

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS AND VIEWS OCCASIONAL

August, 1978

NEWS

Dear Members,

As I write this missive, August is fast waning and we are coming to the end of the long hot summer (two days at the end of May as far as the N.W. was concerned). Despite the poor weather I am told that soft fruits are doing well so perhaps it will not be quite a disaster from the winemaking point of view.

In my last Newsletter I listed the posts for the Executive Committee, unfortunately missing out one of our hardest workers, Alan Briggs, who continues as Entries Secretary (sorry, Alan). This is the penalty of being quietly efficient. We have had two Committee meetings with the new Committee and all newcomers are taking to it like ducks to water. Work is well in hand for next year's Conference and Show at Brighton. Which reminds me, have you all re-joined? - membership ran out in July. Do not forget - send your subscriptions to our new Membership Secretary, Jim Chettle, 45 Oak Tree Drive, Gedling, Nottingham. If you do not renew before the 6th January, 1979, you will not be eligible to enter the Members' Classes. If you have not renewed, DO IT NOW.

I understand that the New Conference Centre at Brighton which we are using for our Conference and Show is an ideal situation. Our Guest Speaker will need no introduction as it is Cyril Berry who is talking upon "Thirty Years of Winemaking". I am sure it will be informative and amusing. The charges for Brighton, 1979, are as follows:-

Full Conference Members: £1.50p Non-Members £6.50p. The Brighton Authorities will not allow any payment at the door. Included in the above fee is, unfortunately, a fairly substantial corkage charge which we have to cover. With the financial squeeze nearly all the Local Authorities of England and Wales have got together and they all now have a standard style of conditions. There will be dancing on the Friday and the Saturday evenings, and also a Wine Queen Competition which we hope will be well supported. There is no doubt that there is going to be a big demand for accommodation and if you write to :- The Information Office, Brighton Borough Council, Marlborough, Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1EQ, they will send you a very comprehensive list covering Hotels as high as £16-75 B & B to Boarding Houses at £3 B & B.

I was about to write that the next item of news is really for the ladies, but upon reflection, I am certain that all our lady members would like me to also inform their husbands, in the fond hope that they will come up with the money. NAWB have had designed a very fine lady's pendant. It consists of a fine Silver Chain with the Pendant bearing the NAWB style badge. The Pendant is approximately the size of a 5p piece and I am assured by our present Chairman that all the Ladies will want to have one, and at the price of £5.15p including postage, she assures me most husbands will be happy to purchase one for their wives (or girl friends) as an investment? It is sterling silver. Pendants can be obtained from Norman Chiverton, 5 Healey Close, Brownsoner, Rugby, CV21 1NE.

Letter from our Chairman

78 Laxton Road,
Liverpool, 25.

The Federation of Federations sent a motion to the NAWB Executive, asking for consideration in a possible amalgamation.

The Chairman of the Federations, Mr. M. Matthews, presented the agenda to the NAWB Executive who gave the first part of the meeting over to discussion. At the end of a $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour discussion it was decided that there was nothing to be gained by any amalgamation, and as we already had two of the Federation Executive on the NAWB Executive Committee, and a representative for the Circles, there was nothing to be gained for either party.

At the present time, (and also in the past) our Newsletter Editor has always put forth news regarding the Federations, and in fact has always appealed for news and dates of any meetings throughout the Circles and Federations.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Peter Awbery, is always at hand to assist with any financial matters whenever able. We have, however, minuted the fact that in all future NAWB Executive meetings, there will be space on the Agenda set aside for Federation matters, which will be put to the committee by the Federation representative.

If the Federations require information their representatives, Mr. M. Matthews, and Mr. Len Drysdale, who are also members of the NAWB Executive, will be most happy to bring the matter to the attention of NAWB Executive who, in turn, will endeavour to give every assistance.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) SYBIL HILL
CHAIRMAN N.A.W.B.

