

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEER MAKERS
(Amateur)

NEWS AND VIEWS

MARCH 1989



NAWB

PRESIDENT: MR. P. AWBERY

PATRONS:

CECIL VACUUM SYSTEMS: DDD LIMITED (CHEMPRO)
CONTINENTAL WINE EXPERTS LTD: EDME MALT EXTRACTS &
BEER KITS: ITONA PRODUCTS LTD: JOHNSON HOMEWINE
SUPPLIES LTD (VINAMAT): MUNTON & FISON PLC:
RITCHIE PRODUCTS LTD: UNICAN FOODS LTD:
WANDER FOODS LTD (GEORDIE): VINA (HOME WINEMAKING
SUPPLIES) LTD. WALKER DESMOND & SONS LTD.

\$

N A W B (A)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE & BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 1989

EDITORIAL

For many of our members, Blackpool looms large on the horizon. We are now only a few days away from what promises to be one of our biggest and best shows to date. However, one of the topics that arises annually is the future venue of the NAWB weekend. Cost is a factor your Executive considers very carefully, and as you know, the ticket price varies considerably year by year, depending largely on what facilities are given to us free of charge and what we have to pay for.

It has been established that a self-catering weekend (there are restaurants etc, you don't HAVE to cook) at a holiday camp could be run very cheaply. The Wales & West Federation and the North West Federation both do this very successfully, and the only disadvantage for NAWB appears to be that our weekend is always held early in the year, March or April, when the weather can be quite chilly. Tucked up in a warm hotel one can ignore such things,

but older members will doubtless be murmuring 'What about Gaister in 1970?' when according to some reports walruses were seen in the camp swimming pool, and the plat du jour on Saturday was roast penguin.....something like that, anyway!

Universities have just about priced themselves out of our reach, so apart from the rare large hotels like the Norbreck Castle, there are few venues where even the majority of our members can all be at the same establishment. Holiday camps can hold far more than the seven or eight hundred that come to the National. We will probably discuss this at the AGM, but in any case we would love to know whether you would come to the National at a camp or holiday village. You will be asked on the next membership form what your views are, but there's no need to wait, write now to our Hon. Secretary, Lenn Drysdale, or any Committee member, or be prepared to air your views at Blackpool if you are going this year.

And now to a different Show. Enclosed with this issue is an application form to enter the Home Brewing and Winemaking Trade Association Show at Coventry. The HBWTA is the association of retail traders from whom we buy all our kits and other supplies for our hobby, and from whom we get excellent service and backing. They have an annual Conference each year, and this year the trade stands are being opened to the public for a small fee. There is also a new competition being staged, for commercial kit wines only, and this is your first opportunity to enter your wine. See you at the **HOME BREW EXXPO 1989** at the De Vere Hotel on May 6th!


Roy Ekins

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

When I attended the Executive Committee meeting following the last AGM, I was expecting to continue as your Secretary. To my surprise I was offered instead the Chairmanship of NAWB, an honour I had not anticipated.

Since then we have had a very busy and progressive year, and I am looking forward to Blackpool as the high point of my first year as Chairman. I have been ably supported by a hard-working Committee, and have complete confidence that this will be the best National ever.

As in all past years, this has been a year in which finance has been one of our prime considerations. I am very conscious of the high cost of administration for NAWB, and the Officers and Committee are actively seeking ways of reducing this in the coming year.

The strength of an Association like ours is in the membership, and now that the two most popular magazines have ceased publication, there is even greater need for interchange of news, ideas, and friendly conversation among the good people who make up NAWB.

With this in mind, can I say this : I shall be circulating as much as possible at Blackpool, to get to know even more members, and to talk to the many friends I have made already. When you see me wandering round, do please take the opportunity of having a chat; that's what makes NAWB the homebrew family it is, and not just another impersonal body.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Norbreck Castle Hotel for another wonderful weekend,

Judith Irwin

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Formal notice of the meeting was printed in the Show Schedule. Admission cards for the AGM are obtainable from the NAWB table throughout the weekend

AGENDA

1. The meeting will be opened by the President, Mr. Peter Awbery.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 1988 Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters arising from those Minutes.
5. Chairman's Report 1988/89.
6. Treasurer's Report 1987/88
7. Election of members to the National Executive Committee.

In accordance with Rule 8(d) (amended) the following members will retire: Mr N Chiverton, Mr B Edwards, Mr D Ives, Mr G Sparrow.

