

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS
(Amateur)
NEWS AND VIEWS

June 1991



NAWB

President: Mrs. S. Hill
Vice-President: Mr. J. Chettle

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N A W B (A)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE 1991

EDITORIAL

So much has happened since the last News & Views that it will be hard to fit everything in. But without doubt the AGM, Conference, & Show at Camber Sands must take pride of place, closely followed by the results of the first meeting of the Executive Committee in April.

As foreshadowed by her remarks at the AGM, Judith Irwin has stood down, after three years of well-deserved success as our hard-working Chairman. Judith has been replaced as Chairman by Doug. Ives, and Gerry Sparrow succeeded him as Vice-Chairman. A full list of the Officers and Executive is given opposite.

We have also been honoured with the acceptance by Sybil Hill of the post of President, and our new Vice-President is Jim Chettle. Both have long records of service to the Association, and undoubtedly deserve their selection.

A new year stretches ahead of us, with your elected representatives keen to make it the best yet. The hobby is growing again, but our membership is not! What can YOU do about it? Find another member - we could easily double our strength overnight. The EC is holding a brainstorming weekend at the end of July, to explore ways of changing NAWB's image, recruitment, finance, and the annual show, and relevant other matters like the format, content, and distribution of N & V. If you have any views or suggestions, please pick up a pen or a 'phone and express your thoughts to one of the Committee - we'd love to be swamped with members' views! Go to it!

Roy Eaves

And a message from our new Chairman:

Dear Members,

Your Executive Committee has bestowed upon me the honour of the office of Chairman of N.A.W.B., and I look forward to an interesting year.

I take over a chair vacated by a remarkable young woman! In all my eighteen years on Committee I have not encountered anyone quite so brimful of enthusiasm and efficiency as Judith Irwin. In her three-year tenure of office she brought new ideas into fruition - and she kept the Committee on its toes!

It was Judith who extended the original idea of a NAWB table at the Annual Show into a full-blown NAWB stand and proceeded to take it round with her to other major shows!

I am sure that I speak for all the Committee when I thank Judith for all her work over the years. I can assure you that, in stepping down in one sense, she will not disappear from the scene.

The 1991 Conference and Show at Camber Sands lacked only one element - more people!

As a venue it was a huge success, once again illustrating the advantages of "all under one roof" (shades of Nottingham and Exeter Universities?). The accommodation was superb and, for a remarkably low cost, we were housed in completely refurbished and decorated chalets filled with brand-new fittings and equipment. Very good food - and lots of it! - was available at extra charge for those not wishing to self-cater, and the halls and facilities offered more than adequate for our needs.

A lot of you missed a very good weekend!

For 1992 we are planning on Blackpool again and are certainly hoping for maximum attendance and maximum entries to the Show.

Meanwhile, I shall be hoping to meet with many of you again during the year whilst attending Shows and judging engagements with Marjorie.

As I said earlier, an interesting prospect, and one I look forward to with pride.

Sincerely,



Doug Ives

Chairman

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR A DOUBLE BIRTHDAY



JUDITH AND HER MOTHER JOY SHARE A JOINT BIRTHDAY CAKE

(Photograph thanks to Catherine Gray of Basingstoke)

Our Fund-Raiser Hugh Garth Thomas sends this message:

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure (Ooooh!) to thank the following people and trade organisations for their wonderful support for my fund-raising effort.

Over three hundred and twenty four people went home with a prize of of some description, and yet our funds still showed a healthy profit. Inflation is still our enemy, but I do try both to entertain you and to diddle you out of your hard-earned cash.

Not an easy task, but very enjoyable.

Thank you all for your support,

HUGH GARTH THOMAS

Fund Raiser

Donations were kindly given by:

VINA Ltd.	Munton & Fison plc	Itona Products Ltd.
Paines Malts Ltd	Wander Foods Ltd	EDME Ltd
Youngs Home Brew	CWE Ltd	Hambleton Bard Ltd
Nestlé Ltd	New Forest Wine Circle	Mr I Morgan, New F.
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Wembley Guild	Mr H Tomlinson, Scptft	Old Bexley Wm.
Mrs PL Joiner, OBWm	Mr B E Edwards, Burbage	New Ash Green Wm Cl
Mr&Mrs D & M Ives	Phoenix Wine Circle	London East Fedn
Mr A North, B'mth	Mrs Buxton, Cleveland	Mrs G Murrav, N. Abbt
Mrs F Stagg, Wimbne	Mrs B Proudfoot, N on T P	Bondon(?) Phoenix
Mrs Sybil Hill & Mr Ken Hill,	L'pool	Mrs J Awbery, Faversham.

