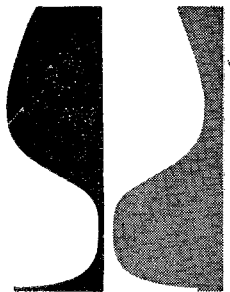


7 January
1976

The National Association
of Wine and Beermakers

**NEWS AND
VIEWS
OCCASIONAL**



THE time for the News and Views has come round again, and in this it is rather like the Forth Bridge, no sooner has one finished than it is time to start again, and in order to meet the "dead-line" of going to the printers, it is necessary to make a very early beginning indeed.

It appears that I have inadvertently trodden on some tender toes!

The back page of the last issue showed a list of some Federations. This has been taken to be a COMPLETE list of all Federations which are currently members of the National Association. This, of course, cannot be the case, as the lapse of time between the receipt of subscriptions by the Membership Secretary, notification to me for inclusion in the list, coupled with the time taken for the printers to produce the issue, is bound to mean that the odd one or two will be missing from the list at any one issue. So please, Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Treasurers, other officers and members of the Federations do not hurl brickbats at me for what may at first sight be a sin of omission.

The list to be found at the back page is again a list of those Federations known to me to be currently in membership. Should any of you feel that you are hardly done by, may I perhaps gently remind you that the date for renewal of membership is now long past, especially if you wish to enter any of the sections at the show this year.

Which leads me nicely to the subject of the National Show itself. The membership figure has climbed remarkably during the last few weeks and Alan Briggs tells me he is inundated with late entries. I wonder why it is that we all seem to leave things like this to the last minute? It does make for rather hard work for the officials responsible for dealing with these matters. Present indications are that the level of entries will be not far short of the average number, if any indeed. Accommodation bookings are coming along, too, so any of you intending to be at the National this year will have a very pleasant week-end to look forward to. Given reasonably good weather this will be a National to look back on with a lot of pleasure.

?egatsop dna noitcudorp fo esnepxe eht htrow yllaer yeht era,
?yeht od snoitacilbup eseht daer yllaer tnod srebmem.

It would seem that they don't! Why do I have the temerity to say this? Because the only reaction to the last issue was a verbal complaint following a letter which complained about the omission of a Federation from the before-mentioned list and the incorrect spelling of a member's name. (By the way, to that member, my apologies, but a plea in mitigation, we don't always sign our names in the most legible form, do we?). No one has taken the trouble to write expressing an opinion about

the Association handbook, so it would appear that it would be a waste of time and effort to produce new covers and the wherewithal to fill them in future. Come along now, what do you want, or don't you really know? From every point of view and in every possible aspect of life today, the one great failing is the colossal apathy one meets in every direction. And this is noticeable whenever there is a call to do something which does not show a cash return, and even sometimes when it does! What is the matter with everybody these days? Surely we are not **all** so busy making wines and/or beers, that there is no time left to take even a small interest in the general activities of our hobby. I was surprised that the Conil Apple wine recipe did not raise the slightest flicker of interest. The reaction to this fantastic recipe? Absolutely staggering. The total? NIL.

Having in the past been involved with a variety of hobby or semi-professional organisations I can speak with very real experience and feeling, that the measure of what one's gain from any kind of membership may be is in direct proportion to the amount of personal involvement one is prepared to put into the activities concerned. And I don't mean cash rewards. There are far more lasting and valuable assets than mere money. Ask some of the winners of the big pools payouts!!!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

All the members of the association will be pleased to know that whilst not by any means 100% fit yet, Ken Bilham is sufficiently recovered to be able to resume his function of Membership Secretary, so that anyone who has sent in renewals or new applications should be receiving their acknowledgments pretty promptly. There is still room for more members of the association, though of course it is now too late to submit entries in the restricted classes at the show in April by joining the N.A.W.B. at this time.

THE "NATIONAL"

Due to a change in his workload in his particular occupation, Norman Wilkinson will be unable to fulfil his office of Show Manager this year, so that the bulk of the work will fall on the already loaded shoulders of the Chairman, Leslie Stagg. If you would like to ease the amount of work for Leslie, please make sure that you do not cause any unnecessary work for Freda which would reflect on Leslie.

The tickets for the function on the Saturday evening are selling very well and many applications from non-members have been received, so this looks like being a very enjoyable occasion.

ON RULES AND REGULATIONS

Attending a Circle meeting recently as speaker for the evening, I was able to relax for a while after doing my stint. Listening to the results of the evening's competitions announced by the Chairman, the next word was left with the judge of the wine classes. This gentleman waxed vociferous on the matter of the presentation of bottles of wine for competition entrants. He stressed, very properly, the need for attention being paid to this important aspect of preparing your bottle of wine for competition purposes, pointing out the poor care taken by some competitors in that there were finger marks all over the bottles, scruffy corks, lack of attention to levels in the bottle, etc., all of which tended to down point the entry. One of the assembly raised an objection to this statement on the ground that the wine is the important thing to be judged and that the other extraneous matters were of no import. A very short-sighted opinion, I suggest, as how is one to differentiate between the entries in a class if more than one of the wines is judged to be of equally good quality? No one will disagree that the wine is of **prime** importance, after all this is the whole object of the exercise, is it not? But it is absolutely essential to have other factors by which to judge which entry is to take first, second and third places, etc.; furthermore, surely anyone with enough pride of achievement in the making of a wine to feel impelled to enter it in a competition, would be willing to take as much care in the presentation of the bottle to be judged as in the actual making of the wine.