There being four vacancies to be filled, the following nominations have been received in writing, duly proposed and seconded:-

Mr D Ives, retiring member Mr B Edwards, retiring member

Mr G Sparrow, retiring member Mr R Ekins, retiring co-opted member

Mr P Johnson and Mr R Mitchell, retiring Federation and Circle

Representatives, have been duly proposed and seconded to become members of the Executive Committee.

8. Any Other Business.
9. Nomination of the President, 1989/90.
- 9a Nomination of the Vice-President 1989/90
10. Presentation of the Executive Committee by the Chairman.
11. The President will close the Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)****HELD ON SUNDAY 27th MARCH 1988 AT THE BRIGHTON CENTRE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.**

The Meeting was opened by the President, Mr P Awbery, with a request for a moment's silence for those members who had passed on during the year. He continued by telling members of the verbal attack on our host, the Mayor of Brighton, for which a spoken apology had been made by the Executive, and for which a written apology on behalf of NAWB would be sent as soon as practicable. Mr Awbery then handed over the conduct of the meeting to the Chairman, Mr. N Chiverton.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE had been received from Mrs F Dobson, Mrs J Burrow, Mrs P Andrews, Mr K Bilham, Mr F Bastin, and Mr J Randall.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Proposed by Mr J Chettle, seconded by Mr I Morgan, that the Minutes be accepted as a true record. All in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: Mrs J Burrow asked that her apologies in the previous year should be corrected from Mrs J Barrow. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs J Irwin, announced that the Executive Committee Members' expenses had continued to be paid at the same rates as in the previous year. Approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1987/88: Mr Chiverton said he wished to thank all the Judges for their hard work, and also the Stewards, whose efforts made the Show possible. The Show had been held in a pleasant venue, and entries had totalled almost 4250. He thanked Judith Irwin and the Bulgarian Vintners for the free wine tasting held on Saturday - "Didn't it go with a bang?". Friday had produced some very good fancy dress. On Saturday night we had been guests of the Mayor, but the lively band didn't suit all the audience. He too had been horrified by the most discourteous attack on the

Mayor. We had had extremely good relations with the helpful and cooperative Brighton Centre staff.

Dave Pulley, Membership Secretary, had been ill during part of the year, and the Chairman wished to thank Dave's wife, Maggie, and all the other Committee wives who had worked so hard for NAWB. He also wished to thank the Local Liaison Officer, Ken Guest, for the work he did and the assistance received from local clubs. Peter Awbery had also done a lot of the preparatory work concerning this venue.

The Chairman then mentioned future venues, and the associated problems, and thanked George Lashbrook and Stan Baker for their assistance regarding Torquay and London respectively as possible venues.

He mentioned the need to expand the membership, and the amendments to the Constitution and Rules that would follow later in the morning. We were also having a sub-Committee to consider the future of NAWB.

He hoped that all had enjoyed the weekend, and congratulated those who had won awards. Finally, Mr Chiverton thanked the Committee members for their hard work during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr Hayter presented the Accounts and Balance Sheet, with explanatory notes, and pointed out that the year had resulted in a surplus of £1195.69. We had gained a new Patron during the year. Committee expenses were up; there had been an extra meeting, and there were two more members. Subscriptions would have to be increased.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mr W Harvey, and seconded by Mr D Reed, and approved unanimously.

Future expenditure would be higher, and the subscriptions, unaltered the previous year, needed to be increased to £7.50 Single, Circles, and

Federations, and to £12 for Double Memberships. Mrs Power said she had paid her subs. already, at the old rate. It was made clear that the new rates would apply only from the AGM onwards. Mr I Morgan supported the increase, which was adopted unanimously. The Treasurer said he had several ideas for the future financing of NAWB, and these would be put before the members through an article in News & Views.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mr D Pulley was re-elected unopposed. Mr P Johnson, and Mr R Mitchell, previously nominees of the Circles and the Federations respectively, became members of the Committee following changes to the Rules. Mr T McArthur continued as the National Guild of Judges' nominee.

MOTIONS :- a/ Moved: That the following amendments to the Constitution and Rules be adopted:

CONSTITUTION: Heading, Page 1 Line 2 to be amended to:

'CONSTITUTION DATED NOVEMBER 1973 (REVISED 1988)'

Page I Line 3 to be deleted.

Item 3 page 6/7: delete last paragraph.

