

? Sept 1976

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS

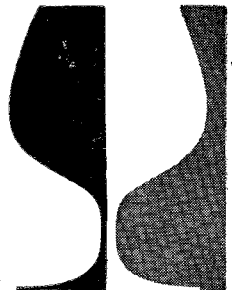
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**NEWS AND  
VIEWS  
OCCASIONAL**

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# THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS

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**President :** Mr. C. W. Martin

## **Members of the Executive 1975-1976**

**Chairman :** Mr. L. Stagg, 145 Manor Road, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset  
BH21 6DX

**Secretary :** Mr. D. Ives, 33 Heworth Road, York

**Treasurer :** Mr. P. Awbery

**Show Manager :** Mr. N. Wilkinson

**Membership :** Mr. K. Bilham, 24 Wilson Road, Chessington, Surrey

**P.R.O. and Programme :** Mr. Alan B. Smith, 17 Morritt Avenue, Leeds  
LS15 7EP. Leeds 0532 647887

**Entries :** Mr. A. Briggs

**Supplies :** Mr. G. Christmas

**Schedule Sec. and Handbook Editor :** Mr. K. Hill

**Convenor of Judges, Vice-Chairman and Assistant Sec. :** Mrs. S. Hill

**Chief Steward :** Mr. A. F. Dobson

**Awards Secretary :** Mr. R. Butcher

**Assistant Show Manager :** Mr. L. Stagg

**Accommodation Secretary :** Mrs. F. Stagg

**Newsletter :** Mr. Alan B. Smith, 17 Morritt Avenue, Leeds LS15 7EP  
Leeds 0532 647887

**Assistant Membership and Assistant Awards Sec. :** Mrs. M. Timmins

**Assistant Treasurer and Fund Raiser :** Mr. B. Edwards

# NEWS TIME IS HERE AGAIN—HOW TIME DOES FLY WHEN LIFE IS FULL OF INTEREST

Reports have reached me concerning my first effort at producing a somewhat depleted substitute for News and Views Occasional, and as a result I feel that I am very much on trial, as it were, with this issue.

Nevertheless I am constrained to recall words much wiser than any I shall ever indite which said something about a beam and a mote—but let it pass.

## THE ANNUAL SHOW 1976

There is much of interest about which to expend time and space in this issue. The first, and most important, concerns the 1976 Annual Show. Thanks to our Chairman, Leslie Stagg, I was privileged to accompany him and Mrs. Stagg (Freda to all who know her) on a tour of Nottingham University in order to tie up one or two ends.

What a truly magnificent setting for a show or conference or any gathering such as ours. The grounds would not in any way discredit the home of the highest in the land, with sweeping vistas of lawn and woodland. The halls of residence, all of very recent construction, are as good as, nay I would say even better than, many hotels in which I have stayed up and down the country. Admittedly the bedrooms are designed with a bachelor existence in mind, but not monastic, and some are intercommunicating with either a bathroom or study-room between. Each room has a wash basin with hot and cold water, and to every three single rooms there is a bathroom. All are very comfortably furnished and very modern. Each of the halls has its own dining room, and there are lounges with bars in every one of them. There is a car parking space allotted to each hall.

With the charges fixed, and I do mean **FIXED** at £10.00 per head plus V.A.T. for the whole week-end for national members and £15.00 per head plus V.A.T. for non-members, this is going to be a very cheap and very enjoyable week-end for all those able to be present. I shall feel very sorry indeed for those unfortunates unable to avail themselves of the opportunity of being at the Show and Annual General Meeting. Incidentally, the week-end will consist of Friday evening meal, accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights, and will include lunch on Sunday prior to departure. There will be a "Get-together" on the Friday evening and the usual dance on Saturday evening. It will be possible to bring your own wines to drink with your meals if you wish to do so. Accommodation reservation forms will be in the hands of members in early course, and to facilitate booking arrangements with the various halls of residence, you are asked to make known your requirements at the earliest possible moment, and especially if you wish to be accommodated with friends or members of your own circle. Your committee has trimmed the cost very closely indeed for this next show, so

please show your appreciation and support by turning up in droves to make this 1976 show one of the best ever. There will be plenty of room for everyone. Non-members and others wishing to attend the functions without being in residence will be catered for and all details will be included on the reservation form. Oh yes! two other small but important items : in each corridor of the halls of residence there is a small kitchen with all the necessary equipment for the making of tea and or coffee. All you will need will be the tea and coffee, but only powdered milk will be available, so if you want fresh milk then you must take it along or buy it locally. Small children, that is small enough to be in the same room with a parent, will be allowed to sleep in such room but you must take a camp bed or other sleeping equipment, but sheets, etc. will be available there. Is there anything else you will be needing? I think all the important details have been covered.

