

May 84

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEER MAKERS

NEWS AND VIEWS



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS AND VIEWS

May 1984

EDITORIAL

Dear Patrons and Members,

For those of you who unfortunately missed the delights of this year's National at Nottingham University, may I point out that, as usual, the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held that same weekend, and there have, inevitably, been changes in the Committee elected to serve you. A list of all the current Officeholders is on the inside cover opposite, and you will quickly see we each wear several hats. For example, if you don't like News & Views this time, write to me as the Editor, and if I disagree I will send you a nice placatory letter as PRO. Unless of course you are a Circle Secretary, in which case I will plead for you, as Circle Representative, at the next Committee Meeting Hands you win, tails I lose.....I think!

The size of the Committee has been reduced, to slash the cost of expenses, meetings, and other overheads. At the same time we have all sorts of ideas bubbling away in our hot little brains, ideas to entertain you, to give our members a better service, and to expand the National Association into a bigger and more representative national body. We have all got our thinking caps on, but we are still anxious to hear whatever bright notions you can come up with. It is your Association, It is our Association, and we are all willing to listen at any time - well, almost - to any suggestions to help the NAWB improve its image.

Of course, new Committees mean the loss of long-serving retiring members, and really we have suffered very heavily this year. As far as I can discover, Sybil Hill served for 18 years, Peter Awberry for 17 years, and Roy Butcher and Ken Bilham for 10 years each. Just think of that; four members with a total of 55 years unrewarded and voluntary hard work in the service of the Association and Winemakers and Brewers in general. Between them they have been Chairman and Vice Chairman, Treasurer, PRO, News & Views Editor, Convenor, Chief Steward, Awards Secretary - the list is endless, it must cover every post of responsibility that we have. What a magnificent record of devotion to our hobby, and an example we each should be proud to follow. We must once again offer our thanks to them; they may be retired from office, but I am sure we will hear more from them. 'Anyone for a wine tour?'

During the afternoon most of the judges were present for questioning by the exhibitors, and interest in the show overlapped into the time set aside for an Open Forum chaired by Cyril Berry, our President. As the dividing wall in the two storey building only went up to one storey high, the Open Forum was nearly drowned out by the noise echoing over from the Show Hall. Despite this several issues were discussed, including labelling, comments cards, accommodation, and future dates and venues. Mr Berry also put forward a suggestion that had been made, to link a future National with a Homebrew Trade Show and for it to be held in the World Wine Fair Premises in Bristol.

(This will be discussed in later pages of this 'News & Views' Ed.)

In the evening we celebrated "Maurice the Chair's" birthday - I'd tell you his age but I don't know how to mumble in print. Unhappily the music was not forthcoming on time, not until 9 pm in fact, and the side of the hall where I sat was cold and draughty. It did not seem to keep away visitors to the adjoining table, where Old Bexley had a prize-winning display, including Pauline Joynson's pig's head, if she will excuse the phrase. (And it was delicious!). Eventually the evening came to a halt, with the last waltz, whereupon everyone dispersed, to bed for most, or to parties for the indestructible.

Dave Pulley had a party for the Committee and friends, though he did not know about it until we got halfway back to the Hall.

Sunday, in the best April Fool's Day tradition, started off with a gentle fall of snow, making a few members blink and reach for the Andrews Liver Salts and dark glasses and swearing never to touch the stuff again. The snow did not linger, and after breakfast we ambled across to the Sports Centre yet again for the AGM. As it was still April 1st the microphone was switched off for some time, but our speakers gallantly bellowed on without it. A later issue of News & Views will contain the official report of the meeting.

The presentation of the awards followed, with some popular winners and some new faces, amongst the recipients of the trophies. A list of the Trophy Winners is given on another page. With this our President closed the Show for 1984. All that remained was lunch, and then the journey home after what I found to be a very enjoyable weekend. The wines had been good, the University Halls had been warm and comfortable, the food good and plentiful, the weather kindly for the time of year, and as always, the company was the best there is, one's fellow members and guests of the leading body of amateur winemakers and brewers in the world.

Hurry up, Eastbourne!

