

NOVEMBER, 1978

NEWS

Dear Members,

Many of you have heeded the reminder printed in the last N & V about renewing your subscriptions but to those who have not, can I again state that you must renew before 6th January, 1979, if you wish to be eligible to enter the Members classes in the Brighton National. Our membership Secretary is Jim Chettle, 45 Oak Tree Drive, Gedling, Nottingham.

The months seem to be racing by, it is already November. Before you can look around the National will be upon us. Plans are well in hand and everything points to the fact that Brighton will be something special, even apart from the fact that it is our 21st Anniversary Year. For the first time for years we have succeeded in getting our schedules out at an early date. Keep them safe and make sure that they are not thrown away with the Xmas wrapping paper. Additional schedules can be obtained from Norman Chiverton, 5 Healey Close, Brownsover, Rugby, CV21 1NE. Please include postage: 5 schedules cost 15p postage. Thank you. Despite a lot of hard work there are a couple of minor errors in the schedule. The more you are involved in producing schedules, the more you realise that proof-reading is a professional job. The first omission is that E. Swift (Merseyside) was joint winner of the Hill Cup (runner up Master Winemaker, 1978). The second error is that on page 25 of the schedule in the boxed display, Classes 8, 9, 10a and 10b should be in Section 1. Section 2 begins at Class 11a. Amendment slips have been sent out. Now for a change of address: our Convener of Judges, Ken Bilhan, has moved from 4c Sumnerhill Villas to 3c Sumnerhill Villas, Susan Wood, Chislehurst, Kent. (At least he did not have far to carry his wines),

Just a reminder that there are two, and possibly three, new trophies for the Brighton National; The NAWB Trophy, the Boots Trophy and the Audrey Newton Trophy. For details of the first two Trophies see page 15 of schedule; the Audrey Newton Trophy is still subject to discussion.

Those who attended Nottingham last year will remember that we ran our first Wine Queen competition which proved very successful. We are expecting an even greater response this year. The gallant young ladies that competed last year were - I'm certain - reassured by the decorum with which it was run and the kind and helpful response from the audience. GIRLS, GIRLS! here is a great opportunity. Do not miss this chance. The entry form is on page 14 of the schedule. In with the schedules were the Grand Draw tickets which we hope the members will make a real effort to sell. Unfortunately in the past many books have been returned unsold. This is a pity because the aim is to help your Association. For reasons not apparent to myself, the NAWB does not always seem to get the full support of its members in the way that a Federation does. I suppose it is the fact that we are scattered countrywise and members do not have quite the same link of identification that comes from a closer knit community. None of us really like selling draw tickets but remember the cause, and let us all do our best. Our hard-working Fund Raiser, Brian Edwards, is appealing for gifts or donations for the Tombola, Brian and his family put hours of work into running the Tombola, let us make them work harder than ever this year by making a bumper contribution to their prizes. Brian's address is 10 Begonia Close, Burbage, Leicestershire. Thank you.

Some schedules have been returned 'not known at this address'. Will all members please make sure that if they moved recently, they inform the membership secretary, Jim Chettle, of their change of address.

In this News Letter you are getting the most up-to-date news possible as I am including all news from the Executive Committee Meeting held on 19th November. I am happy to say that the Executive is running like a well-oiled machine and the nearer we get to Brighton, the more the adrenalin seems to flow. Would you like to be a WINE STEWARD? If so, please send your name and address to the Convener,

Ken Dilhan - and remember "3c" and not 4c Summerhill Villas. Any aspiring judge really does need some experience, especially at National level, at being a Wine Steward. I also have an appeal from Norman Pease, Chief Steward, and his appeal is for the backbone of any Conference - I refer, of course, to the General Stewards. The form to apply as a General Steward is on page 13 of the Schedule. If you have not got a schedule, send your N/A and times available, to Norman at 11 Riverside, Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5HB. Many hands make light work.

To-date we have 606 members and room for many more. Do not forget the date I have already mentioned: 6th January, 1979. Do join before this date, to enter the Brighton National.

Looking to the future, we have a pencil booking which we shortly hope to confirm for the 1980 National. All being well it will be at Blackpool on 28th, 29th and 30th March, 1980, in the Empress Ballrooms and adjoining rooms. This is big enough to hold two Nationals in - space will not be a problem and looking at the hotel prices, they seem to be much lower than those in the South of England (they need to be). Those who have been to the North West Fed. Conference do not need to be told of the tremendous spirit (both types) in this part of the country.