## THE ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK

Turning now to the matter of the Association Handbook, for which many of you may have stiff covers, the supply of these covers is now exhausted and, before undertaking further expenditure to buy more, it is necessary to test the strength of the future demand from you the members.

Which leads to the question, do you want a handbook, to continue as before, with changes, and if so what changes, or not at all? It is quite easy (?) to churn out material with which to fill the covers, but there is no great point in doing so if the material is not to your liking, and is therefore not wanted. This would be a sheer waste of association funds—something none of us wishes to happen. Your opinions on this subject will be very welcome and will assist us in giving you the service **you** want.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

One of the problems which beset any membership secretary is that some people fail to advise him (or her) of changes in their place of residence in the case of individuals, and changes in the panel of officers of circles, clubs, federations, etc. So **PLEASE** will you see to it that any change is notified as soon as possible after it has taken place. Regrettably the Post Office is not as reliable as it used to be in forwarding mail, even to those who pay for the service, when a move is made.

With the best possible will in the world, if those responsible for sending out material by mail, which you are entitled to receive, are unaware that you, Sir, have taken yourself and your family off to another spot, or you, Miss, have married the man of your choice and left the ancestral home, how then can they fulfil their function with zeal and efficiency??

A further very important point has been raised by Ken Bilham, your membership secretary. Many members who have been in the habit of paying their subscription by means of a banker's order have neglected

to make the necessary alterations to take into account the new rate as fixed by the A.G.M. at Birmingham. This is causing a lot of extra work and expense (remember the new postage rates) and Ken not being in the best of health right now (he is flat on his back as a result of a slipped disc) will appreciate your co-operation. Here's wishing him a speedy return to full fitness.

MENTION OF THE NEW POSTAGE RATES, REMINDS ME TO REMIND YOU ALL TO REMEMBER THE NEED FOR A STAMPED AND ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WHEN SENDING IN YOUR SHOW ENTRIES.

### RECIPES—SOME GOOD, SOME NOT SO GOOD, SOME INDIFFERENT

Here is one I will leave you to classify, and I must acknowledge the permission, given to me by Syndication International Ltd., who are the publishers of the weekly "Woman's Own", to reproduce this recipe which appeared in the issue dated February 22nd of this year. This is a most interesting recipe! Many of you will no doubt wish to try it out? ?

**Conil Apple Wine :** Dissolve 4oz sugar in 3 pints **canned fruit syrup**, bring to the boil. Put  $\frac{3}{4}$ lb **apple peelings** in large clean bucket with 1 sliced potato and 1 sliced beetroot. Add syrup, cool to 80°F, add  $\frac{1}{4}$ oz wine yeast to 1 pint of liquid, store in a warm place overnight. Return to bucket with 1 Campden tablet (from chemists). Keep at 90°F for 10 days. (Colour if wished). Strain into gallon jar, add 1 tblsp. pectin. Fit air-lock, ferment for 3 months. Fill sterilised bottles, cork. Makes 3 pints, costs about 16p.

It should be mentioned that the apple peelings and fruit syrup are left overs from previous recipes of assorted dishes. Should anyone feel disposed to try this out I should be delighted to hear of the results! !

### EXPANSION AND PROGRESS OR . . .

It is well-known that there are many winemakers and brewers who beaver away busily making excellent wines and beers of all sorts, but who do not join any of the circles or clubs in their neighbourhood. One wonders why? Is it because these good people are unaware of the existence of the circles? Can we all then be accused of apathy in advertising our whereabouts and *raison d'être*? Doubtless many of the folk referred to are out and out individualists who simply do not wish to become members of ANY organisation. Their wishes must be respected. On the other hand, so very many times has it been said "I did not know there was such a club anywhere around here". One greatly respected amateur winemaker of long standing said to me not so long ago, "In all the years I have been connected with winemaking I have not met any real bad people, they're mostly nice folks always ready to help and share ideas". What, then, can we do to publicise ourselves, or would it be better

to say how can we spread the glad news that we do in fact exist, not merely to satisfy our own personal pleasures, and those of our immediate circle of friends, but to offer help and advice to newcomers to the hobby, and so widen the scope of the circles to everyone's great benefit. This is a problem which falls slap bang into the lap of the P.R.O. (that's me again, folks) but however one tries, it is impossible to be aware of the circumstances which apply everywhere. Without such knowledge one cannot begin to plan any campaign to pull in the sort of potential members referred to. For this reason an appeal is made to all circle officers, federation officers and the like to look into this question and try and come up with some good solid suggestion which may be followed up. Members are sometimes heard to say ". . . what does the National do for me?" Here is a way we may be able to help the whole movement, by collating ideas received and welding them into a workable pattern to expand the membership, not only of the National Association, but of the circles, clubs and guilds locally, and through them the federations. It has been said that every major reform and change was once someone's personal opinion. Can we dig up a genius from amongst our ranks?

