

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEER MAKERS  
(Amateur)

NEWS AND VIEWS

MARCH 1990



**NAWB**

**PRESIDENT: MR. R. BUTCHER**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT: MRS. S. HILL**

**PATRONS**

Cecil Vacuum Systems: C W E / Unican Ltd: D D D Ltd (Chempro):  
Edme Malt Extracts & Beer Kits: Hambleton Bard Ltd:  
Itona Products Ltd: Johnson Homewine Supplies Ltd (Vinamat):  
Munton & Fison PLC: Ritchie Products Ltd:  
Wander Foods Ltd (Geordie):  
Vina (Home Winemaking Supplies) Ltd:  
Youngs Home Brew

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## EDITORIAL

Scarborough is nearly upon us, a great publicity event for the hobby. But this is the time when not just every enthusiast, but even every occasional brewer and winemaker, should make their presence known, and speak up for our pastime.

Use the hobby press - 'Homebrew Today' still flies the flag for us - as well as 'News & Views'. Pester your local radio stations, ring up your regional television studios. If you don't want to broadcast yourself, ask them why they don't have programmes about our interests. Offer to give them ideas for programmes, and refer them to your Federation to put them in touch with experts to advise them.

Only if many of us - 'us' means you! - bring pressure to bear, will anything be done to meet our needs. Homebrewing and winemaking needs publicity and recruits, and it's up to us to see that we get it. The hobby is going through a very difficult time, as demonstrated by the number of Circles that have closed down, and homebrew retailers and wholesalers and manufacturers that have gone out of business in the last five years. Write to your local papers! Tell the W I and the T W G! Do something!

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NAWB(A),  
TO BE HELD AT SCARBOROUGH ON APRIL 8, 1990

1. The meeting will be opened by the President, Mr. R Butcher
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 1989 Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Chairman's Report 1989/90.
6. Treasurer's Report, 1988/89.
7. Motions: the following Motion has been received:  
"That all members entering the Show should stipulate their Federations if members on the same conditions as they state their Clubs. This would provide a Federation champion and encourage more entries."  
Proposed: B W Pearce    Seconded: B H Edwards
8. Election of Members to the Executive Committee:  
In accordance with Rule 8(d) the following members having served three years will resign and are standing for re-election: Mrs. J Irwin; Mr. L Drysdale; Mr. M Hayter.  
The closing date for receipt of nominations having now passed, no ballot will be required and the above-named will be re-elected automatically
9. Any other Business:
10. Nomination of the President of the Association and of the Vice-President for 1990/1991.
11. Presentation of the Executive.
12. The President will close the Meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT  
THE NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL, BLACKPOOL,  
AT 10 AM, SUNDAY 19 MARCH 1989**

**The Meeting** was opened by the President, Mr Peter Awbery, who asked for a moment's silence in respect for deceased members.

He then welcomed those present, and suggested that a competition might have been run to interpret the initials NAWB. One solution was 'No Alcohol With Breakfast'; however, he thought the winning entry might be 'Naturally, Alcohol With Breakfast', a sentiment that seemed to find favour with the audience. He then passed control of the meeting to the Chairman.

**Apologies for absence:** The Hon. Secretary, Lenn Drysdale, said apologies for absence had been received from the following:

Mr & Mrs Ivor Morgan, Mr V Goffen, Mr W Grant, Mrs J Burroughs, Mr & Mrs Palfrey, Mrs F Stagg, and Mr & Mrs Lucas.

**Minutes of the 1988 A G M:** Mr L Drysdale, Hon. Secretary told the meeting that the Minutes had been circulated to all members. Mr B Hutchinson proposed that these be accepted as read, and this was seconded and accepted, all in favour.

**Matters arising:** None.

**Chairman's Report:** Judith Irwin asked "What should a Chairman report on?" The last Show was all settled; those present had attended the current Show and didn't need telling about it.