VIEWS

You may remember that through the N.L. we offered cheap entrance fees to the World Wine Fair at Bristol. I am pleased to report that 236 members took advantage of this offer. Unfortunately, Ken Bilham informs me that many did not enclose a s.a.e., as requested, and others sent a 7p stamp for the return of over 40 tickets. To those who enclosed the correct postage I say 'thank you'; to those who did not, may I appeal to them to do so in future. I attended the Wine Fair along with 97 other winemakers from the North West and a very enjoyable time we all had. On the Sunday morning we visited a number of Real Ale pubs in the Bristol area, finishing off with a visit to a one-man Brewery near Bristol. The Brewer, Mr. Walkey has only been going for a month and is at present only producing one brew called Mendip Special. This is a full-bodied brown ale which was very pleasant on the palate. The present rate is 36 nine-gallon barrels per week. We were the first visitors to the Brewery and we very much appreciated Mr. Walkey taking time off to show us round.

Personally I was a little disappointed with the Wine Fair as I felt that it was aimed mainly at the non-wine drinker in an effort to persuade them to start enjoying wines. As a result most of the wines were fairly low priced - around the £2 mark. I think that a regular imbiber of Commercial wines would be happy to buy a bottle at that price, to see what it tasted like. I would have been prepared to pay a little

concentrates for the production of home-made wines was abandoned.

However, it would now appear that the effort to remove Grape Concentrates from the market is being revived in a different guise - this time in the form of substantial increases in import duties imposed by the Common Market Commissioners on non-E.E.C. imports of Grape Concentrates into this country.

Examples of recent percentage increases are given below:-

<u>Name of Distributer</u>	<u>% increase</u>
Continental Wine Equipment	21%
Unican	13%
Sol-Vino	30%
Deva	35-50%

The final import duties plus the effect of inflation are to be deplored since the now widely practised art of Home Winemaking gives pleasure to a large number of the population. We therefore urge you most strongly to bring pressure to bear on the Common Market Commissioners to rescind all orders imposing import duties on the importation of Grape Concentrates into this country from Countries outside the European Economic Community.

The Middlesex Federation of Wine & Beermaking Clubs represents the following Wine Clubs with approximately 2,000 Winemakers:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| British Airways | Hesa | Richmond |
| C.A.V. | Hounslow | Shepperton |
| Colindale | Ickenhan | Southall |
| Durden Park | London Transport | Thameside |
| Ealing | Magna Carta | Twickenham |
| Greenford | Metal Box | Uxbridge |
| Greenhill | Nestle's | Wenbley |
| Harrow | Northumbria | West Drayton |
| H.E.L.A. | Perivale | Whitton |

Yours faithfully, (signed) Rona T. Hebbs
(Secretary)

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF THE EXECUTIVE

REG. BUDGE

Currently holds the following positions of office: Vice President of both the Middlesex Federation and the Hounslow Wine Circle, Chairman of Surrey and South Thames Federation, Vice Chairman of Twickenham Amateur Winemakers Association and Treasurer of both the Middlesex Federation and Malden and Coombe Wine Circle. Previously held office as: Chairman of Association of Federations of Wine and Beermakers, Chairman of Middlesex Federation and Chairman of Hounslow Wine Circle.

NORMAN CHIVERTON

Norman lives in Rugby and is a member of Lutterworth and Burbage Circles. Originally from the South, belonging to both Chertsey and Twickenham Circles, he has been wine and beermaking since 1966 with moderate success at National level. First "National" he attended was Hull and hasn't missed since. Norman runs an office supplies business in Rugby.

concentrates for the production of home-made wines was abandoned.

However, it would now appear that the effort to remove Grape Concentrates from the market is being revived in a different guise - this time in the form of substantial increases in import duties imposed by the Common Market Commissioners on non-E.E.C. imports of Grape Concentrates into this country.

Examples of recent percentage increases are given below:-

<u>Name of Distributer</u>	<u>% increase</u>
Continental Wine Equipment	21%
Unican	13%
Sol-Vino	30%
Deva	35-50%

The final import duties plus the effect of inflation are to be deplored since the now widely practised art of Home Winemaking gives pleasure to a large number of the population. We therefore urge you most strongly to bring pressure to bear on the Common Market Commissioners to rescind all orders imposing import duties on the importation of Grape Concentrates into this country from Countries outside the European Economic Community.