<u>NAWB Trophy</u> Master Wine and Beer Maker of the Year	E.W.TAPPENDEN (Old Bexley)
<u>Bournemouth Master Winemaker Cup</u> Highest Points over 16 Wine Classes	E.W.TAPPENDEN (Old Bexley)
<u>Hill Cup</u> 2nd Highest Points in Wine Classes	(R.A.MARSDEN(Wembley) (P.OLIPHANT (Tyneside Nat))
<u>Amateur Winemakers Shield</u> Circle with most points over 80 classes	TYNESIDE NATIONALS
<u>Nottingham Trophy</u> Circle with 2nd highest points	PHOENIX
<u>Marconi Club Trophy</u> Circle with best 3 Wines for Dinner	PHOENIX
<u>NAWB Beer Trophy</u> Circle with best 3 bottles of beer	TYNESIDE NATIONALS
<u>Chempro Trophy</u> Federation with Best 3 Wines for Dinner	23/25 FEDERATION
<u>Association of Federations Trophy</u> Federation with Best 3 Bottles of Beer	N. HUMBERSIDE FED.
<u>Vina Trophy</u> Highest Points in 10 Purpose Wine Classes	E.W.TAPPENDEN (Old Bexley)
<u>Eric Malin Memorial Trophy</u> Highest Points in 4 Table Wine Classes	R.W.WINKETT (Castle Bromwich)
<u>Bastin Cup</u>	NOT AWARDED
<u>Bilham Tastevin</u> Best Dry Red Wine	A.HOWARD (Ace of Clubs)
<u>Audrey Newton Cup</u> Best Rose Table Wine	L.LONG (Coulson & Purley)
<u>Harold Beall Memorial Cup</u> Best Dry White Table Wine	E.MOORE (Phoenix)
<u>Turner Trophy</u> Best 3 Wines for Dinner	E.L.CLARKE (British Airways)
<u>Rankin Trophy</u> Best Dry Mead	P.ELLIOTT (Phoenix)
<u>Timmins Trophy</u> Best Sweet Mead	D.A.FRASER (Ace of Clubs)
<u>Shaw Porter Cup</u> Highest Points in 4 Fruit Classes	R.A.MARSDON (Wembley)
<u>Roycroft Cup</u> Best Dry Aperitif	R.J.WHEATLEY (Old Bexley)
<u>Yorkshire Trophy</u> Best Sparkling Wine	P.OLIPHANT (Tyneside Nationals)
<u>Atcherley Trophy</u> Best Fruit Dry Red Wine	MRS.G.LOVERSEED (Nottingham)
<u>Andrews Cup</u> Best Fruit White Dry Wine	N.W.CHIVERTON (Lutterworth)
<u>Heriff Trophy</u> Best Sweet Fruit Wine	MRS.J.J.MUSTILL (Kent Invicta)
<u>Southern Vinyards Trophy</u> Best Dry Red Grape Concentrate	G.SPARRROW (Tyneside Nationals)

<u>Loftus Cup</u> Best Sweet Red Grape Concentrate	N.I.SOUTH (Ace of Clubs)
<u>Hidalgo Trophy</u> Best Dry White Grape Concentrate	MRS.S.LUCAS (Tasters)
<u>Ace of Clubs Trophy</u> Best Fruit Wine Dry Apple Base	W.E.SHARPE (Ickenham)
<u>Gordon Instone Cup</u> Best Sweet White Grape Concentrate	T.H.BUXTON (Phoenix)
<u>Boots Trophy</u> Highest Points over 5 Kit Wines	A.J.COTTENHAM (Old Bexley)
<u>Tom Caxton Trophy</u> Best Bitter Beer from a Kit	D.A.MUDWAY
<u>Stagg Trophy</u> Highest Points in 4 Fortified Wines	E.W.TAPPENDEN (Old Bexley)
<u>Wilf Newson Cup</u> Master Brewer - Highest Points over 6 Beers	(R.J.WHEATLEY (Old Bexley) T.D.HODKINSON(Tyneside Nat)
<u>Temple Tankard</u> 2nd Highest Points over 6 Beer Classes	V.WHITEHOUSE (S.D.A.B.S.)
<u>Itona Trophy</u> Best Lager Beer	R.J.WHEATLEY (Old Bexley)
<u>Muntona Trophy</u> Best Bitter Beer	W.F.ELKS (Luton)
<u>Cordon Brew Trophy</u> Best Barley Wine	T.D.HODKINSON (Tyneside Nationals)
<u>Cedric Austin Cup</u> Judge with Best White Table Wine	MRS.S.J.JOHNSON (Phoenix)
<u>Sybil Hill Tankard</u> Judge with Best Beer	D.GOULD (Belmont)
<u>Sweet 'n' Dry Cup</u> Highest Points in 10 Open Classes	D.GOULD (Belmont)
<u>Tilly Timbrell Trophy</u> Highest Points in 2 Cookery Classes	MRS.N.MITCHELL (Shelf)
<u>Tyneside National Rose Bowl</u> Highest Points 4 Flower Wines	(MRS.A.PARRACK(Tyneside Nat) (T.D.HODKINSON(Tyneside Nat)
<u>George Lashbrooke Trophy</u> Best Citrus Sweet Wine	P.OLIPHANT (Tyneside Nationals)
<u>Sol Vino Trophy</u> Highest Points in 4 Grape Concentrates	MRS.A.PARRACK (Tyneside Nationals)
<u>Southern Vinyards 1983 Trophy</u> Highest points over Kits & Grape Concentrates	MRS.A.PARRACK (Tyneside Nationals)

NAWB 'NATIONAL' NOTTINGHAM MARCH 1984 - CIRCLE LEAGUE POINTS TABLE

A copy of the full results is available from Jim Chettle, if you send a stamped addressed envelope with your request.