Instead she reminisced for a few minutes: 1978 had been her first National, when to her surprise she was elected as the first Wine Queen. In those days she was a draughtsman in the aircraft industry, now she was a buyer in the wine trade. That should be a warning to everyone, how wine could take your life over. Our ex-President Freda Stagg had sent a letter of apology, which Mrs. Irwin read out. Both Freda and her late

husband Les. had worked long and hard for NAWB, and it was a pity that she had to miss a meeting after so many years. The Chairman also pointed out that following the Rule changes passed at the 1988 AGM, the Rules had been reprinted, and copies were being given to members as they paid their subscriptions. The major change in the year had been the extension of computerisation in NAWB. This had greatly eased and speeded up the production of awards etc. and was invaluable in dealing with the masses of paperwork that arose. Computers did not err, but allowance had to be made for the human element in the volunteers who worked so hard for the Association.

The Chairman ended by saying the future looked rosy for NAWB: entries had increased, attendance was up, membership was growing. She asked members to go back and tell their friends what a wonderful weekend they had had. Perhaps their friends would then choose to attend the 1990 National. She next thanked the members for their support during the year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr Mike Hayter opened his report with a detailed review of the Trading Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 June 1988. The trading surplus for the year had been reduced from the previous year's figure of £1195 to just £39.25 for the last year. The main item of expenditure for the year had been the purchase of a computer for £608.84; the original computer which had cost £2500, was now several years old, and although it had given sterling service to NAWB, it was now reaching the end of its useful life and needed replacing. The use of computers in an Association the size of NAWB was essential to maintain efficiency.

There were no questions.

Mr J Chettle moved acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Mr D Reed; the Motion was approved unanimously. The Treasurer

restricted to entrants who had never won a First at the National. They should be introduced as Novices' Classes. By popular acclaim, this was passed as a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Gina Simpson of Waltham suggested that the Kit Wine and Beer Classes in the Open Section could be Novice Classes.

**Novices :** George Lashbrook suggested that the E C should provide a definition of a Novice that could be adopted by Circles and Federations as a standard. The Chairman pointed out that we cannot instruct Circles and Federations, especially those outside NAWB, we can only suggest; the decision is theirs. To be considered by the E C as a guideline.

**Ribbons/Rosettes:** Mr Thomason said he had never won yet at the National (applause) and he felt that in classes with 100 or more bottles, the giving of a ribbon or rosette to each bottle brought forward for the finalising, but not given an award, would go a long way to encourage those who narrowly missed gaining an award. Alternatively, the bottles could be given an 'Assessed' label.

**Wives & Husbands:** Mrs D Procter objected to a wife's wines being labelled in her husband's name. It was suggested, and agreed, that where there was a joint membership, 2 entry forms would be sent in future. The Chairman, Mrs. J Irwin, offered to present a trophy for the lady gaining most points, and this was approved from the floor. Jim Chettle explained that this had arisen from the system of addressing correspondence to Mr. & Mrs..... If the Chairman's offer was carried out, he felt there should also be a Gentleman's Cup, to prevent objections on the grounds of sexual discrimination!

**Bottles on the Show Bench:** Another speaker from the floor asked if bottles could be sorted from Judges' number order, into Exhibitor's number order.

**Future Venues:** George Lashbrook again pleaded the case for taking the National to Torquay, and quoted figures to prove how economic this would be. Up to 50% of the cost of hiring the ERC (English Riviera Centre) could be saved if the accommodation booking was done through the Council. He could name a 3 Star hotel, better than any past National Conference Hotel, that could be booked for £49.75 for DBB Fri./Sat./Sun. and Sunday lunch. (Price at 14/2/89). The Chairman pointed out that the membership application form now included a section for members to state their preferences for venues for the National. Would members PLEASE fill it in ?

**Mr D Hodkinson, Chairman of the Guild of Judges** then presented Mr Allenby with his certificate of membership of the Guild as a Wine Judge.