RULES: Heading Page 1 Line 3 to be amended to:

'RULES DATED NOVEMBER 1973 (REVISED 1988)'

Page 1 Line 4 to be deleted.

Rule 5 (b) and (c): Change '31st July' to '31st October'.

Rule 8(b) Change to 'The Executive shall consist of 12 members'.

8(b)(i): change from '8 elected members' to '11 elected members'

8(b)(ii) and (iii) to be deleted.

8(b)(iv) to be renumbered 8(b)(ii)

8(c): substitute 'post' for 'posts' and delete references

to (iii)' and '(iv)'.

Rule 10: Change heading from 'President' to 'President and Vice-President'.

Re-number existing paragraph as (a), and add paragraph ' (b) The election of Vice-President shall be on the recommendation of the Executive, to the Annual General Meeting, of a suitable past or present member of the Association to become Vice-President for the ensuing year.'

Proposed by the Executive.

The Hon. Secretary, Judith Irwin, explained separately all the various changes suggested by this Motion, which were basically an up-date of the Constitution and Rules to scrap unwanted wording, and to bring them into line with actual practice. As examples, we had a Vice-President, and the Rules would now recognise this. There were far more major tasks than we had Officers and Committee members to carry them out, and the number of such members was being increased to compensate for these burdens, which had been voluntarily borne since the Committee membership had been reduced at a time of financial stringency a few years ago. Further, it was proposed that the Circle and Federation representatives would no longer be nominees of those bodies, but full Committee members duly elected at the A.G.M. and given special responsibility for those bodies. All the changes were agreed in their turn, and the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

b/ Moved: That all stewards receive a commemorative glass.

Proposed: B W Pearce, Scraftoft Village Wine Circle.

Seconded: R Jarvis, Scraftoft Village Wine Circle

The Mover and Seconder spoke in favour of the Motion. Mr. W Harvey, NGWBJ (NAWB Individual Member) proposed an Amendment to the Motion suggesting

that the Motion should also limit Judges to receiving one glass instead of the two they now receive. Mr D Turner asked for clarification, and the Chairman explained that at present Judges receive two glasses, General Stewards receive one, and Judges' Wine & Beer Stewards received none by right, though many Judges voluntarily gave one of their glasses to their Steward. Mr W Grainger seconded the Amendment, which was "That all Judges and Stewards receive a commemorative glass". This was then put to the vote and carried unanimously. The original Motion thus fell.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Mr B Gent reminded the Executive of Rule 19, which makes provision for cancelling the membership of a Member who '...has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the Association.' This Rule, he felt, could be invoked to prevent any recurrence of the misbehaviour by a member on Saturday night. The Chairman thanked him for this suggestion, to the evident approval of many of those present.

Mr D Turner said he and some of his colleagues in the North East felt that the Grand Draw should be discontinued. It did not make enough money for the effort it called for, and we were not a charitable organisation that should go cap in hand to ask outsiders to help support us.

Mr. G Lashbrook thanked the Editor of 'News & Views' for editing and publishing his report, but he would like to draw to members' attention some of the facts the Editor had not had room to publish. He quoted various costs that a member would incur in visiting Torquay for a National weekend, and proved *prima facie* that overall it could cost a member less than his or her visit to Brighton, for as good or better accommodation, car parking etc. This was based on current year costs.

PRESIDENT: Mr. P Awbery was invited to stand for a second year as President of the Association. Mr. Awbery spoke briefly, expressing his pride at being honoured this way, and accepting the nomination.

EXECUTIVE:

The **CHAIRMAN**, Mr. N Chiverton, then introduced each of the Executive in turn, outlining his or her duties. He also mentioned Mr. R. Mitchell, Supplies Officer, who unfortunately was unable to attend the Conference & Show. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the Executive for the hard work they had done during the year and at the weekend itself.

Mr I Morgan then spoke from the floor, saying it had been an excellent weekend, and he was sure he would be speaking on behalf of all those who attended the Conference and Show if he thanked all those responsible, who had worked so hard and effectively. Those present in the audience applauded his statement.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: Mr Awbery then thanked the Chairman for all the work and leadership he personally had shown during his year of office. He also commented on the industrial vacuum cleaner used to clean up the spilt wine on Saturday afternoon, wondering if it was a filter at the same time! The President then said he looked forward to seeing everyone in Blackpool next year, and closed the 1988 Annual General Meeting at 11.10 am.