- 1) 344 pts. gained by:-TYNESIDE NATIONALS (136);
- 2) 321 pts. gained by:-PHOENIX (99);
- 3) 227 pts. gained by:-OLD BEXLEY (97);
- 4) 164 pts. gained by:-ACE OF CLUBS (11);
- 5) 115 pts. gained by:-NOTTINGHAM (96);
- 6) 100 pts. gained by:-HUDDERSFIELD (70);
- 7) 94 pts. gained by:-KENT INVICTA (78);
- 8) 56 pts. gained by:-BELMOUNT (17);
- 9) 43 pts. gained by:-WEMBLEY (143);
- 10) 39 pts. gained by:-LUTTERWORTH (87); SOUTH DEVON A.B.S. (118);
- 11) 33 pts. gained by:-LEYTON (83);
- 12) 28 pts. gained by:-DUNSTABLE (176);
- 13) 27 pts. gained by:-SHELF (173);
- 14) 26 pts. gained by:-HULL (71);
- 15) 24 pts. gained by:-LIPHOOK (84);
- 16) 23 pts. gained by:-EDENBRIDGE (52);
- 17) 22 pts. gained by:-CHIGWELL (35);
- 18) 20 pts. gained by:-PLYMOUTH (100);
- 19) 17 pts. gained by:-HUTTON (156);
- 20) 16 pts. gained by:-DERBY (154); HARPENDEN (61); CAVERSHAM (34);
- 21) 14 pts. gained by:-JUBILEE (77); WICKFORD (147); CASTLE BROMWICH (160); NUNEATON (175);
- 22) 12 pts. gained by:-HARROW (62);
- 23) 11 pts. gained by:-ICKENHAM (72); LUTON (86);
- 24) 10 pts. gained by:-SPRINGHEAD (122);
- 25) 9 pts. gained by:-TASTERS (125); BRITISH AIRWAYS (29); BURBAGE (32); LEEDS (82); COULSDON & PURLEY (39); GRIMSBY (179); SPEN (121); CRAWLEY (181);
- 26) 8 pts. gained by:-EXETER (55); POOLE & DISTRICT (101);
- 27) 7 pts. gained by:-WEST PENWITH (146); WEST KENT (145); MISBOURNE (91); BEVERLEY (20); BILLERICAY (183); MANSFIELD (157); WEST BERKS (144);
- 28) 6 pts. gained by:-RUGBY (106);
- 29) 5 pts. gained by:-BAILDON (16); S.PEAK (161); DERWENT VALLEY (45); AXEHOLME (187); CIRENCESTER (171); NORTHWOOD (151); NALGO (93);
- 30) 3 pts. gained by:-TWICKENHAM (134); EPPING (185);
- 31) 2 pts. gained by:-YORK & DISTRICT (150); ASHBROOK (186); INVICTA (75);
- 32) 1 pt. gained by:-LICHFIELD (163);

AFTERTHOUGHTS

No matter how much work is put into functions, they are never perfect; let us see what some of our correspondents have to say. The following is from Stuart Saunders of Edenbridge, Kent -

Dear Sir,

Having arrived home safely from Nottingham, I felt I should like to write to thank everyone concerned for providing the most enjoyable weekend. Despite a chilly wind blowing round the campus, the accommodation and food were excellent and the show itself was most impressive, especially when viewed from the balcony of the Sports Hall.

The only criticism my wife and I would venture is that owing to the vastness of the large Sports Hall, both dances seemed to lack 'atmosphere' and it was rather a pity that there was no announcement on Saturday evening about the apparent 'technical hitch' that prevented any dancing until nearly 9.00 pm especially as most people had arrived in good time to secure a table, which in the event were in plentiful supply.

Enough of carping. I am now resolved to produce masses of prize winning wine during this year so that we can descend on sunny Eastbourne next March to renew our friendship and hopefully make new ones.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Saunders

Well, at the time I was not a member of the Committee, so on their behalf, thank you Stuart. Your point regarding the lack of music is taken, and agreed - by me, anyway. As for next year, write more letters like this and you will make lots of friends, all on the Committee. As you say, it will be at Eastbourne on March 29-31st 1985 and we will do our best to make 'it' perfect. Alas, some of us are human.....

Anne Parrack also writes a complimentary letter, with some thoughtful and constructive criticism:-

1 Woodburn Drive,
Whitley Bay,
Tyne & Wear,
NE26 3HS.
11th April, 1984.

The Editor,
News & Views,
N.A.W.B.