**Nomination of the President:** The President for 1989/90 was Mr Roy Butcher, and this was unanimously approved by the members present. The retiring President, Mr Peter Awbery, gave a brief resumé of Roy's career in NAWB, and presented him with the President's jewel. Mr Butcher said he accepted this honour with great humility (especially as the computer had caused problems) and would try and follow in Peter's high standards.

The Chairman awarded to Mr Awbery his Past President's badge.

**Nomination of the Vice-President:** Mrs Sybil Hill had accepted this honour for 1989/90. She thanked the members for this honour, she would carry on as 'Vice': after Peter's tuition, she was confident she could excel everybody at it.

**Executive Committee:** The Chairman then introduced each Committee member in turn, praising them, and giving in each case a good-humoured outline of that person's background and duties in NAWB, and made a point of telling the membership just how many miles each EC member travelled; **for every separate meeting, up to maximum of 440 miles per visit! Total**

mileage driven for NAWB was about 14,000 miles yearly, without the journey to the Show and AGM. After much applause, the members then followed the President's example and loudly applauded the Chairman. The President then said that we had had a marvellous Conference and Show, wished everybody a safe journey home, and hoped he would see everybody at next year's Show. He thus closed the A G M.

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**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

Just a quick comment about the production of 'News & Views' - NO! Don't stop reading, don't drop it in disgust; this is not yet another plea from your Editor to write to him - though Heaven knows any contribution is welcome - but just a note about the appearance of the magazine.

I am well aware that it does have a rather dull look at times, and hope to change this shortly. To save large chunks of your hard-earned subscriptions being mis-spent, I personally type out all the copy for 'N & V', which saves the considerable expense of having it professionally typeset. Your Committee has kindly authorised the purchase of a specialised computer program for me to use, which will give me much more scope in choosing typefaces and arranging the layout - for anyone interested, it is 'MicroDesign II' Desk Top Publishing - but I need a few hours spare time to acclimatise myself to it. Any new program needs time to assimilate, to get the most out of it without plodding through line by error-laden line. One day in the future you will be dazzled by a super new-look journal. But not this issue; still, you now know it is in the pipeline.

All I need now is some spare time.....

PS - I would still like to hear from you, to receive comments, poems, photos, cartoons - anything! Even complaints!



## NOVICES ABROAD

We tend to think, in our insular manner, of homebrewing and its many joys and countless problems as being a peculiarly British hobby. Yet this is far from being the case, as shown by the following heartfelt cry for help, printed just as received, from a Dutch correspondent:

"Dear Editor,

Being a beginning amateur brewer I have a great problem. Since I was at the meeting of my Guild I have been wondering if my drinking habits are all-right.

I enjoyed the meeting and the expert lectures on beer. I talked to several members about the world of beer and home brewing.

When I drove home I decided not to touch any other drink but beer for the rest of my life.

After arriving home I collected the ten bottles of liquor that were still in the house and took them to the kitchen in order to pour them down the sink.

When I had removed the cork from the first bottle I could not bring myself to throwing it all away. I therefore filled a glass, drank it and poured the rest of the bottle down the sink.

Then I took the second bottle, removed the cork, filled the glass again, drank it and threw the rest down the drains.

At that moment I failed to understand why I had always objected to this line of action, and with a pleasant feeling I grabbed the third bottle, pulled out the cork, drank a glass and emptied the bottle in the sink.

I furthermore took the fourth cork, withdrew the bottle and drank the glass, which tasted excellently and threw the rest

in the sink. Then I took the fifth bottle, pulled out the glass, drank the cork, and threw the rest in the sink.

This pleased me so that I took the sixth sink, pulled out the bottle, threw the cork in the glass and drank the rest.

Of the seventh drink I bottled the sink in the corker, pulled out the glass and took up the rest.

With great satisfaction I guttered the eighth cork, drank the kitchen on the glass and pulled the rest into the bottle.