=====

The AGM was followed, after a short interval, by the presentation of awards by the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Ray Blackwood, and Mrs Blackwood. After the great range of silverware had been distributed to the worthy winners, complimentary glasses and wine were presented to the Mayor. The Chairman then wished all a safe journey home, and the weekend was over.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In such a large organisation as NAWB it is impossible to know all that is happening amongst our members, and if the Editor seems a little flinty-hearted at times, it is due entirely to lack of knowledge, rather than lack of sympathy. Much information used to come from the national magazines, but these too are no longer with us, and we rely on members' reports.

I am sorry to notify you of the loss of Frank Scholes on January 27th of this year. Frank joined Wakefield Wine Circle in the 1960's, and left to start Chantry Wine Circle. He then joined Morley Wine Circle, and four years ago, Normanton. He was therefore well known in the Yorkshire region, and will certainly be missed by his fellow members.

Frank was one of the stalwarts of the National. He did not, to the best of my knowledge, ever take a hand in the administration of the Association, but I shall never forget his courage and determination. With failing eyesight, Frank was unable to drive a car, and one regularly saw him and his wife, surrounded by luggage and cartons of wine, waiting for public transport to carry them home to Yorkshire, from Southampton or Nottingham, or wherever the National had been staged. That sort of dogged enthusiasm to overcome difficulties is not often met with in the world of hobbyists.

Frank's sight failed completely six months ago, but he kept up his activities as long as possible. He died at home, aged 86 years. Our sympathy goes to his wife Ethel.

I also regret having to announce the passing of another Yorkshireman, Frank Rayner from Shipley. A member of the NGWEJ, a bright-eyed and merry little man, Frank was to be seen at the meetings of several of the Yorkshire Circles. I regret I have no other details, except that his death took place

last November. We offer our condolences to those he left behind.

And now a loss on a happier note. Jo and Bob Deal have decided that, having more than once passed their twenty-first birthdays, they have with regret to retire from membership of the National. They have been associated with NAWB for many years. Well known in the hobby, for forays in the the cider world, a book, lots of articles on apple usage of all sorts, plus many recipes such as Prune Fool, and Potato Porkers, will ensure that this likable couple will be long remembered in the Association. Well done, Jo and Bob, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

=====

LOW ALCOHOL, OR NO ALCOHOL?

Audrey Fordey, Hon. Secretary of the North Western Federation, has sent me a clipping from her local paper. The Rochdale Trading Standards Officer acted as a guinea-pig recently to show the dangers of drinking without first carefully reading the label. Low-alcohol wines can range from 0.49% alcohol up to 4.5%, and a bottle of the latter brought him very close to the 'breathalyser' limit in a police test. A few normal-strength drinks - say a couple of pints of beer - followed by one or two low-alcohol drinks for safety's sake, might just prove too much if the police decide to test you. So do be warned; low alcohol doesn't necessarily mean that the drink is quite innocuous, but can in fact mean for example that a wine is around half normal strength. Many are much weaker than this, of course, especially low-alcohol beers, which are usually below 1% alcohol.

Safer still are 'No-alcohol' wines and beers. These do contain a minute quantity of alcohol, but the strength is so low that these can be drunk almost without limit.

BLACKPOOL: THE LAST FEW ADVANCE COMMENTS

The National is now almost upon us, but there are a few points that need making clear, mentioning for the first time, or repeating for emphasis. Here they are, in no particular order:-

1/ **BOOKING IN** at the hotel does **NOT** entitle you to join in the National, nor does entering a class or classes. (Hotel charges are not inclusive of your NAWB ticket, which is £6 members, £16 non-members). Nor does volunteering to steward. To join in the activities, to attend the dance on Friday, the Wine Tasting, or the Civic function on Saturday, you **MUST** pay for a Conference Ticket. You must also wear, or at least carry with you, at all times, the white Conference badge that will be supplied when you apply. You will also be sent or given a Civic Reception & Dance ticket, which our hosts will expect you to produce on Saturday evening.

2/ **JUDGES** in particular will be interested to know that when I visited the Norbreck Castle Hotel a few weeks ago, I tasted the tap water and found it abominable, being heavily loaded with chlorinating chemicals. It is strongly recommended that you bring with you a supply of your own local water for palate rinsing during judging. A supply of bottled Spring Water will be available in case of need.

3/ **JUDGES** are also reminded of the note published in the Guild Newsletter recently. A few of the early copies of the Schedule incorrectly described the two Judges' Classes, which are correctly 'Class 46 - Table Wine, Rosé Medium Dry' and 'Class 47 - One pint London Type Brown Ale'.