The Middlesex Federation of Wine & Beermaking Clubs represents the following Wine Clubs with approximately 2,000 Winemakers:-

British Airways	Hesa	Richmond
C.A.V.	Hounslow	Shepperton
Colindale	Ickenhan	Southall
Durden Park	London Transport	Thameside
Ealing	Magna Carta	Twickenham
Greenford	Metal Box	Uxbridge
Greenhill	Nestle's	Wenbley
Harrow	Northumbria	West Drayton
H.E.L.A.	Perivale	Whitton

Yours faithfully, (signed) Rona T. Hebbs
(Secretary)

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF THE EXECUTIVE

REG. BUDGE

Currently holds the following positions of office: Vice President of both the Middlesex Federation and the Hounslow Wine Circle, Chairman of Surrey and South Thames Federation, Vice Chairman of Twickenham Amateur Winemakers Association and Treasurer of both the Middlesex Federation and Malden and Coombe Wine Circle. Previously held office as: Chairman of Association of Federations of Wine and Beermakers, Chairman of Middlesex Federation and Chairman of Hounslow Wine Circle.

NORMAN CHIVERTON

Norman lives in Rugby and is a member of Lutterworth and Burbage Circles. Originally from the South, belonging to both Chertsey and Twickenham Circles, he has been wine and beermaking since 1966 with moderate success at National level. First "National" he attended was Hull and hasn't missed since. Norman runs an office supplies business in Rugby.

NORMAN PEASE

Norman is a member of East Grinstead Circle and has been its Chairman for the past three years. Was for two years treasurer and Social Organiser of the 23/25 Fed. His activities in promoting winemaking and interclub competitions resulted in East Grinstead winning at almost every show they entered during 1976 and 1977, culminating in the taking of the Marconi Club Trophy at the 1977 'National' at Scarborough. Norman's own wines, as well as helping his Circle to achieve this Award, also resulted in his winning the Vina Trophy in his own right. Norman sought election to the National Executive at Scarborough being unsuccessful by a narrow majority.

JIM CHETTLE

Young man in his early forties. Married to Pauline - no family, but an ever-increasing collection of bottles.

After reaching the dizzy heights of Corporal in the RASC, he was asked by his late father to help out the family haulage business. He is still helping out.

When he got married, Jim found the purchase of the commercial product too expensive and turned to home oenology. Had beginner's luck and won an Award at his first National.

Local Liaison Officer at the first Nottingham National and Chief Steward at this year's Show. Recently re-elected for a second term as Chairman of Nottingham Winemakers' Association, having previously served as Vice-Chairman and Competition Secretary.

Jim belongs to two commercial tasting groups, one of these having just finished the Sunday Times Bottle University.

The following are this issue's letters to the editor. I thank them for their interest and hope that they have encouraged others to follow suit. There must be many members with something of interest that they could relate to fellow members. How about it?

From Judith E. Irwin (nee Bell), Churten Common Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset.

Dear Ken,

On reading your Newsletter, and in particular your remarks re the National Wine Queen Competition, I thought perhaps you would be interested to know exactly how Dorset Federation chose their entrant.

The first round was at Circle level, each of our Circles were asked to elect a Wine Princess and in my own case Poole Circle chose to do this at their annual dance in January. About 15 ladies entered and after the initial parade the judges chose 8 ladies to go on and answer some simple questions on wine. The judges then retired and later came up with the result and, much to my surprise, I was the winner. The Poole Princess was then entered in the Federation Competition to be held at the Seminar in March and would follow similar procedure - the winner (and again it was me) - to go to Nottingham to represent Dorset in the National Wine Queen Competition Finals. The Federation were to pay all the expenses and Poole offered to pay my partner's expenses, but as I did not take a partner they paid my Hairdressers bills etc.

So that's how I came to be at Nottingham, and may I say how delighted I am to have won. It really has been a great honour to hold this title for the first time, and I sincerely hope more and more ladies will come forward next year and the following years, to compete.

May I close by saying that since winning I have remarried, and that 1978 is a year that will never fade from my memory.

Yours sincerely,

Judith E. Irwin (nee Bell)

Letter from J. D. Parrack, (Dishon. Sec.)

Dear Ken Hill,

Amidst all the bouquets following the National, may I submit a mild brickbat on behalf of the Tyneside Nationals?

We can appreciate the amazement, if not sheer envy, caused by our spectacular success at the National - bearing in mind that as a Club we are but 6 months old. Modesty forbids us to say more than that it reflects great credit on the Judges.