Dear Sir,

Through your 'News & Views' I would like to congratulate the N.A.W.B. Committee on a very successful Annual Conference and Show at Nottingham. Everything went very smoothly, rooms were comfortable and the food was excellent.

May I make some suggestions for consideration for future shows?

- 1) That we return to some sort of bottle-labelling system where the competitors name and club, and exhibitors number are 'blanked off'. A very acceptable system is used by the Northumbria, North Yorks & South Durham and North West Federations. Such labels make benching of the bottles very simple, as the bottles do not have to be put in numerical order (indeed they cannot be), and there can be no danger of judges recognising individual competitors numbers.

In addition to these advantages, people can see who has won the awards when the show opens. Rows of nameless bottles mean nothing to the majority of competitors.

- 2) Failing a change back to the above type of label, would it be possible to provide small award cards with the names and clubs of the winners on them?
- 3) I noted that in a considerable number of classes, some awards were not given. As a judge, I deplore this attitude. In my own experience, it is only in a very small club competition where one sometimes cannot find sufficient quality wines - but even then one tries to give encouragement by awarding prizes as per the rules of the show. It is an insult not to do so? I feel that it should be mandatory to give all awards, except perhaps in very small classes.
- 4) The comment card system is an excellent idea if properly used, but not if a judge puts almost the same comment (blandly complimentary) on nearly every card. Nor should it ever replace 'judges at the Bar', where entries can be discussed.

4) cont'd.....

There is no substitute for this for keen competitors - and it should last more than the odd half-hour, so that competitors can see quite a few judges.

- 5) The 'Open' section of the Show should be open to anyone. Why should winemaking families be penalised, especially if they are N.A.W.B. members? It would also provide a little more revenue if it were truly open. It is not an 'Open' section if people are barred from entering it! Take, for example, two members of the same family, both of whom could be very good winemakers and in the running for Master Wine-maker and/or Master Brewer if they were allowed to enter all the classes they wished. Because they must compromise over the open classes, however, one or the other or both may miss out on these vital points.
- 6) I wish to record my disappointment that the Executive found it necessary to choose a South Coast venue for the fourth time in six years for 1985. Having supported the National faithfully since 1972, it has got to the point when 'enough is enough'! For us folk up in Tyne & Wear, it is 350 miles to travel, with the expense that that entails - and then we have the cost of accommodation and our bottle entries on top, leaving little change out of £100 for the weekend. One does have to be very dedicated to stand the cost and the exhaustion that such a weekend causes. It tends to be forgotten that even for Nottingham we had to travel 150 miles south. (It would be lovely to have it on the doorstep once in a while! How about Newcastle?).

I do hope that these suggestions are considered in the spirit in which they are offered, i.e. constructive thoughts for an improved Show.

Very best wishes for the coming year,

Yours sincerely

Anne Parrack

Most of your points are for discussion by the Committee, Anne, but as a member of the North West Federation I can agree with the benefits of the blanked-off label that can be uncovered when judging is complete. It does have one big disadvantage if there are Judges at the Bar session; the competitor has to find his or her bottle, out of perhaps 150 or so bottles in a large class, before he even knows which of the Judges examined that entry if the stewards do not have time to re-sort the bottles.

My only other comment on the judging was that after the show I checked - 280 comments cards had been left unwanted on the show bench. I took a lot of trouble with wording of mine, as it was experimental this year, and nearly a quarter of it was wasted effort. Judges at the Bar is in my view the ideal, but some form of report for those unable to attend the Show might well be very welcome. As for your final point, you have a champion in Gerry Sparrow, who does not hesitate to speak up for our North Eastern members.

Afterthought - could Newcastle host a Show? 6,000 - plus square feet of floor and accommodation for hundreds, extra rooms and halls, all at moderate cost? Tell us about it, please!

And now for a chapter from the indefatigable Stan Baker, also about Nottingham, with some helpful comments:-

Dear Editor,

Arthur Cottenham's comments, in the February's News and Views, do highlight the fact that the Association does make a little more of its past committee members than it does of its Master Winemakers. At the moment all that the enthusiast winemaker has to show for his efforts, often over two or more years, is a brown tie, suitably designed, for the MW, which he (or she) has to buy.

Past Presidents of the Association are presented with an insignia in the form of a medal which is suspended by a blue ribbon from around the neck. Is it too much to ask, in this plastics age, to have prepared a "NAWB will fix it" type of badge, linked up to a red ribbon?

In addition, perhaps more use could be made of past Master Winemakers or Past NAWB winners to show off their expertise at the Saturday afternoon quiz panel. The organisers of Federation or County Shows may wish to invite them to attend their shows as guest speakers. There is always something more to know about winemaking, and are the standards really much higher than they were at the Nationals of twenty or so years ago?.