Continuing I ninethed the cork, threw and poured empty and rested a drink in the glass.

When I koot the last I borked the cottle, unfilled the sink, hulled the flass...after which I found myself in the kitchensink the next morning, with the rest of the kitchen still in my glass.

(signed) A beginning amateur brewer."

That lovely leg-pull came from Jan van Schaik, of Vlissingen in Holland, and I can assure you his English is better than that, drunk or sober. Jan is a leading light in the Dutch beer judges' organisation, and visited the National at Brighton. We hope to see him again at Scarborough. As Editor of a Dutch amateur hobby magazine, he understands the difficulty of getting contributions from his readers (knock knock!) and kindly complimented me on our December issue. Unfortunately I don't read Dutch, so can't comment on his magazine, but if he produces one then he must be really enthusiastic for the hobby.

Jan sends his Best Wishes to us all for 1990.

**THIS CURIOUS BEER LABEL** is far more complex than any British home-brewed beer label I have seen so far. Jan van Schaik sent it to me; it is a label designed and used by one of his home-brewing friends. As you can see, it depicts the Pope outside the Vatican, with a glass of beer, a few heads of barley, and what is either a totally irreverent tourist, or what must be the most swinging nun yet! 'Jean-Polleke' doesn't mention an OG, but perhaps it is more concerned with 'Final' gravity.

Have you a label to amuse or intrigue us? All offerings to your Editor, please.



**NAWBERT SAYS:**

Wodger mean, I can't get into the  
Mayoral Ball without a ticket?

Won't me badge do?

You know me. dontcher?

**SALES AND WANTS**

It has been suggested that members might like a 'Small Ads.' column in which to advertise their surplus winemaking gear, husbands, split beer kegs, and other items of modest value. Such a column could be used to help out the lonely, reduce excess stocks of Ch. Lafite 1906 and similar trifles, arrange holidays for the thirsty, and all manner of wine and beer-related odds and ends. Perhaps the following (faked) examples might encourage you to advertise in future:

**Live Bristle-Worm Cultures** £1: ideal for cleaning round the bend in your syphon tube. Grow your own living brushes! Apply Box No 1, c/o Editor, News & Views.

**SHORT OF CASH?** Start your own business at home! Elderberry driers (1 berry capacity) for sale, only £5. Apply Sam's Scrapyard, behind City of London Nuclear Fuel Dump.

**Certified Wine Yeasts** All individually inspected and counted. £1.50 for 10 cells. Every cell vaccinated against vinegar fly. Write Box 3, N & V.

**FOR SALE:** 15192 used cylindrical corks, ex-Luigi's Napoli Restaurant. Guaranteed not spaghetti-contaminated. Only £6 per 1000, bottles extra. Apply to Box 4.

**ENGLISH VINEYARD HAS 4000 BOTTLES SUPERBLY CRYSTAL-CLEAR WHITE WINE FOR SALE AT £4.50 PER BOTTLE. APPLY BOX 5**

*For Quick Sale: English Vineyard has 386 almost fresh egg-yolks for first caller, £2 the lot! Buyer collects. Box No 6.*

**Winemaker, 2 foot 6 inches, looks for attractive female partner 6 foot tall or over, with a view to lasting friendship and holding top end of syphon tube. Box 7, News & Views.**

**MAKE YOUR OWN BENTONITE** Genuine Texas boulders, minimum half ton each, suitable grinding down into powder for finings. Delivered Class 1 post. Offers to News & Views, Box No 8

**Editor's Note: All enquiries to Box Nos. to enclose S A E**

## THOSE AWFUL STICKY LABELS...

Every time a Show comes around we have to find suitable bottles to enter our wines or beers in. Not usually a terribly difficult task, but if you have previously entered a Show where they have used self-adhesive labels, then you can have problems. Your precious bottles will bear a legacy of layers of paper, sticky bits of gum, and nasty, dirty smears.