Here is another reminder about the replicas being awarded at Brighton. If you win a First Prize you receive an engraved wine glass. If you also win a Trophy for the best exhibit you will receive a silver plated cup, approx. 4½" high with chased surface. If you win a trophy for the highest points (more than one class) you receive the larger goblets. Believe me, they are all well worth winning. It is hoped to get the glasses engraved with 21st Anniversary, so if you get a First Prize this year your glass will be unique as also will be the two glasses given to each judge.

Are you having trouble thinking of a Xmas present for your wife or lady friend? If so, we have the very thing: A fine silver chain with NAWB pendant. These make a delightful present at the very reasonable price of £5.15p, including postage and packing. Get your now from Norman Chiverton, 5 Healey Close, Brownsover, Rugby, CV21 1RE.

All those who enjoyed their trip to Bristol for the World Wine Fair this year, take heart - it is being repeated again in 1979 again at Bristol. The dates are: for the public - 20th July, 1979 to 28th July, 1979. Timing this forthcoming one is slightly different: Open to the public from 11.0 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., except Sunday, 22nd July - 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Saturday, 28th July: 11.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Hotels are being booked up already so I suggest if you or your Club are thinking of more than a day visit, get your pencil booking for accommodation in as soon as possible.

One of the best known figures in winemaking and Judging, Andy Andrews, has retired as Chairman of the A.W.N.G.J. (that was its title when Andy retired). Known and respected throughout the movement, Andy is one of the leading figures in the world of wine judging, and happily his experience and guidance will not be lost as he has been installed as the first President of the Guild. At their recent A.G.M. they voted to change their title to National Guild of Judges of Wine and Beer. I know you will all join with me in wishing Andy, who is a Past President of N.A.W.B., many happy years of wine-making (and drinking). The position of Chairman of N.G.J.W.B. is that well-known winemaker and Judge, Ted Adcock. We wish Ted every success. It is always difficult following such a person as Andy but I am sure that Ted will be more than equal to the task. Other positions of the Judges' Committee are as follows:-

Chairman:	Ted Adcock	Newsletter:	Doug Broadwater	Tech. Officer:	Philip Delmon
V. Chairman:	Philip Dransfield	Conference		Asst. "	Roger Downes
Secretary:	Vic Goffin	organiser:	Sybil Hill	Chief	
Treasurer:	Ivor Morgan	Registrar		Examiner:	Ted Adcock
		& P.R.O.:	Denis Rouston		

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We welcome the following Circles into 'National' Membership:

Grinsby and Cleethorpes Winemakers' Circle
Gartree Prison Wine Circle
Enfield Wine Makers
Thundersley Gardening Association Wine Circle
Jubilee Wine Circle
Southminster Wine Guild

We welcome the following individuals into 'National' Membership:

R. W. Winkett, Castle Bromwich
Mrs. H. Wallace, Plymouth
C. A. Eldridge, Hastings
Mrs. F. Dutton, Roydon Hamlet
W. L. Shand, Orpington
R. V. Williams, Aberaman
D. Brokenbrow, Strood
F.R.C. Pollard, Gravesend
C. A. Marsh, Erith
J. Caisley, Westerhope
G. L. Neaves, Barking
M. P. Walsh, Barking,
F. W. Lane, Harlington
A. J. Ball, Durbage
F. C. Parks, Haverfordwest
Mrs. E. Aspinall, Huddersfield
J. H. Russell, Eastbourne
Miss L. Nowland, London
J. W. Elliott, Knowle
C. G. Alley, Solihull
R. A. Elcombe, Hextable
B. W. Sillick, Hextable
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Mills, Wanstead
Mr. & Mrs. R. Jones, London
Mr. & Mrs. G. Thorn, Chigwell
Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Hunt, Tottenham
Mr. & Mrs. E. King, Eastleigh