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above- TO PROVE IT'S ALL ABOVE BOARD, HERE'S THE HAPPY WINNER OF THE BOTTLE OF SCOTCH ON THE TOMBOLA, DRAWN WITH ALMOST THE LAST TICKET SOLD. SHOWN WITH HUGH GARTH THOMAS, FUND RAISER.

below-BERNARD AND JOYCE WILLS OF POOLE CELEBRATING THEIR RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AT CAMBER SANDS



OBITUARIES

The winemaking hobby has lost two valued and long-serving leading lights recently.

We cannot, alas, record the passing of all winemakers and brewers who move on to better things, but there are some whose contribution to the hobby and their fellow wine or beer lovers has been such that comment must be made. One of these was:

Mrs Lillian K Lucas

Mrs Lillian Lucas passed away peacefully on 28th February 1991 in her 92nd year, after a short illness, although having endured for many years the pain and tribulations of Arthritis. Those who have known Lillian well from the very beginnings of the amateur winemaking movement will be happy to know she was able to play her piano almost to the last: long will us 'oldies' remember the sing-songs which she led, not forgetting her saucy smile and happy nature.

Lillian will also be remembered for her support of husband Cyril, one of the leading founders of our hobby, including the National Associations, her name rarely in print, but the background work ever her forté. As the innovator of the cookery classes and the original Judge of these classes, now a part of all show schedules, she was responsible for the encouragement of others to adopt her method of judging and to progress in this field.

Bournemouth Wine Circle will of course be grateful for her sterling work as Treasurer and Committee member for many years from its foundation, not forgetting the excellent Garden Parties held in the gardens at Ferndown.

To all of us who knew Lillian we will remember her with fond memories and affection, which we are sure we share with Cyril and her son Bernard, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy in this their great loss.

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The other loss was that of the tall and genial President of the Wales & West Federation, Ken Shaw, who passed away on Good Friday, March 26th 1991, after suffering ill health for a number of years.

After serving as a Captain in the Royal Engineers during World War II, Ken Shaw became Resident Engineer for the Wales & West Region for British Waterways.

He joined the Swansea Guild of Winemakers in 1973, and became a Committee member for the Wales & West Federation in 1977. Elected to the post of Chairman in 1982, he served the Federation well in that capacity until made President in 1989, which position he held until his death, at the age of 75.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow Pat, and family.

AND A CELEBRATION!

Grovehill Wine and Beermaking Club members, under their Chairman Peter Larkin have designated themselves 'Marplynvic Publications' though I fear it is a publishing house that will have a short history!

Between them they have produced a delightful booklet to mark the Club's first ten years of existence. It is a blend of history and anecdote, cartoon and comic verse, and their thoughts for the Club's future.

This is the sort of entertaining booklet that any and every Circle could and should produce, and which would keep on record the past practices, the joys and woes of life at club level, instead of letting those memories just fade away with time.

Grove Hill are to be congratulated, not because this is a mighty work of reference that will be of international standing, but simply because it is about themselves, and their club. As said above, any Circle could - but Grove Hill did!



SYBIL WHO ?????

Whilst I was Chairman of NAWB, at one of the Brighton Conferences, Cyril Berry asked one of the members "Have you seen Sybil Hill?", to which she replied "No, my husband does the map reading."

So with this thought in mind and as I have now been honoured with the post of President, I thought I had better introduce myself to many of the younger members.

My first National Conference was in 1961, and apart from one National which had to be cancelled and two I was unable to attend, I have been a stalwart attender.

I always asked to be given a job to do, accepting bottles for the competition, or any other job, even putting up tables. I just wanted to be there and get to know other winemakers from around the country.

I was from Liverpool, and there were only a small number who attended a Conference held in



the South of England. At that time we always had a Luncheon (at a small extra cost) and the major Cups were presented at this luncheon. The following day was the AGM.

The first time I was a Judges' Steward was for the late Lillian Lucas; she gave me some remarkable tuition and I realised I wanted to take my Judges exam. as soon as possible.