The Nottingham National was my twentieth; there was no show during the year of the Birmingham AGM. Perhaps we expect too much from people. As has been pointed out, it is only a hobby. Perhaps it would be better if the Association could raise enough funds to employ a professional organiser and although, to my mind, Nottingham was not the worst National, I have to admit to recalling several that were better.

I reiterate my opinion that Universities do not make ideal NAWB weekend venues. As with Southampton and Exeter, Nottingham was planned in the days when petrol was cheap and even students on public grants were able to afford an old banger to transport them from hall of residence to classroom.

On both of the two previous Nottingham Nationals, my hall of residence was easily visible from the Sports Centre, so I had no difficulty in walking across the open space to my room. On this occasion, again without private transport, I was faced with the alternative of a ten minute stumble across unlit areas of open ground or a twenty five minute walk along the road. On Saturday night after the dance, I slightly missed by bearings and, in the dark, stepped ankle-deep into a muddy rut.

The level of background noises at the Saturday morning Judges briefing made it difficult to hear one's name being called out, even though the Convenor spoke clearly. A microphone should have been available, or additionally a visual aid in the form of a list of Judges and Stewards printed in random order and with the number of the class (not disclosed) could be displayed in a public place near the briefing room.

Members who are hard-of-hearing must have found Nottingham particularly difficult. More visual aids should have been used to direct people to bottle entry and also indicate that the Open Forum was not in the Music Room.

The commentscards system of informing exhibitors on the assessment of their wines and beers should have been made compulsory. Not everyone was able to attend in the early afternoon and seemingly there was no official "Judges at the Bar".

A suggestion was put forward, at the Saturday afternoon Forum, that comment cards with ticks in boxes alongside appropriate assessments be used. If this suggestion is approved by NAWB members at some time in the future, it is hoped that the National Guild of Judges will readily accede to NAWB members wishes. After all they are the customers, without exhibitors there would be no show.

There are trophies for some classes and no trophies for others. Some winemakers gained a first in several classes but left the show without a trophy. Some of the lesser classes had but a few bottles, and the Association has not got funds to spare. But would it not be possible for a simple, inexpensive plastic plaque to be designed and presented to all National Class winners?.

It has often been said that many of the wines exhibited at the National are little better than those exhibited at Federation County Shows. This, in my opinion, was true of many of the wines in the Apple Dry Class. Having made 168 gallons of this type of wine during the month of September 1969, I thought that the 1984 Nottingham standard could have been better. Winemakers with little experience of making apple wines would do well to purchase an inexpensive bottle of commercially made apple wine from the local supermarket. I have found them to be an excellent standard.

(I chopped Stan's letter off at that point, as the next concerns the future, and is printed later on in this edition of News & Views.) As with the other letters, all the points made are considered carefully, and where necessary we will try and get it right next time. Incidentally, there was a motion, I think, at the Birmingham AGM in 1975, proposing a paid Secretariat, but it was rejected. We have not raised the money yet!

A last letter about the National Show 1984, from H.A. Whitnell of Dagenham:-

Dear Sir,

I attended the 'National' Show in Nottingham University on the week-end of 30th, 31st March 1984. I must congratulate you on the organising of such a large event which was a great success. However the evening's entertainment was in my view and also the view of other people, not at all well organised. I am referring to the band which played on the Saturday evening in particular. For 500 plus people a "Trio" was quite inadequate and this made it difficult to enjoy the dancing.

May I therefore suggest that a larger Band is booked for the evening's festivities next year.

I am
Yours truly

H.A. Whitnell
Member no 1402.

This member went to the trouble of telling me about a smart 5-piece band, and sent a photograph and booking details, which I shall pass on to the Committee at our next meeting. We may or may not need this band, but this is the sort of constructive response from members that makes the National Association so worthwhile. Thank you, Mr Whitnell.

And I think that is enough about the 1984 National, except for two pleasing messages from Committee members:-

Firstly will Mrs D. Jackson of Phoenix, the winner of Class 33 (Port type) please contact Norman Chiverton, Entries Secretary, for her commemorative glass.

Secondly, from our Convenor of Judges, Marjorie Ives; who says "My grateful thanks to all the judges who gave their time and energy at the National at Nottingham. It was a mammoth task carried out with speed and efficiency and in a very happy atmosphere.

See you in Eastbourne.

Marjorie Ives".

And on that forward-looking note I think we will let the subject rest.

LESLIE STAGG

It was with great sorrow that we heard of the sudden loss of our well-loved friend Les in March. Les had been deeply involved in the amateur winemaking & brewing movement since 1960, his honours including past Chairman and Life President of the Midland Federation, past Chairman and President of NAWB, and past President of the Dorset Federation.