After all, no matter how beautiful the woman may be she is not made any the less so by being beautifully dressed? And which of them would be found in a beauty competition with sooty smudges on face and body?

I don't think Solomon had anything to do with the setting up of the National Guild of Judges and the formulation of the judging standards, but there was no lack of wisdom when these things were done, and the importance of the wine itself is fully recognised by the way points are allocated.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget that the occasion of the show is also the occasion of the A.G.M. whereat you who attend will have opportunity to put forward any opinion you may wish to express, subject of course to the Chairman's ruling. It may well be the case that some of you who will be unable to attend would like to put forward some comment or maybe express a criticism. In the latter case it is up to you to brief your club or circle representative on the matter, making sure that, whatever it may be, all the relevant facts and details are passed to the individual who will be expected to propound them. Under the new constitution of the association, one third of the executive committee will be obliged to retire, though

they will have the right to offer themselves for re-election. Don't forget, too, that the circles and federations each have the right to nominate a member of the executive, one to represent the circles, clubs, guilds, etc. and one to represent the federations. Facilities will be made available for meetings at Nottingham for the holding of discussion and/or elections for the purpose of choosing such members, so it is up to you, and only yourselves to blame if you do not get the right people to represent you.

ON LABELS AND DISPLAYS

My predecessor, Phil Delmon, in the last N.V.O. he edited asked for printed wine circle labels with which to decorate the display stand. Unless he decided, enamoured of their beauty of design and colour, secretly to retain such as went his way, for his own edification and enjoyment, none were forthcoming. Or at least none were amongst the items of my inheritance. Obviously, none of the member circles or members have been able to produce anything worthy of consideration for such a high place in the scheme of things, and yet I have seen some quite pleasant samples at the Federation Show. Just try to prove that at least one or two of you do read this N.V.O. and so make me eat (or erase) my words!

So enough of persiflage, as it is the intention to publish the list of member circles and federations, space must be left for this. A last word. When you receive your National Draw books from Brian Edwards, do as I have done and sell 'em! Mine are all sold. Beat that.

**FEDERATIONS KNOWN TO BE MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AT THIS TIME**

Association of Wine and Beer Makers' Federations

Beds. and Herts. Federation

Essex Winemakers' Federation

Midland Federation of A.W.G.

North Western Federation

North Yorkshire and South Durham Federation

Surrey and South Thames Federation

Sussex Federation

Wales and West Federation

Yorkshire Federation of Amateur Winemakers and Brewers

CIRCLES, CLUBS AND GUILDS KNOWN TO BE MEMBERS

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AT THIS TIME

- Astolat Winemakers
Ace of Clubs Wine Circle
Andover Winemakers
Barnet Winemakers
Beverley Wine Society
Biggin Hill Wine Society
Birmingham & District Wine-
makers
Bournemouth Winemakers
Brighton Winemakers
Burton-on-Trent Winemakers
British Radio Corporation Wine-
makers' Guild
British Wine & Beer Judges' Guild
Colwyn Bay & District Wine-
makers
Coventry Winemakers
Canterbury Wine Circle
Cowes Amateur Winemakers
Chiltern & Mid-Thames Wine-
makers
Dagenham Cables Winemakers
Derby Wine Circle
Eastbourne & District W.C.
Epsom Downs Winemakers' Guild
Faversham Winemakers
Guildford Winemakers
Grantham Amateur Winemakers
Heathfield Winemakers
Hounslow Wine Circle
Hailsham Wine Circle
Harpenden Winemakers
Hanger Sports Club
Ilford & District Winemakers'
Circle
Kings Lynn A.W.C.
Kings Langley Winemakers
Kimberley A.W.C.
(address wanted please)
Lapworth & District Am. Wine-
makers
Leeds Amateur Winemakers' Club
Liphook Wine Circle
Luton Am. Winemakers' Guild
Mottingham A.W.C.
Manchester Winemakers
Merseyside Wine Society
Massey Ferguson Wine & Beer-
makers' Club
Midland Brewers
Newgate Street Winemakers
Nottingham Winemakers
New Forest Winemakers
New Milton Winemakers
Nonsuch A.W. Circle
Northampton Wine Circle
Oxford Wine Circle
Peterborough & District Wine-
makers' Circle
Poole & District W.C.
Old Woking W.C.
Reigate & Redhill Winemakers
Ringwood & District W.C.
Romiley & District W.C.
Ross-on-Wye Am. W.C.
Rugby A.W. Circle
Ryde A.W.C.
Sawtry Winemakers' Society
Seaford Winemakers' Guild
Silver Wings A.W.C. (Crawley)
Solihull A.W.C.
South Devon A. Brewers
Surbiton A.W.C.
Southend A.W.C.
St. Christopher's Wine Guild
Spem A.W.C.
Sarum W.C.
South London A.W.C.
Shooters Hill A.W.C.
Taverner's W.C.
Tasters W.C.
Thames Estuary A.W.
Three Rivers Wine Circle
Thurrock A.W.
Torbay Winemakers
Torquay Winemakers

Tudor Wine Circle
Twickenham Wine Circle
Uckfield & District W.C.
Verulam Vintners W.G.
Am. Winemakers of Wales
Wakefield & District A.W.C.
Woolwich Wine Circle
Wembley Am. W.C.
West Kent Winemakers' C.
Whitstable A.W.C.
Winemakers of Hertford
Witham A.W.C.
Worthing Guild of A.W.
Wycombe Winemakers
York & District Winemakers' Club

Late addition

Bramcote Winemakers' Circle