Mrs. R. A. Spiller, Rainham
Mr. & Mrs. A. K. Nicholls, Crewkerne
D. Richardson, Wembley
Mrs. J. Smith, Woodmansey
Mr. & Mrs. A. Batty, Cottingham
W. P. Hicks, Bexley
R. D. Thacker, Poole
G. F. Stoneman, Sidmouth
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Brown, Liphook
Miss S. Downes, Hackney
Mr. & Mrs. P. Vickery, Lower Froyle
J. McKeon, Harrow
Mrs. A. Dilly, Eastleigh
Mr. & Mrs. E. Hickson, Southall
Mrs. V. Snales, Nottingham
Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Long, Chandlers Ford
Mrs. S. Taylor, Chigwell Row
Mr. & Mrs. G. West, Chigwell Row
Mr. & Mrs. O. Saunders, Leytonstone
Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Seaborne, Walthamstowe
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Smith, Chigwell
Mr. & Mrs. R. Braybrook, Duckhurst Hill.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Downer, Tottenham
Mr. & Mrs. V. Mayhew, Chingford
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Parker, Waltham Cross
Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Broadwater, Ilford
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Clark, Winchester

As you will probably read in the 'Amateur Winemaker', the Executive are arranging an N.A.W.B. Dinner Dance at the Mona Hotel, Meriden, West Midlands, on Saturday, 1st September, 1979. We are unable to give a firm price at this stage but it is expected to be between £5 and £6 per head. There will be room for 200 - first come, first served. We regret that home-made wine cannot be consumed in the public rooms. The Mona Hotel have kindly offered overnight stay at half the normal price for those attending the Dinner and Dance. We hope that we will get your full support in this new venture.

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LETTER FROM FUND RAISER:

Dear Members,

TOMBOLA - BRIGHTON. 1979

Once again I would invite you to subscribe a gift for the Tombola Stall at the National Show. Your response last year was by far the best ever and did much to add to the social occasion.

Gifts large or small are appreciated and, as previously, household items, wine/beer equipment, books or money to purchase prizes, are all most welcome.

Acknowledgments of all gifts will be made at the Tombola Stall and in the Newsletter following the A.G.M.

Please send gifts to me at the above address. On behalf of your National Committee, I thank you in anticipation of your generous support.

Yours sincerely, Brian H. Edwards.

VIEWS

From recent items in the press it would appear that some suppliers of Commercial wines have fallen from the usual high standards that are normally maintained by the wine trade. I have read of two recent cases where merchants have been re-labelling wines and purporting that they are of a higher quality than the wine bottled. A worrying aspect of the trade, but once tasted you should know whether it is value for money. I favour Claret and here at least you do have a safeguard if you buy Chateau bottled wines. They may be a little dearer but there is a good guarantee of authenticity.

Home winemakers have also run foul of the law. In a case reported in the Daily Telegraph on 7.6.78, a Bolton Pensioner was fined £60 and £20 for possessing a still and manufacturing spirits. One of his bottles contained 70% proof spirit. He is alleged to have said he took up brewing as a hobby and it never occurred to him that he was breaking the law. The way of the transgressor is hard.

In October I was invited by the Consumers Association, in conjunction with the Daily Mirror, to London, for an assessment of Beer Kits. They had given a number of beer kits to members of the public, - some were complete beginners and some who had made beer for quite a time. The judging panel consisted of Wilf Newshone of the AWNGJ, Alan Mackie of Charles Wells Brewery and from the world of entertainment, Jack Douglas, Tony Monopoly and Alvin Stardust. Whilst not up to the quality of a mashed brew, the beers tasted came out quite well. Alvin Stardust summed the experience up quite well when he said "If you had what we have sampled served to you in someone's house, you'd be surprised if they told you it was home-made". It was refreshing to find the media taking the hobby seriously and not, as they so often do, as a subject for jokes. Congratulations to the Consumers' Association and the Daily Mirror.

Autumn seems to be the time for Festivals: in the past few weeks we have had the Midlands, North West and Nottingham, all of which I have had the pleasure of attending. For the Midlands, Sybil and I were the guests of Harold and Shiela Ritchie at Burton on Trent. The evening prior to the Midlands was Burton Circle's meeting and we went with them for the evening. This was a talk and tasting of Italian Wines by Mrs. Felicita Pask - Hughes Wolkenlos, Lower Bentley, Bronsgrove, Worcs. Mrs. Hughes who is from Italy is an importer of Italian Wines and spoke with tremendous enthusiasm and knowledge of these wines. We also had a very generous tasting. All the wines were very clean on the palate and very well made. Two that impressed me were a Sparkling Wine, Prosecco Do Conegliano @ £2.10 and a very full-bodied red with the Germanic name of Wildbacher @ £2. A most enjoyable start to a very good weekend. Once again the Midland Federation Dinner was the highlight.

The North-west Fed. Conference at Pontins, Southport, goes from strength to strength. This year 2,800 bottles with some 1,300 persons staying the weekend in the camp: it seems to attract visitors from all over the country for what was a right royal event.