4/ The telephone number of **ALAN JOHNSON**, our **LOCAL LIAISON OFFICER**, has been wrongly shown in the Schedule. It is correct as in **News & Views**, i. e.

5/ THE SYSTEM FOR BRIEFING Judges and Stewards is being altered. On Friday night, our Convenor Tom McArthur will display lists showing all the classes, and to whom they have been allocated. On Saturday morning the Judge's envelopes will be set out on the tables with their Classes, and there will be just a ten-minute general briefing before judging commences. This will be promptly at 9 am, and judging should commence a few minutes later, giving everyone a bright and early start and hopefully a reasonably early finish before lunch.

6/ JUDGES' STEWARDS are reminded that they have to provide buckets for the judging period. These need to be partly filled with water before judging commences. Two General Stewards will be on duty behind the bar in the judging hall to fill the buckets and hand them back to you, to avoid congestion in the restricted space behind the bar.

7/ HOMEBREWED WINES AND BEERS may be consumed anywhere on the Norbreck premises EXCEPT in the dining room. If you wish to enjoy a drink with your meal, then the hotel will be happy to supply your needs from the bars.

8/ DO REMEMBER TO BRING NEWS & VIEWS WITH YOU. It contains the Minutes of the last AGM, which you may wish to refer to, or even amend if necessary, and of course the Agenda, so you know what's going on. For convenience, I have also reproduced the Programme from the Schedule.

9/ MEMBERSHIP: The NAWB year runs from July to June. (If you haven't renewed your subscription since the last National, you won't be reading this!). If you want to keep on receiving News & Views, then make sure you pay your next year's subs. before the end of June. If you pay them before the AGM, then you won't be charged the difference if the subs. go up - NAWB suffers from the effects of inflation just as everyone else does.

10/ And talking of STEWARDS, we never have sufficient, and the more we have, the easier for everyon. So why not earn yourself a champagne flute glass and the respect of your colleagues, by volunteering to give a hand for an hour or two accepting entries, or being a Judges' Steward? Selling raffle tickets, giving a hand on the Tombola - these can be fun, they help you to meet other members and chat, and they are essential for the financial well-being of NAWB. Have a word with Hugh Garth-Thomas or Tom McArthur, they'd love to hear from you.

\$

BUGS IN BUNNY, OR ELLA AND THE SALMON

We read many alarming tales of what can happen to our wines and musts if we do not keep them covered, sterilise everything in sight, and practice almost operating-theatre hygiene at all times. The recent alarmist reports about our foodstuffs, particularly in restaurants or about pre-prepared convenience foods, only add absurd fuels to the fire. I think a report of a court case I read in January reached the absolute in extremist views. The court was told that houseflies, similar to those found in one of London's top restaurants, could cause a list of diseases running to 45 pages! The Counsel for the defence challenged the expert who made this statement to give evidence of any particular disease caused by a fly. The expert's answer was that he didn't think that any entomologist could find direct evidence of any particular disease caused by a fly. As our Victorian forbears might have said, 'Collapse of stout party!'

I don't know what the outcome of this particular prosecution was. Frankly, I don't really care, but I do care intensely that stupid statements like

this can be made and seized on by the media to frighten half the population silly. Another case of 'Curryed' eggs, one might say.

Of course any fool can make these alarmist statements. For example, did you know that if you drink too much water you can literally suffer from a medical condition known as water intoxication? And that drinking water can actually be a fixation with some people, who may drink so much water that it kills them? I'm not referring now to a high aluminium content, that may cause early senile dementia, nor fluorides that may or may not injure you (depending on whether you want strong teeth or not!) nor the high calcium content of chalky waters that furs up your pipes (well, the central heating pipes, if nothing else!), nor even water that carries all sorts of parasites that destroy your liver, cause blindness, give you dysentery, bilharzia, and ninety nine other diseases. No, this is just from drinking too much plain, common or garden, ordinary water.

And when you think what water has done to our seaside iron piers, to our cliffs and coasts, and how it has formed vast cave systems in the limestone hills, it makes you realise what terrible stuff water is. Water is, after all, the nearest thing there is to a Universal Solvent. I'm starting an anti-water campaign as soon as I've got enough wine so I can stop drinking anything else.