Always a gentleman, willing to listen and to help from his deep fund of knowledge and experience, Les had a sparkling sense of fun which added to his popularity. He will be sadly missed, and our sincere sympathy was expressed to his equally well known widow, Freda.

Freda has written as follows:-

"To all our friends in NAWB, may I say thank you for your messages, flowers, and donations to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust over the past few weeks. Many of you paid tribute to Leslie's work for our Association, but he enjoyed everything he did from Show Supervisor to President - an honour which he felt privileged to accept. We have made many friends and always looked forward to meeting you all at the 'National' - long may it live. I cannot reply individually to all who contacted me, so could you please through the News letter, convey my sincere thanks to everyone who has so kindly remembered us over this very sad time

Sincerely yours

Freda Stagg"

Her many friends will be pleased to hear that Freda put in a brief appearance to judge the 'Cooking with Wine' at the Wales and West Festival in early May, and appeared to be recovering well from this unhappy event.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ken Bilham tells me there are a few places left on his Tasters tours to Portugal, Spain, and Australia - I am assured that this last trip will definitely return in time for the National Show.

Details are as follows:-

16th - 23rd September, 1984. Portuguese Sun Fun and Fine Wines - Known and Unknown

Depart Heathrow, 6 nights full board in 4 star luxury hotel built on beach huge stretch of silver sand, wine and coffee with all meals. Two heated pools, beauty parlour, solarium, nightclub. Visit and overnight stay at a Sanctuary in Douro Valley, other visits, tastings, vinho verdes, ports, Vila Real, Aveleda, Penafiel, Oporto, Amarante, Viano do Castelo - home of folklore etc. 8 day luxury Wine Tour - £375. (4 places left).
Details TASTERS.

6th - 20th October 1984. A repeat of Spanish Sun Fun
and Fine Wines - Known and Unknown

Wine tour to Penedes, Flight from Gatwick, 14 nights, Hotel adjacent beach at Salou, visits and tastings Monserrat, Barcelona, Falset, Liqueurtasting. All rooms private bath and W.C., balcony. Many optional excursions. Cost includes Party night, free bottle of wine and Airport charges. 15 days in 3 star hotel, full board - £269 details; TASTERS.
Also 10 days - same flight out, same hotel and itinerary,
return flight 16th Oct. £229.

March 1985

Wine tour to Australia - 1 week Melbourne, 1 week Adelaide, 1 week Sydney, visits and tastings of Australia's best, Clare, Watervale, Barossa Valley, Tahbilk, Coonarrarra, Hunter Valley as well as city sight-seeing excursions etc. Special group rate now agreed at £1,760 per head. Details: TASTERS, 8 Hollybank Close, Hampton, Middx. or phone 01 979 9725.

Other major events are:-

July 12-21st World Wine Fair at the Bristol Exhibition Complex

All the fun of the Fair, as in past years, Pilton Manor Vineyards, the largest vineyards in the West Country will be exhibiting for the first time at the World Wine Fair. Among the wines to be sampled will be the 1982 Pilton Manor Muller Thurgau, noted the best English Wine of the Year at the 1983 International Wine and Spirit Competition. The first wine to be produced from a new strain of vines, Pilton Manor Huxelrebe 1983 will also be introduced during the Fair. It is described as a medium dry white with a good nose and lasting flowery taste.

Glancing through last year's notes and leaflets from the Wine Fair brings back some very pleasant memories, such as the glass of Chilean Pisco (True!) and as the leaflet says "Pisco is the wine distilling of primitive denomination" I am not sure what they mean by that, but it is the sort of spirit that takes hair off your chest! Which made my Armagnac sample all the more delightful. And the Marques de Carceres Rioja, and the red wines of Bulgaria, and the Piedmont wines of Cantine Bava, and - oh the list seems endless! How can any wine lover not go to the World Wine Fair? Details from World Wine Fair Administrative Office, The Exchange, Corn St, Bristol, BS1 1EQ.

August 16th - 18th 1984 Southport Flower Show

As well as a wine and beer competition of around 700 bottles, the Flower Show is one of the major horticultural shows in the country. In addition there are top class show jumpers (on horses, of course) and all sorts of other displays and exhibitions - flower arranging, Red Arrows Air Display, rabbit show, beekeepers, and almost anything you can think of.

Well worth a visit, details from the Flower Show Secretary, Town Hall, Southport, PR8 1DA.
Tel 0704 33133.

October 12th-14th 1984 North West Federation Show

at Pontins Holiday Village, Ainsdale Southport.
One of our major show weekends, the annual get together for the 112 or so member societies of the Federation, plus many guests from other parts of the country.
Details from the Hon. Sec. Mrs A.L. Fordey,
226 Queensway, Rochdale, Lancs OL11 2NB.
Tel 0706 40287.