Finally, we had the pleasure of attending the Nottingham Festival where your Chairman, Sybil, was Guest of Honour. Incidentally, she is quite happy to be called Chairman, rather than Chairperson - (I call her all sorts of things!). At Nottingham we were the guests of their Chairman, Jim Chettle and his delightful wife, Pauline. On the Saturday evening Sybil presented the Cups and Awards. On the Sunday morning Jim and Pauline had arranged a very pleasant surprise: they invited a number of friends around for breakfast of - among other delights - kegeree and copious glasses of Champagne. No wonder breakfast didn't finish until 2.00 p.m!

In that admirable magazine on commercial wines "Decanter" a discussion has been going on over the past few months upon the value of decanting wines some hours before drinking. I would be interested to hear if any home winemakers have any views as to adoption of decanting for home-made wines. The experts suggest as long as 12 to 24 hours for some of the higher quality Rioja wines and those of Penendas near Barcelona. Of course it will always be a good excuse if you do not win at the Show to say - "Ah, but you should have tasted it after it had been decanted for a few hours." Your views would be appreciated.

These days quite a number of Shows include classes for fortified wines. I know that the Guild of Judges are not in favour of this type of class and I can now see a number of reasons for agreeing with them. I do feel that if fortified classes are going to be included (it seems winemakers want them) then extra conditions will have to be written into the rules. Most schedules only mention the word 'fortification'. I am sure that when they do this they have in mind the addition of Polish Spirit or unflavoured Vodka. The idea is to increase the amount of alcohol in a wine. During recent weeks I have heard of a number of cases of competitors keeping within the written rules but not within the spirit (sorry!) of the competition. It seems that when making a sherry type wine some competitors have been fortifying their sherry-type wines with commercial sherry. I am sure that this was not what the Show Committees intended. Neither was the addition of cognac to wines. I know Brandy is added to Port but it is a rather different ball game. If we are going to have fortified classes, any additional fortification should, I think, be in the form of Polish Spirit or Vodka. What do you think?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Bryan Acton, 36 Angus Drive, Bletchley, Bucks.-

The ones who don't win prizes

I often feel that the losers in wine competitions do not get a fair deal. The Judges at the Bar session is generally much too short and often at Shows such as the National or the Middlesex, some judges are not there since they are giving talks, judging the Beauty Queen, or the Best Wine of the Show.

Privately, a few of us judges are trying to expand the system, so that justice is seen to be done. We keep our judging notes for up to a month after the Show and either give the Show secretary our name and address or leave a note on the judging stand that if any competitor wants to know why his wine did not get a prize we will tell him or her so long as a stamped addressed envelope is sent for reply.

This covers the sort of situation I met at Buckingham recently. In the dry red class, there was a highly oxidised wine. Now as it turned out, this competitor had won ALL 1st prizes in the previous year's Show and at the point of judging had taken the 1st prize in the dry white at this year's Show. He is much too good a winemaker to ever put an oxidised wine in a red class. So an accident of some sort occurred - possibly he had an excellent red wine and filtered it a week before the Show. Having taken his bottle home he would see it was oxidised, but would assume that this had occurred at the Show from the air gap caused by the sample taken out and the fact that it was a hot day. Only by contacting me can he discover the fact that the wine was heavily oxidised at the judging itself and so locate the cause of this accident in order to avoid it in the future.

It is premature to suggest such a course at the National, but it could be done at judging all the small horticultural Shows, where beginners in winemaking are testing their early prowess.

Editor's Note:

I would be interested in the views of Judges to the above suggestion.

Letter from Mrs. J. E. Hamilton, Hon. Secretary, Colchester A.W.S.
3 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex.

Dear Mr. Hill,

HAWB Conference and Show - Brighton - 1979

I had been experiencing great difficulty in finding a good inexpensive hotel for 8 people, for the Conference. My enquiries were by telephone, to officially listed hotels. The only hotel who agreed to take us, on the telephone, did not reply to my confirmatory letter, in which I enclosed an S.A.E. I saw an advertisement in the Brighton and Hove Guide for the Embassy Accommodation Bureau, 25 Wilbury Avenue, Hove, BN3 6HS. A telephone call, confirmed by letter to them saying what was required was dealt with most efficiently, at no cost to me. The booking was made, the deposit sent, all arrangements confirmed within three working days. A note in the Newsletter would save frustrated secretaries like me a lot of worry.