Of course, if you live in the Great Metropolis, you have nothing to worry about. As one wag so sagely put it, "London water must be pure, it has been filtered by six lots of kidneys before it reaches you."

Winemakers and brewers need not be concerned about all this nonsense. Blending water with alcohol, whether by fortification or fermentation, at once changes the water into a pure harmless substance. Deo gratias!

LE TASTER.

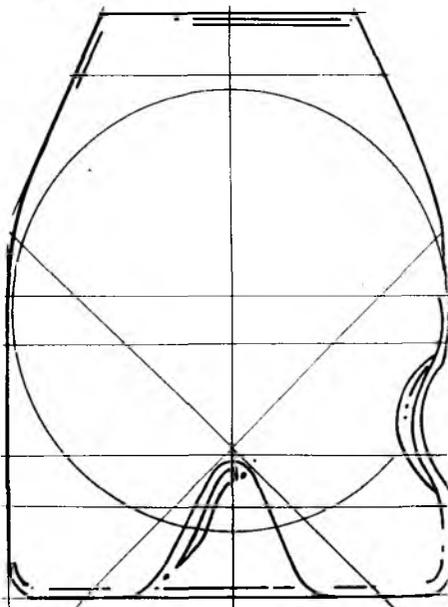
At the Guild of Judges AGM weekend last November, Judith Irwin introduced us to a new style of wine tasting glass, 'Le Taster Impitoyable'.

My dictionary defines 'impitoyable' as merciless, or pitiless, and that presumably is meant to express how effectively it exposes all the nuances of the bouquet of the wine. As you can see, 'Le Taster' is blown with two large dimples, one in the side and one in the base, and these serve both as finger grips, and to agitate and break up the wine as you swirl it round in the glass.

"Le Taster is hand made, 24% lead oxide crystal glass, which greatly increases the taster's perception of a wine's aroma."

This glass is a most impressive addition to the wine enthusiast's repertoire of gadgets, marred only by its price; you can expect to pay around £8 for each one. They are imported by 'Domaine Direct'.

The general opinion is that these glasses do heighten the bouquet of the wine, or make it more readily accessible to the nose.



HOLIDAYS ABROAD

Another leaflet has reached me, from Linguistic Holidays, that may be of interest to members who would like to learn French, or just brush up on what's got rusty since leaving school. There are two centres, Auros, and Pujols sur Ciron, both to the South of the city of Bordeaux. The pattern appears to be morning tuition, and afternoons filled with a variety of pastimes (painting on duck eggs, anyone?) such as walks, wine tastings, pottery, canoeing, cycling, and organised outings to places of interest. The Editor has a few of the leaflets, or you can contact Linguistic Holidays, 49 Westbourne Rd, Lancaster, (0524 68972) direct.

I have no knowledge of this firm other than their advertisement, and thus can neither endorse nor criticise the service they offer.

Helen Gillespie-Peck, a past member of the Civil Service Wine Society, runs wine tours in association with Wessex Travel Services. These are to most parts of the wine-growing areas of France, Portugal, and the Rioja. Write to FREEPOST WESSEX TRAVEL (BS 4469), 53 High St., Thornbury, Avon BS12 2YZ for further details. Leaflets are available for tours to Portugal, Dordogne/Bergerac, Burgundy, Bordeaux, Languedoc/Rousillon, Loire, Alsace, and Rioja; please state which you are interested in. Parties are limited to 32 persons. Again, I have no personal experience of this firm.

If any of our members goes on one of the wine holidays mentioned in News & Views, the Editor would be happy to receive a short report, pictures etc, so other readers might know what to expect, to enjoy or avoid.

#####

ARCHIVES

Ken Bilham, our last Editor, recently sent me a large carton of old NAWB documents. Some day I shall make time to go through them in detail. So far my hurried delvings have produced some interesting old Minutes; I'm sure there's gold to be dug out of them thar hills, when I have more blasting powder - sorry, the metaphor ran away with me - when time permits, I meant.



Sylvia and Ken have enjoyed a sunny winter in Spain; this picture shows their villa at Christmas 1987. Contact Ken if you are interested in property like it. (UK address: 9 Russet Ave, Grange Farm Estate, Upper Halliford Rd, Shepperton, Middx.)