DON'T be tempted to attack them with hot water and detergent, or scrape those mucky bottles with knives or garden hoes! Just keep them nice and dry, and rub them with a cloth soaked in spirit - meths, surgical spirit, 80 % Polish - whatever you have lying about. You will find that horrid gum will fade away, and your bottles will be beautifully polished into the bargain.

No doubt you are occasionally pestered by or privileged to meet a Bettaware brush salesman. Next time one calls, don't drench him with your worst flowers-of-wine-contaminated brew, welcome him with a smile, and order some of their 'Sticky Stuff Remover' - it's magic! A 75 g aerosol can will cost you between £3 and £4, but it will last you for ages, and although it's not labelled as 'Ozone-friendly', there's so little of it it shouldn't cause the crops to fail in Mongolia - I hope!

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## A CONVERSATION STOPPER?

During the New Year festivities we tried a popular plonk in an unfamiliar form - Sparkling Liebfraumlisch, no less! I suppose it was alright, if ordinary lemonade didn't suit your palate... It was sealed with the usual plastic stopper, which had a rather murky look about it. Curious, I cut the stopper open with a sharp knife, and was astonished to find a cylindrical cork inside! If that's not Teutonic thoroughness taken to the point of absurdity, I don't know what is!

SCARBOROUGH, LAST TIME ROUND:



"WHATEVER WAS THAT?" ASKS FRED BASTIN...



... SO 'ANDY' ANDREWS EXPLAINED

**TOMBOLA**

Each year our Fund Raiser, currently Brian Edwards, appeals to the members to give, and to give generously, to the Tombola, which with the raffles, forms the only fund-raising that takes place at the National weekend. This year Brian is writing direct to all Circles and Federations, asking for donations for the Tombola.

But this does not mean that any gift from any other member would be spurned - the very opposite, in fact! If you have ANYTHING that can be given to help raise funds and sell tickets, please let Brian know, and either send it or bring it along to Scarborough. It doesn't have to be connected with the hobby: your prize collection of dried toadstools or a pair of chopsticks would be just as gratefully received as a bottle of 1835 brandy or a packet of beer labels. Dig deep into that cupboard, it's all in a good cause.

One final note: in the past some folk have got rather upset - understandably - because the prizes they have donated to the Raffle have got put into the Tombola, or even vice-versa. If you are handing in a prize for the Raffle, PLEASE label it accordingly. If it's NOT labelled, it will be regarded as a donation for the Tombola, thank you very much!

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**THE LONG DRY SUMMER OF '89...**

meant a poor barley crop, say  
 VINA, Beer Kit Manufacturers and Wholesalers. This has resulted in substantial increases in beer kit prices. However, as they point out, the ingredients for a £5 beer kit cost you less than 15p per pint, and a £3 kit less than 10p per pint. Commercial beers have in many cases risen about 10p a pint already, for the same reason, and may rise even further. This

should encourage even more thirsty souls to flock to the hobby; as VINA say, "It still makes sense to Brew at Home"

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**JUDGING** can give rise to a variety of problems: questions of colour and bouquet, has the wine enough body for the class, is it a shade too sweet, is that an incipient mouse sneakily developing in the background, is a mushroom a fruit, vegetable or AOV, and how do you judge a wine that's made from an ingredient that's poisonous if fresh but harmless if dried? Queries like this are a permanent and very entertaining part of a wine judge's life, but I came across a new problem last year at the N W Federation Show, at Pontin's, Southport.

It didn't arise from some abstruse point about actually judging the wines, but in the mechanics of the job. In short, I opened my judging kit to find that I had left at home the funnel I use as part of my spittoon; I am not so expert that I can guarantee to expectorate neatly every time into a container with a one-inch neck - I leave skills like that to cowboys. So off I went to the Camp Shop. What an incredible range of goods these shops sell, but, as you've guessed, no funnels. Ingenuity strikes again - I bought a litre of my least favourite beverage, Burpa-Cola, with the intention of cutting the PET bottle neck off at the shoulder to make a funnel. There was no way I could drink that sticky brew, so I hastily enlisted the aid of two and a half children (i. e., two on foot and one in a push-chair ), and a couple of minutes later I left them replete, delighted and somewhat inflated with carbon dioxide, while I made off with the empty bottle.