Letter from Stan Baker, 131 Gordon Road, Chathan, Kent.

Dear Ken,

Bob Marsden "Fanatical pot-hunting" letter in the August "NAVO" would seem to indicate that all people who visit or exhibit at the National are of a like mind. The longer one lives, the more one appreciates that it would be a dull old world if we all thought the same way.

Mistakes have been made at the Nationals and revised figures have been given at the Sunday morning presentation so "the military operation of totting up other people's points" is only a safeguard; there is nothing in the constitution of the association that says one may not do this.

If Jim Cotter likened winemaking to the field of sport, he does so with some experience as he gained major honours in a much more active hobby. People's interest in their job or their hobby varies considerably. When I became redundant some years ago, I intended to make the craft of amateur winemaking become a means of earning a living. Naturally, everything related to the craft was taken in deadly earnest. Without the competitive spirit at the National, the standard would soon deteriorate.

Jim Cotter is quoted as saying that he never drinks his wine; he may have personal reasons but he is not the only major National winner to adopt this approach. A lady winemaker who has been a consistent winner at National level and was on one occasion Runner up to the Master winemaker rarely drinks wine for reasons of health. Nonetheless, she enjoys making wines and though by no means ambitious she also gains great pleasure in having her winemaking skills recognised at National level.

Another lady winemaker from a Kent Club that were National Champions on several occasions conserved her winemaking activities solely for the National. The reason again was health - arthritic hands.

I agree with Bob Marsdon in that fifteen minutes is insufficient time for "Judges at the Bar", but then I have already mentioned this in a previous NAVO letter.

I would suggest a 'Live and let live' policy. If Jim Cotter's wines are good enough to win the Master Winemaker's Trophy - then good luck to him.

Letter from Alan Briggs, Entries Secretary, 4 Suffolk Avenue, Carlton Grange, Datley, Yorks, West Yorks, WF17 7AN.

Dear Ken,

Re - letter from J. D. Parrack in last newsletter.

Every year we receive complaints either at the Show or after the Show about Awards given to the wrong clubs or to no clubs at all, i.e. unattached, but, as most members know, my particular 'cross to bear' has been the Entries Secretary for the past few years, so I do see all the entry forms and do allot a Circle Number to an entry form or write 'unattached'. Now, if an entry form says "Tyneside", and another "Tyneside Nationals", how am I to know that these are one and the same? Another example: a couple of years ago, someone put on their entry form T.A.W.A., which to me meant nothing, but talking to Ken Bilhan at an Executive meeting, Ken says "Oh yes, I know the person, he is a member of Twickenham!" So another mystery was solved!

Now Ken, can we, through the News Letter, ask all members to be particularly careful when they fill their entry forms in for Brighton and please look carefully at -

1. Circle to which they belong
2. Their membership number
3. They enter the correct classes and sub classes
4. Send the correct entry fees
5. Send the self-addressed stamped envelope required
6. Not write to me about tickets for Friday or Saturday - Len Drysdale is doing these!

My candle during Jan and Feb not only burns at both ends but also in the middle, in these months, and whilst I can excuse Non-members, who know not any better by not being members of M.W.D., most of the Members who enter year by year can make the Entries Secretary's job just that little bit easier by following the printed Form and then we shall find that such as Tyneside Nationals are allotted all the points their members have so richly deserved and won for their Clubs, and not put to Tyneside or 'Unattached'.

Enebrated Yours,
Alan Briggs,
Entries Secretary, N.A.W.D.

Letter from Arthur Bradley, "Greystones", Guntons Road, Newborough, Peterborough.

Dear Mr. Hill,

In reply to Bob Marsdon's correspondence in the last Issue of News and Views I am interested in the Editorial comment in the May issue of 'Amateur Winemaker' as regards "pot-hunting" in defence of our very worthy winner of the 1978 Master Winemaker's Award, - Jim Cotter. Whether or not the Winemaker drinks his own wine or leaves the pleasure of his efforts for others to enjoy is surely irrelevant to the Judge who tastes and awards the points to the wine with the greatest merit? Winemaking is a skill and an art and my faith in the ability of the judges to award cups to the wine-maker or brewer who truly merits them by virtue of his results, is such that I can only stand back and applaud the person who has achieved the honour of Master Winemaker of the Year.

I can find no evidence of pot-hunting being mentioned in previous years after the National regards Jim Cotter's winemaking, so why wait until 1978?