While on the topic of archive material, it has been suggested that I re-publish the list of past and proposed NAWB Conference & Show weekends. So here goes: -

1959 Andover	1970 Caister on Sea	1981 Exeter
1960 Bournemouth	1971 Hull	1982 Scarborough
1961 Harrow	1972 Eastbourne	1983 Southampton
1962 Cheltenham	1973 Harrogate	1984 Nottingham
1963 Brighton	1974 Margate	1985 Eastbourne
1964 Bournemouth	1975 Bognor (Cancelled)	1986 Scarborough
1965 Clacton	1976 Nottingham	1987 Llandudno
1966 Harrogate	1977 Scarborough	1988 Brighton
1967 Bognor	1978 Nottingham	1989 Blackpool
1968 Torquay	1979 Brighton	1990 Scarborough
1969 Southport	1980 Blackpool	

1991 is undecided as yet. Currently we are looking (among others!) at Folkestone, Margate, and Torquay, holiday camps, and your Executive will gladly consider any suggestions put before them. Most venues fall down on size, adequacy of accommodation, or cost. Geography must be considered; obviously we could not have the National in the North in 1991, following Blackpool and Scarboro' in 1989 and 1990, as it would be unfair to our more southerly-based members. But this need not deter you from proposing a northern venue for a later year. Conference sites are now booked years ahead, and we have to plan accordingly. It's five years since we were in the Midlands; are the Universities the only premises that are big enough to house us? Do please get your thinking caps on. We are your elected Committee, but YOU are the National Association.

THOSE LITTLE WHITE LIES

When the time has come at last for Judges at the Bar
 And a lovely woman comes to you and looks you in the eye,
 You may find that your principles have quickly flown afar,
 Well, it isn't very wicked, to tell a small white lie.

If she says "I'm sure that you'll agree that this wine is a winner,
 Or it would be, if it wasn't for that fly"
 Then to save your chance to take her out to dinner,
 Well, it isn't very wicked, to tell a small white lie

When a sweet old lady edges up, and softly tells you that
 It won a prize at Wigan, Poole, or on the Isle of Skye
 You've not the heart to tell her that it tastes like rancid rat,
 Then, it isn't really wicked, to tell a small white lie.

When a red-faced angry Colonel charges, bawling in your face,
 "I've only topped it up three times" (two medium, one dry)
 You should really say his wine offends the entire human race,
 Well, it isn't really wicked, to tell a small white lie.

Then when the day is over, and you've packed your bag to go,
 And stand there sucking Rennies, and the Show Sec. asks you why,
 You almost tell him "Next year you can keep your blooming Show!"
 But, it isn't really wicked, to tell a small white lie.

FLABBERGASTED

A lady winemaker from Dorset
 Had trouble adjusting her corset.
 The wine that she drank
 Expanded her flank
 So to hide it she just had to force it.

Dear Roy,

Most wine and beer makers are aware of the great importance of acid levels in alcoholic beverages and that organic acids in sufficient levels are essential if a beverage is to remain sterile during its fermentation and maturation periods. During the fermentation several other acids are produced and these further enhance the quality of the beverage.

One of the lesser known acids produced this way is formic acid, and this was mentioned in a newspaper article dealing with the public health risk from Salmonella in eggs. The author stated that a Public Health Laboratory chemist "has found that contamination of (chicken) feed can be reduced from 15% to 0.9% by adding formic acid, which kills the bacteria."

In some wine producing countries it is the traditional practice to add the white of eggs to young wine to speed up clarification, and it would seem from newspaper articles that if there was any risk of Salmonella it would be from yolks, not whites of eggs. In any event the average acid level in wines should eliminate any possibility of infection from this source.

Wines with a good acid level will survive best, even in poor storage conditions, whereas wines with low acid levels lend themselves to infection even when storage conditions are good.

In red dry table wines the level of tannin determines both the style and the length of maturation required to allow the wine to become acceptable to the palate. Bordeaux in southern France has a climate that allows the main grape variety to ripen sufficiently to produce high tannin levels. Such wines when young are almost undrinkable. During the necessary long periods of maturation the level of fruit acids lessens and the wine may appear to be bone dry on the palate.

In the cooler regions of Burgundy the main red wine grape variety ripens late and has a low tannin level. Such wines usually mature relatively quickly, leaving a characteristic nutty sweetness on the palate. The reason for this sweetness is the presence of still-abundant fruit acids.

For the beginner in wine appreciation, such prestige Burgundian wines would seem to be medium sweet rather than bone dry, but it is most unlikely that Burgundian vigneronns would consider their prestigious red wines to be anything other than dry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Baker". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and "B".