppose we pick a specified product in advance and ask for your findings, whether they be good or bad, then out of 200 replies we can publish quite honestly the general feelings of members regarding that particular product.

### “People”

Our members are friendly people, and we all like to hear about them. We are not a small club where we all know everybody else, but most of us do meet together on social occasions during the year, and there is no reason why we cannot keep up a little of this friendship through these pages.

Well, that's just three simple items which **could be**. But they all depend on you writing in to us. Let's have a real bumper issue next time — say, twice the size of this one. So write your news and your views to Mrs. Leggett, and NAVO really will come alive.



### Can this sort of thing still happen?

At a Circle competition (the Circle shall be nameless), the class being judged was Red Table Wine (Dry). The judge (who also shall be nameless, though he was NOT AWNGJ) was summing up after his hour of judging these wines.

“Yes, they weren't a bad lot really. Some nice dry wines were there. But there was such a really gorgeous sweet red wine in among them. Quite honestly, it was so beautiful, even though it was sweet, I have given it First Prize”. !

He then continued, among a stunned silence, on another point.

“Your rules allow  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” between cork and wine level. I measured one of the entries and I found it to be exactly  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ”. This won't do, you know”.

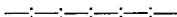
“Why not?” asked one irate member. “That was my wine. As I was coming out of the door, my mother-in-law, who was baby sitting, asked for a glass of wine. So I poured one out of my competition bottle and brought the rest for you to judge. There's nothing wrong with it”.

# BEAULIEU WINE FAIR

**Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September**

Literature concerning this exciting undertaking has been circulated, and I would only make a further two comments which may be helpful to you when considering it.

1. The NAWB will be there, as will other Wine Circles and Amateur Winemaking organisations. We would like members to feel very welcome to come and chat at the NAWB stand.
2. The competition is being organised on acceptable standards. This was not made clear in the literature which I received, but I have been assured that all the judges will be AWNGJ members, and the standards will be as recommended by the Guild. There is every indication that it will be a very worthy and challenging competition. The organisers may yet be embarrassed by the numbers of entries in the competition, but you can be assured that all will be done to ensure an excellent Show.



## Why the holes?

Isn't it amazing? Members still ask why all our Association literature has two holes punched into the side.

The reason is, of course, that it clips into the Handbook. I know that many members haven't bothered to buy a Handbook, and possibly the very new members don't know of its existence, but it is a very handsome and extremely useful item — even if the present issue is obsolescent, being embossed with the NAAW insignia.

The cost to members is 65p, and if you wish to purchase a Handbook this sum should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

With this on your shelf, and all your NAWB publications kept tidily inside it, you will have to hand a permanent record of the progress of our Association and our hobby.



## Statistics

They can be so dull. They can be so vital. They **should** be so enlightening, so prepare to be enlightened.

At Margate, 3,266 bottles were entered from 479 different exhibitors of whom 165 were non-members of the Association.

These exhibitors were competing for 354 different awards, and 26 Trophies which were available.

Behind the scenes, while you were perhaps enjoying a coffee, or listening to the lectures, four typists and eight clerical assistants (to say nothing of stewards and duplicator operators) were compiling, printing and stapling 500 Results Sheets, 500 Trophy Award Sheets and many other necessary operations such as the 2,124 labels to be sorted. And the 318 that had to be stuck onto bottles. And the 60 Trophy Receipt forms which had to be prepared, and later signed by the winner once he or she had been found.

All these activities went on in the Awards Office which was as quiet and reverent as a strict ecclesiastical community. Indeed, the episcopal tread and pious demeanour of one of our stalwarts in that office made the likeness to a cathedral close quite uncanny.

## The League Table

I understand that the "League Table" of those Circles who have gained high points in the National each year is being published quite separately from the newsletter. We hope you find it of interest, and possibly you will find it stimulating!

While we all offer congratulations to the Circles who have done so well, it is still good for us to think sometimes of the real league champions. By which I mean the unattached members. If they were to form themselves into a member group, they would gain the top points every year.

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## COMMITTEE COMMENTARY

Only one Executive meeting has been held so far this year, and, although it was a very lengthy one, it did not produce a wealth of world wobbling developments. Quite two hours were spent in "going over" Margate in critical detail, to spot any item at all that could be improved upon another year. No single person on committee escapes a very searching study of his or her job, and how effectively it was performed.

Being one position short on the Executive, it was resolved that Mrs. Leggett be co-opted to serve for this coming year. In "Peggy" Leggett we have a willing and most useful worker. I don't think that any committee could reject an offer from such a helper.