However, we feel it a trifle mean to invent a new Club "Tyne side", donate then 44 of our valuable points, and put them in 9th position, whereas in fact the Tyneside Nationals should have $14 + 44 = 58$ points, and be in the 6th position in the "League Table"! We can think of several possible explanations for the error:-

- a) the inability of many of our members to write clearly when palatic (I have rarely seen any of them in any other state).
- b) the inability of one member (G. Sparrow), who shall be nameless, to know to which Club he belongs drunk or sober.
- c) the reluctance of eleven of our twelve members to "let the side down" by admitting to which Club their mediocre wines belonged.
- d) the downright refusal of eleven of our twelve members to make the Secretary's post other than Honorary.
- e) sabotage from the Ace of Clubs, who must be feeling the strain already.

May I also take this opportunity to clear up one or two misconceptions about the Club:

- 1) We are not out and out "pothunters" - we are simply short of drinking utensils.
- 2) The Northumbrian piper who travelled with our contingent is not purely for ornament - his pipes are used to strain off any traces of sediment that may have been thrown during the journey, while the chanter is calibrated on a gravity scale.
- 3) The mouse on our emblem is Mus mus ssp. durhamensis, which has invaded Northumberland only since the opening of the Tyne Tunnel.
- 4) Our Chairman, T. D. Hodkinson, who is beginning to show slight traces of oxidation around the edges, is on transfer, at a fee of £20,000, or on loan during the off-season at 75p per gallon - but only if piped.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Parrack (Dishon. Sec.)

From 7, Warren Avenue, Portobello, Wakefield, WF2 7JW. W. Yorkshire.

Dear Mr. Hill,

May I first of all assure Vic Goffen that my views on filters and pumps were not getting at him or any other person individually, and if I hurt his feelings I can only offer him my apologies. The filter I have was recommended to my wife by a fellow Circle member in the supply business and was assured it was the last thing in filters, and the only bad way I am in is being conned out of cash for an inefficient article, which I could have used to make several gals of wine.

Since my letter on filters I had the good fortune to see a demonstration at our circle with pumps and filters; it was claimed to filter 5 gals in 20 mins but some people around me seemed to have doubts about this. Sure it came through star bright. There were also remarks that somehow it did not look as good as before it went through. We were also given a taste but as we did not taste it before it went through I do not know what we were supposed to define from this. There is no getting away from the fact that they have to be reasonably clear before being put through, and I take it that they must have been racked off at least once if not more and probably sulphited, using a pump and pumping air into it to provide the pressure it should be sulphited again. I have often read about racking off at 3-monthly intervals or sooner if a deposit is shown and a camden tablet added and in some cases 2 added. I cannot see the fun of adding this stuff unnecessarily as it takes a long time to disappear.

I have had the pleasure to steward for Judges on several occasions and it is surprising the number of wines which have a taste of the stuff, also the number that have what is known as 'floaters'.

I have a very large number of friends, and members of my own family, who see to it that I do not put mine away and forget them - and some of these are very knowledgeable on commercial wines and are not interested in the colour but in the wine itself and I very soon know if there is anything wrong. I understand that commercial wines are filtered but this does mean that they do not give sediment if kept a while. I have even bought odd bottles with sediment in and red wines are worse than whites.

Is Vic also suggesting that I buy other filters until I come to the right one? I am satisfied with my own method which I use when bottling and it consists of 2 thicknesses of muslin enclosed in thin foam material even this takes a little colour out of my wines, but not to the extent that mechanical filters do. I have never implied that filtering took large amounts of anything out but I think if the pads were analysed there would be traces of everything.

Of course I think that some people filter just for showing what is one to believe when the Master Winemaker, Jim Cotter states he only makes wine for the National; he doesn't drink it and enter other shows. There are also people who take it home again and nobody gets a taste and some Prize Winners won't let anyone taste it?

I like to show, myself, to compare my wines with other people's but I limit my entries to what I can manage and not have one in everything that's going. Minor Awards are as satisfying to me as a lot of Cups, etc., that need cleaning (and some of these trophies have been spoilt by unnecessary polishing). Some Wine Circles have certain items of equipment that members can borrow but I think they are few and far between as the whole problem is that nobody wants the responsibility of looking after them.