All of which leads me very neatly to the next topic, because numerical strength, as well as quality of membership is just what is required at times like the present, when there is a threat to our supplies of grape concentrate. When talking to government and the servants of government, the one thing which makes the deepest impression is the volume of opinion behind the voice. Very small minorities can only make themselves heard and seen by violent action as present days amply illustrate. For our association such tactics are very obviously out of the question, **but** we can, if we try, increase our numbers so that by all lawful means our interests may be urged upon those in authority, and our suggestions received with respect and consideration. Letters have been sent on your behalf to the Ministry of Agriculture and other departments by national, federation, federation and circle officers, and some replies have been received. One such does state that it was never the intention that the home winemaker should be penalised by being deprived of an extremely useful ingredient, but who can tell how far the ripple in the pool may spread?

## THE ANNUAL DRAW

Here is a list of the winners in the draw held at the A.G.M. at Birmingham :

- 1st (£50) Mr. C. E. Newton, 61 Meriman Road, London SE3 83B
- 2nd (£25) Mrs. M. Upton, 151 Bramble Drive, Hailsham, Sussex
- 3rd (£10) Mr. J. Fury, 2 St. Michael's Close, Sittingbourne, Kent
- 4th (£4 voucher for premium bonds) Mr./Mrs. Daniel, 59 George St.,  
Saltaire, Shipley, W. Yorkshire
- 5th (£3 voucher for premium bonds) Mr. C. Seymour, 26 Wollseley Rd.,  
Wood Green, London, N22
- 6th (£2 voucher for premium bonds) Mr. G. Christmas, Hamstead  
Croft, Drift Lane, Bosham, Hampshire

## **A WORD OF WARNING ABOUT USING SECOND-HAND BOTTLES**

We are indebted to Mr. Don Hebb, via Mr. Ken Hill, for information about the use of second-hand bottles. He makes the following points :

- (1) Never use any type of non-returnable bottle or cordial bottle for home brew.
- (2) For sparkling wines use only the sound true champagne bottles.
- (3) Store at low temperature, 55-60°F.
- (4) Wrap a cloth around the bottle when opening.
- (5) NEVER handle a chilled bottle from the refrigerator with the naked hand. The sudden thermal shock can cause a bottle to burst.
- (6) Inspect bottles for heavy scratches and chips.

## **CHEMPRO QUESTIONNAIRE**

The response to the questionnaire was disappointingly low. Very few readers took the time and trouble to complete the form and return it to Phil Delmon. Therefore the inference to be drawn from the forms returned and collated is not conclusive; it would appear, however, that the majority of users have found it to be eminently satisfactory. The strength of opinion is not really enough to justify a wholehearted or enthusiastic recommendation of the material. By the same token one cannot offer any sound criticism.

## **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

An approach has been made by the above mentioned association for advice and/or assistance in running a nation-wide competition for winemakers. The suggestion is that 14 regional competitions would be set up, and the finalist invited to enter a competition held at a London hotel for the top prize. This might take the form of a trophy, and a trip to a wine-making area of the continent, with sundry other prizes down the list. Personalities from show business would be invited, and the proceeds go to the charity. It is envisaged that the entry fee would be of the order of £1 per entry. May I ask for your views so that as P.R.O. the opinions of the federations and circles be taken fully into consideration.

## **QUALIFYING DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP**

For administrative reasons it has been decided that, for this year only, renewal of membership fees will be accepted up to and including 10th January 1976 without penalty, thereby extending the period of eligibility for members to submit entries for the National Show. Thus the re-registration fee will only be exacted from those very late payers whose subscriptions are not to hand until after this later date.

# FEDERATIONS

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Association of Wine and Beer Makers' Federations

E. Midlands Amateur Winemakers' Federation

Midland Region Amateur Winemakers' Federation

Scottish Association of Amateur Winemakers' Circles

Essex Winemakers' Federation

N. West Kent Federation

N.W. Federation of Amateur Winemakers' Associations

Wales and West Federation of Amateur Winemakers

Yorkshire Federation of Amateur Winemakers and Brewers

Nth. Yorkshire and South Durham Wine Federation

23/25 Federation

Amateur Winemakers' National Guild of Judges