(The fact that she produced an iced cake, suitably and beautifully decorated with NAAW and personal motifs, had nothing at all to do with the decision!)

Fred Forster, too, has been kind enough to offer to stay for a short while. As he has been our Treasurer for quite a number of years, he will be able to lubricate (is that the right word?) the machinery of handing over to his successor, Peter Awbery. We are grateful for this offer of help, even if it is only for a few months.

It was resolved that the Association should reserve a space at the Beaulieu Abbey Wine Fair on September 14th. So we can look forward to meeting any members, new or old, who care to come along and make themselves known at the NAWB stand.

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### Quote :

"One of the urgent problems that the Association should now consider is the very great variation in levels of teaching in evening classes. Some of the evening class teachers are saying surprising things to beginners".

### Quote :

"To find a lady winemaker who will sit on a panel, look divine, AND answer all the questions authoritatively is quite an undertaking. Pauline Leadley not only did all three, she did them exceptionally well".

### Quote :

"These Replica Goblets look pretty handsome. They must have cost a bit. Ah well, I'll just have to win another five next year to make up the set".

## People we know

It really was a great pleasure to see Lilian Lucas quite active once again. After a very trying time for her, she appears to be getting about among winemakers again, and I'm sure we are all delighted with her progress.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Francis celebrated their Silver Wedding a few weeks ago. Congratulations to them both, and to any other members who may have celebrated Silver, Golden, Diamond, or even just their First Wedding Anniversary.

Not so cheerful was the news that Mary Turner was not well enough to make the journey to Margate this year. We all hope you will soon be fully fit again, Mary, because we do miss you.

Fancy getting married on the day of the National Show! Sheila Martin, daughter of Bill and Renee, and herself a willing helper at many a National in the past, decided to make it her big day. But, whatever the day you chose, our good wishes go with you, Sheila.

Congratulations to Cheryl Leggett, who acted in a most charming way for us at Margate in presenting the bouquets to the distinguished ladies present. Cheryl has since been chosen as Birchington Princess 1974, and we wish her a happy year in that honourable position.

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The Schedule Sub-Committee has already been set up, and are preparing the plans for next year's Show. It may be a great surprise to those who are not in the know, that in order to have our schedules ready by Christmas, the decisions have to be made **now**.

One offer has come in from a Circle prepared to help run the Tombola at Bognor. Well done. Can we anticipate half a dozen letters coming in next week offering this help at Nottingham in 1976?

## Why pander to the Beermakers?

Querulous voices were heard on more than one occasion at Margate expressing some surprise that the Association should now include the brewers of beer among its numbers. Since I have been anticipating this question in one of my lectures — albeit only as a humorous questioning of the interests of our malty brothers — I suppose some of this dissent must have sprung from my words at some time or other. Even so, I do now welcome them (and their products) into the fold.

At first sight it is so very plain that beer is a drink for a different purpose; it is fermented for a different length of time under different conditions in different equipment; it is served on a different occasion, and it employs a different terminology. The only thing it appears to have in common with winemaking is the equation and even that fundamental process is performed by a different yeast. With all these wide differences, is there any real claim for winemakers and beermakers to get together?

Yes, yes, yes. YES.

In fact, the very first difference that I quoted above, i.e. it is a drink for a different purpose, is totally untrue. Just consider for a moment some of the purposes of making wine — to accompany food, for use on social occasions, for competitive winemaking, for cooking, for experimental interest, for quenching one's thirst, or, possibly, for getting drunk as quickly as possible (though I hope that no beermaker or winemaker makes their liquor with this purpose in mind). Are not all these attributes of our winemaking hobby equally true of the beermaking fraternity? Of course they are. And so, it would appear that the first big difference is a big similarity after all. And so are the others on the list if you really think about them.



Myself, I just cannot seem to make good beer. But I put this down to not knowing enough about the final product to be able to appreciate the finer points as I do with wine. I am looking forward with interest to hearing more from the brewers of their hobby.

And you brewers — how do you see yourselves in the Association? As outsiders? Or as equal partners with the wine lovers?

And while we are querying the subject, why is it that most of the brewers belong to the male sex? Are not the ladies equally capable of mastering this other hobby? Come along now, you brewers and breweresses (just what is the female of brewer?) This is your newsletter now. Let us hear your comments, your news and your views in fact, for we have the pages ready for you.

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### **P.R.O. Service**

If your Federation, or if any group of Wine Circles, has available a half-hour niche in its Show programme, the NAWB would be pleased to supply a speaker who will talk about the new Association, and the advantages of membership. You are welcome to make use of this service, and we hope that a number of groups will do so.