It would be a sad day indeed if 'sour grapes' entered into the spirit of British winemakers!

Yours faithfully,
Arthur Bradley

Letter from Elvin Plant

The National Association - stagnation or expansion?

Between now and the 1979 National Conference there is limited scope for discussion on this question of "an integrated, three-tier system" (T.T.S.) This essay is an attempt to examine the pros and cons with only one conscious bias which I freely admit. I am not in favour of giving a vote where there is no genuine interest.

My first two points must, therefore, be on the question of voting and I put this question squarely to friend Wilf Newson and company. Increased and conscripted membership will not, in my opinion, strengthen the National. Why conscript Circle members when there are countless thousands of Winemakers/Beermakers OUTSIDE the regional organisations which the regions have not so far touched, and which certainly cannot be conscripted.

My second point is if the Regions realise that they can only coerce that minority of beer/wine-makers who are Guild/Circle members what about voting powers? Does Mr. Newson (a) envisage all these disinterested people having a vote - then - (b) will this lead to a demand for postal/proxy voting? Frankly I am suspicious of the T.T.S. on this point because (1) Circles in the Greater London Area and Home Counties will then ALWAYS outvote the rest of the U.K. and (2) the A.G.M. will become a farce. People who attend the A.G.M. to listen to arguments for/against motions will soon realise that with postal votes predominating, attendance at the A.G.M. will be a waste of time.

The Editor of A.W. recently stated that the Regions have ideas but not the money to put them into effect while the National has the money but - this is my surmise - not the ideas. Surely the regional officers are BIG enough to pass on ideas, or are their ideas sacrosanct? Why not test these wonderful ideas at Regional level? Is there an element of 'dog in the manger' here? It is relatively easy, as successive Chancellors have discovered, to spend other people's money.

Yes, how can two people express the opinion of the whole county? The Circles aren't the WHOLE country. Presumably one man - aided by the Editor of A.W. - CAN speak for the wine/beermakers who keep solvent that growing body of retailers and Boots, and Savory & Moore, and Tesco, etc. How can Wilf Newson speak for these customers and those unknown millions who watch T.V.? Are we to give votes to Wine/Deermakers who "phone in" when Mr. Andrews is a guest of the BBC? The truth is, Mr. Newson, you cannot speak for your representatives on the Executive any more than you can speak for Circles. No-one, not even Sybil Hill, or the Convenor of Judges can speak for those few who are genuinely interested in the National. Every wine/beer maker can vote at the AGM IF they are Members and I castigate your remarks, as printed on page 612 of the A.W., as petty and puerile and petulant. The suggestion that, somehow, the Executive has stifled discussion on the T.T.S. and has tampered with motions for discussion at the A.G.M. is indecent and should be withdrawn.

Elvin Plant.

THE WINNING LETTER THIS MONTH IS BY BRYAN ACTON, 36 Angus Drive, Bletchley, Bucks, AND HE WILL BE RECEIVING A CHEQUE FOR £2. MY THANKS TO ALL THE OTHER LETTER-WRITERS WHO HELP TO MAKE N & V INTERESTING READING - KEEP IT UP!

O C C A S I O N A L

Ken Bilhan, 3c Summerhill Villas, Chislehurst, Kent, is arranging the following Cruise to Denmark. Five days, starting 1st May, 1979. On the new 14000 ton Danish Seaways Flagship. All shipboard entertainment, two nights in Denmark. £69.50. Write to Ken for full details.

I must point out that the above Cruise is not connected in any way with NAWB, but I am happy to publish any information which will be of interest to winemakers on similar ventures. If any Club is running trips abroad and is short on bookings, let me know - but please remember we only go to print quarterly. Publishing dates are roughly February, May, August and November. This is your Newsletter, do take advantage of it.

If you occasionally make a poor wine, do not despair. I recently drank a bottle of D'Qyeum and it was dreadful. Mind you, it was a 1963 which was a poor year and it should have been drunk much sooner. I only paid the same price as for a cheap Spanish so I can't complain. You can't win then all.

With a glass of what, for me, is one of the best Sherry's made by Williams and Humberts - Dos Cotardos - in my hand, I raise it to all members and members-to-be, and wish you, on behalf of your Executive, a Very Merry and Happy Xmas, and a Prosperous New Year.

KEN HILL,
EDITOR.

18 Laxton Road,
Liverpool, 25.

