

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS AND VIEWS OCCASIONAL

FEBRUARY, 1979

NEWS

Dear Members,

This is my first News Letter of 1979, and what with the strikes and the weather I think that we would all feel better if 1979 was cancelled from lack of support!

Things are so bad that they can only get better. The one bright light on the horizon is the National - Brighton on 30th, 31st March and 1st April. Everything is clicking into place and all augurs well for a great weekend.

BRIGHTON DAY TICKETS

We have had a large number of enquiries into the request for day tickets for the Saturday of the National. I am pleased to announce that these will now be available for Saturday, 31st March, and will allow visitors to the National from 9.0 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. This ticket will not include the Civic Reception and Dance. The cost of a day ticket is 50p. These can be obtained from Reg Budge, 17 Oaks Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8X or Norman Pease, 11 Riverside, Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5HB. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

CHILDREN AT NATIONAL

To further assist members and others attending the Brighton National with their children, the following concessions have been made. Children up to the age of 14 years can attend free, children from 14 to 17 years at half price. These terms apply as long as the children are accompanied by an adult.

AN APPEAL - for General Stewards and Judges' Stewards

We still require General Stewards for Brighton. If you are willing to help, please contact Norman Pease whose address is above.

Wine Judges' Stewards. If you are willing to assist, please contact Ken Bilham, 3 Summerhill Villas, Susan Wood, Chislehurst, Kent.

NATIONAL WINE QUEEN. BRIGHTON

We hope a great number of the ladies will be entering the Wine Queen contest on the Friday of the Brighton Conference. We are hoping that our retiring Queen, Mrs. Judith Irwin, will be available to crown the new Queen. The new Queen will win a voucher for £5 plus one year's membership of the National and, like our retiring Queen, will receive a generous grant towards her expenses if she assists in crowning her successor the following year. Do not miss this opportunity, ladies. You can enter right up to the last moment before the contest.

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Civic Reception is being given by the Brighton Authorities and only persons with a full Conference ticket will be allowed to attend. The civic reception tickets can only be obtained from Len Drysdale at the Membership stand on the Saturday, on production of your full Conference ticket.

SOUTHERN VINEYARDS

There will be an additional attraction this year. The firm of Southern Vineyards are very kindly donating some very valuable prizes for an additional Draw which will take place on the Saturday evening. Everyone with a full conference ticket will be given a special Southern Vineyards Draw ticket with a chance to win the following prizes: Goods to the value of £100; £50; £30; £20. Remember, this Draw will be confined to those with a full Conference ticket. The Executive would like to record their great appreciation to Southern Vineyards for this generous offer.

BOTTLE DELIVERY

Bottles must be delivered at the rear of the Conference Centre. Travelling along the Prom from the Palace Pier towards Hove, after approx. 800 yards, turn right into West Street (almost adjacent to the Brighton Centre) then first left into Russel Stand loading bay is 50 yards up Russel Street on the left. Please note: cars will not be allowed to remain at this point after unloading.

GENERAL PARKING

There is a multi-storey car park just to the rear of the Brighton Centre.

LADIES' SILVER PENDANTS

We still have the pendants available. They will be on show and for sale at Brighton. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase one. If you cannot wait until then, send cheque for £5.15 to Norman Chiverton, 5 Healey Close, Brownsover, Rugby, CV21 1NE.

CONFERENCE TICKETS

If you are coming to Brighton do not forget to apply to Len Drysdale, 7 Richmondfield Drive, Barwick in Elmet near Leeds for your Conference Tickets. This applies to members and non-members.

Costs Non-Members £6.50; Members £1.50.

In the past members have not had to pay but, unfortunately, at Brighton we have to pay a corkage charge for each member attending and the £1.50 is to cover this additional charge.

It is with very great regret that I have to inform you of the sudden death of Gordon Newton of Hull.

Gordon has for many years been a stalwart of the National and the Guild of Judges and will be missed by all.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, Audrey, in this time of sorrow and stress.