### **The National 1976**

Information which is definitely Stop Press News. The venue for the 1976 Show and Conference will be Nottingham University. And the dates will be 9/10/11th April. It sounds a long way ahead, but almost time indeed to be making some of the richer red wines which you will be exhibiting (and drinking) in that seat of knowledge.

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### **Looking ahead around the country :**

September 14th	Beds & Herts Federation Show.
September 14th/15th	Beaulieu Abbey Wine Fair.
September 21st	Andover Show.
October 5th	Middlesex Show.
October 4/5/6th	North West Federation Show, Southport.
October 19th	Midland Region Show, Burton on Trent.
October 26th	West Anglian Federation Show, Peterborough. S.W. Counties Show.
November 2nd	Proposed date for NAWB Beer Symposium at Burton (members will be notified of details of this event).
November 2nd/3rd	AWNGJ Meeting at Warwick.
25/26/27th April, 1975	National Conference and Show, Bognor Regis.
9/10/11th April, 1976	National Conference and Show, Nottingham.

## **Some Stop Press news about other well known members**

Our President himself, Andy Andrews, is under his doctor's orders, and in a letter I received from him yesterday he tells me he will be going into hospital for an operation on September 19th. I am sure that the good wishes of every member of the Association will go with him, and we all hope that, by the late Autumn, his customary cheerful smile will be seen again at many winemakers' gatherings.

On a happier note, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Luker are about to celebrate forty years of married life together. We wish them both all happiness for their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

## **Bottle Labels Wanted**

The Association is at present preparing a Display Stand for use at a variety of Shows and other events. The construction is already in hand, but the artistic side will take just a little longer. What I require for a part of our display is a large number of printed Wine Circle Labels — one from each member Circle would be wonderful. May I ask Circle Secretaries for just a couple of their Circle bottle labels? There must be a great number of our Circles who do now produce their own label, and a representative collection of these would be a very satisfying advertisement of our Association together.

## **Good Publicity**

Within these pages it is intended to produce from time to time articles on the making of wine and beer which are really authoritative and, we hope, helpful. Our aim is to help our members make better wines and beers. So, in the achievement of this aim, we must all take great care that we write **good** information for our newsletter. The humour of the "grasscutting wine" and the "carrot top beer" is, alas, too commonplace. We all know that winemakers are good for a laugh, and indeed we laugh at ourselves very often, but some of this cheap humour is bad for our image. Look at that business of the wine made from old boots! I know somebody did it — and I presume that he drank the result. But does it really help the progressive winemakers of today to read of these eccentric methods and exotic recipes? I am sure it does not, and I am equally sure that we must keep the pages of NAVO completely clear of these hindrances to good wine and beer making.

## PATRONS:

Under the new Constitution and Rules the Association has the facility of accepting patronage from such firms or individuals who may wish to show their support of the Association in a tangible way — by becoming Patrons. Intending Patrons are invited to write in the first instance to the Secretary of the Association.

It is the intention to reserve this page for recording our grateful thanks to such firms as will support our efforts by their kind patronage, but in these very first days of the Association's existence there are obviously no Patrons to record.

Rather, we will record herewith our thanks to the very generous Guilds, Circles and Associations who supported our Tombola at Margate by the gift either of cash donations or of actual prizes. Without their help there would have been no Tombola.

## Wine Circles and Federations:

AWNGJ, Basingstoke, Beds & Herts, Belfast, Bexhill & Hastings, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Burton on Trent, Chantry, Coulsdon, Crowborough, Croydon, Dagenham, Derby, Faversham, Greenhill, Harrow, Hemel Hempstead, Herne Bay, Kings Langley, Kings Lynn, Leeds, Leysdown, Luton, Lyminge, Massey Ferguson, Northampton, Merseyside, Ross on Wye, Sarum, Scottish Association, Seaford, Southall, Southern (I.O.M.), South Devon, South London. Shooters Hill, Solihull, Stroud, Thanet, Three Rivers, Twickenham, Uckfield, Vauxhall Motors, Weald of Kent, York.

## Firms:

Amateur Winemaker, Atkinson Baldwin, East Kent Packers, Messrs. Boots, West End Winemakers, Walker Desmond, Latswick Products, Munton & Fison, Southern Vineyards, Cumbria, Itona, Edme, Counsel Ltd., T. W. Beach & Sons, Grey Owl, Travis Smith, Rob Roy, Viking, Home Winemaking Supplies, Chempro, W. R. Loftus.

And a number of individuals who kindly supplied gifts or donations to help with the Tombola.



This map shows the Federations who supported us by becoming members of the NAAW in 1973-74.

Can we not aim to cover the map completely for 1974-75 ?