Back in the judging hall I sawed off the bottle top with a blunt penknife to use successfully as a funnel, while my steward hacked off the base of the bottle to convert it into a



tumbler so he could have a drink of water to clean his palate.

I didn't anticipate paying 99p for a temporary funnel that morning, but equally I did not expect to be the reason for three kids to have sticky happy faces!

#### **NEW WINE CLASSES AT THE LAKELAND ROSE SHOW**

After a lapse of several years, wine classes are being reintroduced to the Lakeland Rose Show. This year the Show is being held on July 14th & 15th, at Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, near Grange-over-Sands in Southern Lakeland.

It is easy to find: leave the M6 at Exit 36, signposted for Kendal and the Lakes, and take the first left, the A590 for Barrow. About 6 miles further on is a roundabout; from here take the Grange exit, and follow your nose and the B5277 from there through Grange to the posters and signs at Flookburgh.

If you are in the area, the Rose Show will be well worth a visit for its glorious flowers and all the usual sideshows, as well as giving you the chance to meet some friendly Cumbrian winemakers, even if you have not entered a bottle yourself.

Further details from Mrs. B Mason, Rocklands, Greenside, Hincaster, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7NA.

#### **BOXES FOR WINEMAKERS**

Many of our members, particularly the judges who visit the other large Shows, will know of John Russell of Northampton. John was a regular feature at many of the shows, displaying and selling his hand-made wooden cases that were designed to carry bottles of wine, glasses, and other necessities of life for winemakers. John also has purpose-built cases for judging kits which are both smart and practical.

Recently I received a letter from him, explaining that he had pretty well dropped out of the hobby, as his health was now such that he was "advised to abstain from alcohol for the rest of his life". And if that's not a dreadful prospect I don't know what is; I am sure everyone will have the greatest fellow-feeling for John - 'There but for the grace of God go I,' as the saying goes.

However, this does not mean that the supply of Judge's boxes has dried up. John is still making them, and I am sure he will be happy to supply details to anyone that is interested. He also tells me that he has a supply of copitas, at 90p each plus postage.

All enquiries to John Russell, 21 Landcross Drive, Abington Vale, Northampton NN3 3LR; I'm sure an SAE would be appreciated. Or telephone 0604 36536 for details.

#### **HAMBLETON BARD LTD.**

I am pleased to announce that the well-known Sheffield firm of Hambleton Bard Ltd has recently become NAWB's latest, and twelfth Patron. Mr. J Douglas Smith, the Company's Director, was much in evidence at Blackpool in 1989, taking up almost the whole of a room with his stand. Those of you who visit the N W Federation's annual shindig at Pontin's, Southport, will know that the Norbreck didn't do justice to Hambleton Bard's capacity to display the firm's products - especially its samples of beer and wine. Mr Smith is putting on a stand at Scarborough, and I am sure his display will be well worth a visit. Do take a glass, to sample some excellent beers.

However, may I remind you that our Patrons give generously to NAWB's funds, and for this reason alone we recommend that you support them. As our Patrons are all long-established and highly reputable businesses, you know you'll get good value .

## BITS AND PIECES

**SCARBOROUGH: KIT WINE CLASS ENTRANTS** are reminded that they must write the kit name in the right-hand column of the entry form. This is necessary for the Judge. It is also used to notify each manufacturer of which and how many awards their products have achieved in the competition, another step in encouraging cooperation between the Trade and Amateur sides of the hobby.