N.A.W.B. ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL

This will be held at the Manor Hotel, Meridan, Nr. Coventry on 1st September, 1979, price £6 per head. Tickets are available from Len Drysdale, 7 Richmondfield Drive, Barwick in Elmet, Near Leeds. There are only 200 tickets available, so first come first served. Overnight accommodation can be had at the Manor Hotel at the following reduced rate for ticket holders; £9 per head for overnight stay, with morning tea and English breakfast. Room will include bath and T.V. We hope to make this an annual event. It depends upon you.

VIEWS

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Anne Parrack has quite rightly pointed out to me that in my last issue I gave you the wrong title for the National Guild of Judges. I please guilty but I only wrote what I had been told. My informant was in error. The correct title is: National Guild of Wine and Beer Judges.

On 8 - 10th December I attended a Weekend Seminar held by the N.G.W.B.J. at Hoddesdon, Herts. It proved a really interesting weekend. The speakers were: Dr. R. A. Webb, Long Aston Research Station, Professor G.W.A. Fowles, Reading University, Mr. J. Clapperton, formerly of Brewing Research Station, Redhill and Conal Gregory, a leading authority in the commercial wine world.

It was wonderful value for money: in fact it was worth the price just to hear the Talks, without the accommodation. May I again take this opportunity of reminding you that Professor Gerry Fowles is still publishing his quarterly book on winemaking called 'Wine for all Seasons'. For any serious winemaker it is a 'must'. It only costs 25p plus 10p postage from Professor G. Fowles, 61 Church Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks., and, considering the information in each copy, it is a gift.

On the Sunday a.m. of the Judges' Seminar there was a tasting of commercial wines. We had eight different wines from France, Italy and Spain. The wine liked by the majority was 1967 Federico Paternina Rioja Gran Reserva - a great bottle. This is at present available in Augustus Barnett shops at £2.89 per bottle. Well worth trying. I like to open it about 6 hours before drinking.

Congratulations to the Guild for a very entertaining weekend.

Letters to the Editor

In this issue there is only one letter to the Editor. Perhaps you all had too much Ptas pudding. I have none the less awarded £2 to the writer, Stan Baker, 131 Gordon Road, Chatham, for a letter that raises a number of very interesting points.

Dear Ken,

Congratulations on the editing of the November News and Views Occasional - in my opinion it was full of interesting items.

The N.A.W. Dinner Dance to be held in the West Midlands is indeed a commendable start to the Executive's plan to provide an additional get-together for the members, but a Dinner Dance caters mainly for the "social" minded and may not appeal, or be too short in duration, for members travelling a considerable distance.

A better event, I consider, would be to have a wine and beer weekend, similar in character to that organised in December by the National Judges. There were five lectures - Sensory Analysis, Ingredients in Wine, a Talk and tasting of eight commercial wines, brewing, colour in wine and an Open Forum. The efforts of the four speakers was much appreciated and a similar seminar is being planned for two years hence.

Some of the people attending the seminar considered that a similar event would not be easy or worthwhile staging within a short space of time. I do not agree with this viewpoint because I have to plan forty-eight wine tastings a year and I have need of the services of at least forty speakers in order to maintain an interesting programme.

From the sphere of home winemakers I have made use of the talents of Ben Turner, Wilf Newsom, Don Hebbs, Ken Bilham, Douglas Lancaster, Grahame Hartley, Roy Roycroft, Don. Scrase, Alma Beall, Dr. John Harrison and Professor Gerry Fowles. They have all given first-class talks at very reasonable cost.

Two Masters of wine who have most impressed me are Robin Don of Norfolk - a wine-maker for 22 years - and Pat Simon of London, currently working on a standardised vocabulary of sensory analysis. In addition, I often make use of the wide range of knowledge of two London lecturers - Colin Gurteen and Neill Petch - as well as the specialised talent of Mr. Ian Read, author of "The Wines of Spain and Portugal" and Aubrey Davenport, who has visited and gives an excellent slide/talk on "The Vineyards of California". I feel sure that a weekend with interesting lectures and a Saturday night social would have a wide appeal and would be worth travelling some distance to attend. Some 'Market Research' is essential and perhaps the Executive may wish to 'sound out' the suggestion at the Brighton National and determine whether it is viable?