October 27th 1984 Midland Region Federation Festival

A great one-day show, ending with a dinner dance, being held this year at Bedworth, just off the M.6. Exit 3.
Details to follow.

And that as far as I know, winds up 1984 except for Christmas which is universally available to those who wish to apply.

1985 NATIONAL

What will the New Year bring? Well, the only date I have so far is for our own National Conference and Show so let us look forward to March 29th - 31st 1985, when the National visits Eastbourne again. It is early days yet to say much about this venue, but you will notice we have not appointed an Accommodation Officer this year. Each member attending is free to choose his or her own accommodation, from the great range of hotels, boarding houses, etc., in this pleasing seaside resort. There is a good excuse for a day out this summer! Pick up a brochure and an accommodation list, and choose your hotel on the spot. The 1985 Brochure and Accommodation Lists should be available from December 1984, and enquiries should be made to The Tourist Information Bureau, 3 Cornfield Terrace, Eastbourne, Sussex, or tel 0323 27474. Requests received before the brochures are ready will be listed until they can be dealt with, but do not write just yet, please, for next year's brochure.

I will publish all the information I get about NAWB 1985 as it comes to hand. In the meantime, let us have Stan Baker's relevant remarks from his letter:-

So much for the past, now for the future,. Attending a National weekend enables one to meet old friends and make new acquaintances. It is also an ideal opportunity to find out other members opinions of the Association. Finance was uppermost in the minds of the older, retired members or even those who had been made redundant from their employment. Some admitted that they would be attending only the nearer Nationals, cost of travel being so expensive. Now that the M25 orbital road around London is nearing completion, group coach travel may be appreciably quicker and cheaper than travelling by rail - even at reduced rates.

Perhaps nearer the date of next year's Show, club secretaries who are organising coach travel to the National could advertise any spare seats in 'News & Views'. If one knows of a local club attending the National by coach, it may be worthwhile contacting the organiser. There are often a few spare seats available.

The next two National venues, Eastbourne and Scarborough are both well loved by members of the Association. Both seaside resorts developed during the great days of the Victorians and this means a wide selection of hotels and boarding houses, to suit all purses.

Eastbourne has the reputation of being the sun-trap of the South and although sunny weather cannot be guaranteed at the end of March 1985, the resort has plenty of attractions.

Eastbourne's Winter Gardens, the venue for the conference and Show, is well known to me as I have visited it on several occasions when judging at the Spring and Autumn Wine Shows. It is situated to the west of the town about 150 yards from the sea but is sheltered from the sea breezes by several tall hotels. The railway station and several streets of prestigious and tourist-type shops are but a few hundred yards to the north-east of the venue. The Winter Garden is a Victorian building which is comfortable and informal, not as large as Nottingham, but with a ballroom floor of good standard in a velvet lined hall lit with hundreds of electric lamps. The acoustics for the dance band should be excellent.

Within a few yards of the venue are numerous hotels, which may possibly offer a discount for a group booking. For those people with private transport who wish to reside at some distance from the venue there are plenty of parking spaces in the side streets. Members seeking accommodation or self-catering accommodation are advised to write to the Accommodation Officer, 3 Cornfield Terrace, Eastbourne.

1986

April 11th-13th. National Conference & Show

Back again to breezy bracing Scarborough, as pleasant a resort as one will find. It is a long way from Exeter and Eastbourne, and other tropical places, but nice and handy for our more northerly members. Out of curiosity I checked - from here (Formby, near Liverpool) it was 120 miles down to Nottingham, in the Midlands. Scarborough, just across country, is over 150 miles.

Future Nationals

I think it may help to clarify matters if I explain for the benefit of members who were unable to attend the 1984 AGM what the proposal was - and it is no more than that at present, it has not ever been discussed in Committee yet - relating to holding the National Show and Conference in the Bristol Exhibition Complex.

NAWB has been approached by the Managing Director of the Company that runs the World Wine Fair. His suggestion is that the National is held at the Exhibition Complex at the same time as a Homebrew Trade Fair. It is not proposed that we join in with the World Wine Fair.

This is a bold statement, but at present these are the only facts I am aware of. There are undoubted disadvantages, and many problems will arise, and these may prove insuperable. There would equally certainly be benefits for NAWB, possibly financial gains, and membership increases could arise if (purely as an example) the entry fee was waived or drastically reduced for NAWB members. The Company would not be able to "take over" the National; it could not be considered if it meant a loss of our independence. It could mean a lot less physical work for our General Stewards. The Directors have good relations with the City of Bristol, and the University, but relative distance, availability and cost of accommodation, important as they are, are only a small part of the factors to be considered. We need to know much more about the proposal and its implications before the idea is finally accepted or rejected.