**HOMEBREW TODAY** Until now, 'Homebrew Today' has been a free magazine available only through your local homebrew retail specialist. This will continue to be the normal means of distribution.

However, many people have written to the Editor complaining that they can no longer obtain copies because their local homebrew shop has closed down. As 'Homebrew Today' is now the only specialist advertising medium available to all the hobby, the Editor has decided to accept a limited number of subscriptions from wine and beer makers who cannot get copies conveniently. The cost of such a subscription is £5 per year, and applications should be sent with a cheque made out to Roy Ekins, at 4 Lytles Close, Formby, Liverpool L37 4BT

A similar subscription service is also being introduced for Circles that cannot obtain supplies of 'Homebrew Today'. At the time of writing subscription rates, which are largely governed by labour and post and packing costs, have not been decided. If your Circle has difficulty in getting copies, write now to Roy Ekins for details.

### TRADE STANDS

We expect to have some interesting stands at Scarborough this year, and it will be well worth having a browse round the stands in the Green Lounge (Ground Floor, next to the Cafeteria). They won't be just homebrew stands, though those

will be well represented, but will include two or three surprise exhibitors.

One stand will be put on by Park Marketing of Bishop Auckland, who are distributors for a new range of water filters. These have been developed in Britain, specifically for the hobby, to give brewers and winemakers a supply of pure water to use. There is also a smaller filter that can easily be popped into a Judge's bag and taken from show to show. This is said to have an output of about 100 litres, so it would provide most judges with well over a year's supply of palate-cleansing water to use at the show bench. You might even win one in the Tombola!

**HELP!**

**HELP!**

**HELP!**

**HELP!** We are desperately short of both Judge's and General Stewards! Won't you help? Don't just leave it to the faithful few, put your name forward and take an enjoyable and active part in running YOUR Show.

As well as having the fascination of going through a Class with a Judge, and probably being given the opportunity of tasting some of the exhibits, Judge's Stewards receive a commemorative wine or beer glass. General Stewards also receive a glass, and this year are being given, for each two-hour stint, a free raffle ticket for a case of wine! Twelve bottles all for you! And only General Stewards will be in the draw! What better odds could you find anywhere?

So send your name off to Tom McArthur to be a Judge's Steward, or to Hugh Garth-Thomas to be a General Steward - use the form in your Schedule - and know that you are actually taking part in running the world's biggest home wine and beer show.

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

I have mentioned above the new **Park Marketing** water filters, and hope to be able to report on these and some more beer and wine kits in the next issue.

Meanwhile, here are a few notes on products I have tried recently:

**Hambleton Bard Beer Kits:** I have made up, and with a little help from my friends and relations, happily drunk the **Traditional Bitter**, the **Yorkshire Bitter**, and the **Continental Lager**. The cans contain hopped malt, (no sucrose etc additives) and there is a packet of yeast under the lid. Add sugar and water, and you can look forward to forty pints of excellent homebrew. Easy to make up, and true to their type, all three make a pleasant quaffable brew. The Yorkshire Bitter was the one that received most acclaim, and justifiably so. I am currently brewing up some of Bard's carton kits with dried malt extract, and will report on these later.

**VINA No 5** is a Rosé wine kit-in-a-can which I found to be very good value at £2.37. Another welcomed brew was **No 7. a Full Rich Red**. This never actually got into bottles, but was poured straight from the demijohn into a carafe and served. It wasn't really a fair trial; a wine of this type should have some bottle age, but somehow it seemed very drinkable while still young, and was enjoyed without delay.

**PAINE'S PLC** produce **Grande Malson** kits that are drinkable within a short time. The **Medium Dry White** ended up as a **Medium Sweet**, but was nonetheless quite happily consumed by my panel of parents. A gallon started in November is almost gone in February, which tells its own tale. The **Red wine** is - was- a good deep colour and cleared well without using the bentonite and isinglass finings that are supplied, and the wine had a distinctive but pleasing flavour and bouquet.