Show at Pontins Holiday Camp at Brea, Somerset, 6th-8th April, 1979, and the Midlands Show on 13th October in the Birmingham area, were suggested as very suitable.

It would appear that after a docile existence for five years, the Association of Federations is in a fighting mood.

JOHN TOULE - P.R.O.

I regret that the above copy arrived too late for the November issue. Editor.

We Welcome the following Circles into 'National' Membership:

Sheppey Winemakers Circle
Phoenix Circle

We welcome the following individuals into 'National' Membership:

Mrs. E. A. Lightowler, Whitkirk	Mrs. P. Thompson, Doncaster
Mr. W. Preston, Wakefield	Mr. & Mrs. P. D. Johnson, Melbourne
Mr. & Mrs. C. Dashwood, Hayes	Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Askew, Southampton
Mrs. R. Witherden, Poole	Mr. V. R. Waters, West Wickham
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Shersby, Enfield	Mrs. M. P. Whitehouse, Torquay
Mrs. M. Huff, Four Marks	Mrs. E. Eaton, Hillingdon
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Burn, Luton	Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Davis, Southampton
Mr. & Mrs. M. Collins, Southampton	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Morgan, Rainham
Mr. J. E. Wanstall, Gillingham	Mr. W. Penna, Enfield
Mr. W. Ratzmann, Alton	Mr. G. Holt, Leatherhead
Mr. B. Pollard, Epsom Downs,	Mrs. E. Wadmore, Sandiacre
Mr. & Mrs. B. T. Taylor, South Droyden	Mr. D. Wadmore, Sandiacre
Mr. & Mrs. B. D. Sharpe, Wembley	Mr. S. A. Sharpe, Henfield
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Chew, Huddersfield	Mr. F. J. Jackson, Hillingdon
Mr. E. P. Davey, Steyning	Mr. A. W. Mower, Billericay
Mr. & Mrs. F. Simpson, Beverley	Mr. J. Dobson, Bournemouth
Mrs. H. D. Weston, Beverley	Mr. G. W. Rawlins, Uckfield
Mr. & Mrs. B. Jupp, London	Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Bathe, Waltham Cross
Mr. & Mrs. E. Patience, Banstead	Mrs. D. Goddard, Coulsdon
Mr. & Mrs. H. Bateman, Beverley	Mr. & Mrs. R. Deare, Chingford
Mr. & Mrs. L.F. Clayton, Greenford	Mr. D. D. Taylor, Harlow
Mr. T. J. Davies, Sanderstead	Mrs. C. P. Liggins, Sanderstead
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Evans, Southampton	Mr. A. Parsons, Andover
Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Saunders, Edenbridge	Mr. T. W. Simmons, Tonbridge
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Barber, Pocklington	Mrs. S.R. Moody, Epsom
Mr. & Mrs. C. Dagg, Rainham	Mr. N.H. Dixon, Brixham
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Blake, Hornsea	Mr. T. G. Kelley, Epsom
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Saville, Hertford	Mr. & Mrs. C. Condon, Chingford
Mr. & Mrs. D. Fisher, Norton-on-Tees	Mr. & Mrs. J. Towns, Harlow
Mr. & Mrs. K. Mansell, St. Albans.	Mr. & Mrs. J. Reeves, St. Albans
Mr. & Mrs. W. Kentish, St. Albans	Mr. & Mrs. W. Lee, St. Albans
Mr. & Mrs. N. Shepherd, Redbourn	Mr. A. E. Rivers, Paignton
Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Deal, Rainham	Mr. H.L. Green, Rainham
Mr. & Mrs. R. Spooner, Cardiff	Mr. & Mrs. K. Perry, Cardiff
Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Easton, Edenbridge	Mrs. V. Jeffery, Edenbridge
Mr. J. Alderson, Brighton	Mr. S.W. Johnson, Brighton
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Haycock, Hampton	Mr. & Mrs. L. Randle, Southport
Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Marshall, Scunthorpe	Mrs. E.K. Bowler, Greenford
Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Kemp, East Grinstead	Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Hunt, Enfield
Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Blake, Kingsbury	Mr. & Mrs. F. Monday, Beverley
Mr. J. D. Bunkle, Lewes	Mr. & Mrs. D.F. Buddle, Ramsey
Mr. & Mrs. F.E. Page, Brampton	M/s M. Whitehead, Beverley
Mrs. B. Cross, Nottingham	Mr. & Mrs. J. Amifar, Chatham
Mr. D. J. Pulley, Bromley	Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Joiner, Bromley
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cate, Farnham	Mr. & Mrs. G.L. Mitchell, Witham
Mr. & Mrs. C. Jacobs, Witham.	