Stan Baker has given this some thought, too:-

The suggestion that the 1987 National be held at the Bristol venue where the Annual World Wine Fair is held appeals to me, as I have visited the Fair every year since its inception. The National Show has not been in this part of the country for some years and it is essential that the venue be constantly changed. Local wine club members have no wish to do the chores, year after year.

Bristol has been connected with the wine trade for hundreds of years and the venue building is a converted wine warehouse alongside a deep water basin where the sailing ships used to bring the wines from Bordeaux, Spain, and Portugal.

The building is long and narrow and consists of two floors, either of which is capable of holding the Wine Show and the evening socials. Hopefully the Show will be staged on the lower floor where there is easy access from the road. The trade stands related to winemaking needs will probably be sited on the upper floor. Bristol has plenty of accommodation, some within walking distance of the Centre. Members with cars will find ample parking space near to the venue.

It is hoped to attract wine and beer makers from many countries so there is the possibility that the Bristol National could be the largest assembly of amateur wine and beer makers in the World. There is always something to look forward to.

Cheers

Stan Baker

Chatham, Kent.

Thanks for your efforts, Stan, It is helpful to know members viewpoints.

Bargain Basement

It is several years now since that staging for bottles was used at the National, mainly through shortages of time and labour and it is available for anyone who likes to make an offer for it. The equipment consists of:

Two crates containing "A" shaped pieces of Dexion which formed the support for the staging.
A number of wooden strips which were screwed on to the "A" shaped pieces, on to which the bottles were placed.
A number of plywood boards on which the staging stood.
One crate containing buckets.
One collapsible display stand.
One small box containing class numbers and stands.

So there you are, every man can run his own show, or lots of lots of useful raw material any handyman can find a use for. Make an offer to Jim Chettle (see inside front cover), or give him a ring to discuss it. It must be a bargain, for any young Federation, or two or three Circles could share it. Do not hesitate, someone else might get there first.

Winemakers Publications

A few months after 26 years of publication of the 'Winemaker' Cyril and Peggy Berry are retiring, and their full time professional participation in the homebrew movement will be sadly missed. We shall of course still have the benefit of Cyril's experience as our President at least until 1985, but for the hobby as a whole it is the end of an era. I hope to cover this at length in my next issue of 'News & Views', but in the meantime I am certain I am speaking on behalf of all our members, and many thousands of other winemakers and brewers in wishing them both a long, happy, and active retirement.

Readers need have no fear that this will mean the end of the oldest established magazine in the hobby. Cyril has sent the following letter, which should reassure us all. Argus already have numerous hobby and craft magazines, including "Popular Crafts", "35 mm Photography" and "Model Engineer" and are well fitted to cater for our specialised requirements. Ron Moulton the Editorial Director is a strong enthusiast for the amateur winemaking movement, and is looking forward to the challenge of expanding the interest..

The Editor
"News & Views"
NAWB

Dear Fellow Members.

When retirement loomed for my wife and myself the problem was to know how to ensure the continuance of the Company, and the unbroken publication of "The Amateur Winemakers and Homebrewer". "The Home Brew Supplier", and its book list of specialist titles.

We are happy to be able to tell you that problem has been solved. With effect from 8th May 1984 the entire business has been transferred to the Argus Press Group, who have for many years supported leisure interests through their magazine and book divisions.

As you would expect, I am not relinquishing my connections with the hobby and trade and will be acting as consultant to the new owners to ensure that the regular issue of magazine and newspaper, and forthcoming new titles, is sustained with the same enthusiasm as before.

I have every confidence that Argus have an understanding approach to our hobby and trade and a real dedication to the encouragement of leisure activities, as their other magazines demonstrate. I am sure that the "Amateur Winemaker" and "Home Brew Supplier" are therefore in good hands.

You will find them progressive and helpful, and I hope that you will be making their acquaintance at the earliest opportunity.

Finally, thank you all most sincerely for all your active help and loyal support down the years and may you long continue to enjoy our hobby and the happiness it brings.

Yours sincerely,

C.J.J.Berry

Subscriptions

As the enclosed leaflet reminds you, subscriptions fall due again on July 1st. Do not hesitate, send off your subscription as soon as possible, for you could win a year's free membership if your sub is paid by the end of June - somebody will win 'it'. Why not you?

Finally, do take a few minutes to write to me for News & Views, or as your Circles representative, or to Judy Erwin our General Secretary. Have you any comments, anecdotes, constructive criticism, or bright ideas for furthering the cause of NAWB? What would you like to see NAWB involved in, besides the annual Show, and AGM and the proposed weekend visit to Crick. We are here to listen and act on your behalf.

Roy Ekins,
Editor.