This just happens to be one of those hobbies where one is always learning something.

(I hope you will excuse the typing, Mr. Hill, as my typewriter wants seeing to and in any case the typist is not as efficient as he ought to be!)

With kind regards, Yours faithfully,

Frank Scholes
(Wakefield & District Circle)

Letter from

Bob Marsdon,
117 Haig Road,
Hillingdon,
Middlesex, UB8 3EQ

Dear Ken,

In the May issue of the "Amateur Winemaker" the Editorial condemned so-called 'pot-hunting' at the 1978 National. In the July issue Jim Cotter, our Master Winemaker, objected to these sentiments, and asked the Editor to be more explicit over his remarks. Then followed a letter by myself, which agreed with the Editorial.

Firstly I would like to say that I did not write to the "A.W." solely to agree with the magazine's viewpoint. In fact what was published was the concluding paragraph of a letter of criticism on another subject, which the Editor saw fit to omit.

Secondly, prior to my letter, I had not voiced an opinion on this issue, either verbally or in writing, but feel I must qualify my agreement with the A.W. through our "News and Views".

I did notice at Nottingham the almost military operation of totting-up other people's points on the Class results sheets. Surely winning is not so important, that it can't wait until the final result sheets are distributed at the evening dance?

Returning to Jim Cotter's letter, he likened winemaking to the field of sport. Having just witnessed the gamesmanship and ill-feeling surrounding the World Cup Football Final and remembering the recent fisticuffs in the Australia v Wales Rugby match, I hope the 'win at all costs' attitude of so-called sport never enters the field of hone winemaking.

Jim was also quoted in the May issue of the "Winemaker" as saying he never drinks his wine, but makes it only for the National Exhibition. I find this a very sad statement and, if true, I feel it answers his own query "How do you classify a fanatical pot-hunter"?

Wines should be made for the enjoyment of drinking them. Competitions should be used to attain a fair and unbiased assessment, with tips from our judges on how our wines and beers might be improved. To this end, I once again implore the National Committee to increase the 15 minutes' time allowed for the "Judges at the Bar" session at the National Conference.

Yours fraternally in Winemaking,

Bob Marsdon

To clear up any ambiguity as to who is "Tyneside" I have awarded the £2 winning letter to J. D. Parrack. Incidentally, it is no wonder we do not know who you are as you did not put your address upon your letter but, to give the lie to this remark, I now publish it for all to see! Away the lads - I'm trying to be the Winemakers' Jinny Carter. Don't spend your £2 on Newcastle Brown.

J. D. Parrack,
1 Woodburn Drive,
Whitley Bay,
Tyne Wear,
NE26 3HS.

OCCASIONAL

The best value for money in Wine Books - Gerry Fowles WINE FOR ALL SEASONS is still being produced every three months at 25p plus 10p postage from 61 Church Road, Woodley, Reading.

Ken Bilham, 4c Summerhill Villas, Susan Wood, Chislehurst, Kent, has a few vacancies for anyone who still has not fixed up their holidays, as follows:

15th to 29th October, 1978 to Andalusia, Spain and North Africa @
£137 full board. vacancy 5 twin.

11th September to 15th Sept in Rhine and Moselle @ £115 one single
and one twin available

24th September to 30th Sept in Rhine and Moselle - 4 twins available

If you are interested, contact Ken Bilham.

Clubs willing to receive visitors:

RINGWOOD Wine Circle meets Greyfriars Community Centre on 2nd Thursday of each month

Hon. Sec. Maurice Matthews, 1 Meadow Way, Ringwood, Hants, Tel:
Ringwood 3338.

For the third time I rise to ask 'have you got any wine-making or beermaking tips? If so, write to me and I will print them. I have appealed in three issues but so far the rest is silence. One last word before I close. Do check to make sure that you are a paid-up member. I am afraid if you do not rejoin this will be the last N.L. until you do so. Then you can get busy making your elderberry wine.

KEN HILL, Editor,
18 Laxton Road,
Liverpool, L25 0PQ

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

The Brighton Metropole Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, have written offering accommodation for 30th March to 1st April, 1979, to Members at 9.50 per night. Bed and Continental Breakfast, for a minimum stay of two nights.