OCCASIONAL

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The Middlesex Federation are holding a Winemakers Seminar at Hounslow Town Hall on 12th May, 1979, commences 8.50 a.m., closes 17.50 hours. Programme includes the following Speakers: Mr. D. Lancaster, Dr. D.J. Russell and Dr. Martin Leadley. Discussion groups and wine evaluation. Bring your own wine glass. Tickets which include coffee and tea £1.50. Apply to Mrs. R.D.J. Hebbs, 41 Broad Walk, Heston, Hounslow. Tel. 01.570.8745.

WINE HOLIDAYS

Ken Bilham has informed me that there has been much interest from Judges and Winemakers that the five-day Wine and Beer tasting trip to Denmark on 1st May is now fully booked. A further trip has been arranged with the same itinerary commencing on Wednesday, 25th April. A cruise and two-day stay in Denmark - £69.

Liqueur and Wine Tasting and visit to Chateaux of the Loire Valley, 6 days £94., staying at the Grand Hotel in Tours.

Four full days' tour of Tuscany staying in Florence, visiting vineyards, cellars for tastings at Pisa, Siena. Flight from Heathrow, 2nd November, £169.

For further information re the above apply to Ken Bilham, 3 Summerhill Villas, Susan Woods, Chislehurst, Kent.

If any Circles or Federations have any trips that they would like to advertise, please inform the Editor.

KEN HILL, Editor,

18 Laxton Road,
Liverpool, L25 0PQ

P.S. "Is this your life"

One day, Margaret Tastebud (Miss M. Tastebud) joined NAWB. She was known to her friends as Peggy and communicated with NAWB as Miss P. Tastebud. This didn't cause much confusion until she moved in with her sister, Patricia Tastebud, who was also a member of NAWB.

When she married William Wynoe, she chastised the membership secretary for not foreseeing this event, and for continuing to send news to her old address. Of course, she continued to correspond with NAWB under the various guises of Mrs. M. Wynoe, Mrs. P. Wynoe, Mrs. W. Wynoe, and (because her husband was familiarly known as Bill), Mrs. B. Wynoe. A certain amount of confusion was caused, especially as many members of the large Wynoe family lived in the same small village, and were all NAWB members.

After many years, William went to join the Great Oenologist in the Sky (or did he divorce Peggy)? Suffice it to say, that certain committee members were taken to task for continuing to send correspondence to Mr. and Mrs. Wynoe.

Time passed, and Margaret decided to remarry, and became Mrs. Donald McVine, Donald being well-known as Jock. This was a very quiet wedding, attended by only a few non-winemaking friends. Apart from these incidents, her N.A.W.B. life was uneventful, except for the times she didn't send a stamp for the return of her membership document, and the times she forgot to sign her cheque. Although, one year, she renewed membership on the 1st July, and having forgotten, renewed again in December. Oh yes, she also sent her membership applications from time to time to the Show entries secretary, the Supplies officer, the Convenor of Judges and the Conference booking officer.

By the way, sister Pat always renewed her membership in January, and continually complained about lack of Newsletters, and not being able to enter Members classes at the National Show.