At that time the judging examinations were made at major shows around the country. I made my application to Andy Andrews, who was Chief Examiner and also Chairman of the National Guild of Judges. I took my exam. at Hull Show in 1965, and thus my years of judging wine commenced.

In 1972 I was elected to the N.E.C. of the Guild of Judges and served until 1980.

I won the 'Judges Only' Trophy at the National Conference and one or two 'cards'.

Having been a member of NAWB since its commencement I had a great interest in all the work and thought that went into the yearly Conference and Show. I was elected to the N.E.C. of NAWB in 1967 and held many posts over the years. As Programme Secretary one of my best years was when our speaker was Lord Marples - who was an entertainer and gave us a great insight into his years as a vigneron. I held other posts on Committee: Fund Raiser, Convenor, Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman.

During these years I attended all the 'Summer Schools' at Oxford and Leeds University, which were organised by Andy Andrews, Bob Chandler, and Cedric Austin. We had some wonderful weekend seminars. I often look at the Group photographs and go back in years to the happy times, to re-live the singing into the early hours with friends, in particular the Welsh contingent.... Oh, Happy Days! As you may now be aware, the Winemaking movement has always been close to my heart, and I hope I can continue to give my support to both the national Conference and the Judging for many more years. I feel it is a great privilege to be your President.

Sincerely,

SYBIL HILL

ALLIVER'S AT IT! Mary had a little lamb,
Potatoes, mint, and peas,
And with it drank a Rosé,
Which put her quite at ease.

FERMENTATION

Being more aware than most people of the gap in the market, John Carpenter, a NAWB member and new recruit to the Executive Committee, has courageously launched his own magazine, 'Fermentation'. John is well-known in the Midland Federation and the Central Counties Federation, and has many contacts throughout the country.

'Fermentation' is designed to slot neatly into the gap between the current format of 'News & Views', which is primarily concerned with NAWB and its members, and 'Homebrew Today', the free newspaper for which the main aim is to encourage newcomers to enter the hobby, and to assist them as novice winemakers and brewers. See the advertisement for 'Fermentation' on a later page.

The first issue of 'Fermentation' came out in May, and contains an assortment of articles, answers to readers' letters, Circle and Federation notes and news, assorted titbits (NOT page 3 type!), comment and recipes, and notes on commercial beers and wines as well! Even the Inland Revenue gets a favourable mention!

With a lively assortment of varied contents, 'Fermentation' has the potential to grow to fill the needs of its readers, who are encouraged to write to the Editor with their views and requests.

If you are interested, why not write to John now; the subscription rate is £5 for four issues, delivered by post. His address is 110 Heathfield Rd. Webheath, Redditch B97 5RD, tel. 0527 404722, or ask at your local homebrew shop.

And a welcome return for:

CHETTLE'S CHATTER

BACK TO CAISTER?

For those people who have long memories - No, Camber Sands wasn't like Caister. The facilities were very good, and albeit a bleak setting, we were looked after very well. There was ample room for all those attending the Social Functions, and room to overflow into the large adjoining bar. The stage coach ran to Rye every now and then!

GOOD RELATIONS

For the benefit of those members, other than Arthur Cottenham, who asked - yes, Steve Chettle of Nottingham Forest is a relative of mine. He's my father's cousin's son's son - if that makes it any clearer.

GOOD SPIRITS

Not being a maker of liqueurs, I didn't feel able to join in the debate about bottles on Sunday. I thought Eric Tappenden put his case over very well, however, I'm more inclined to go along with Brian Gent's statement - wine in wine bottles, beer in beer bottles etc. I sat on the Committee when all the fortified classes were introduced and I must admit to voting against the introduction of these classes. In the long run, I belong to the Denis Reed school of thought.

WHAT A PITY

I know Camber Sands was in the back of beyond, but many members did find their way there from all over the country, including our friends from the Scottish Association. So, where were all the rest of you? (Our worthy Editor will now gird his loins to receive all the letters of complaint from members who actually live in the back of beyond).

TA!

Many thanks to the Committee for nominating me as Vice-President and to the membership for accepting this. It's a great honour, and I look forward to supporting Sybil Hill and the Executive during the next two years.

CORRESPONDENCE

Not surprisingly, most of the Editor's Correspondence has related to Camber Sands. We start with an unusual but genuine anonymous enquiry:

Dear Mr. Editor

I have attended many of the NAWB (National Association of Wine & Beer-makers) shows, and I never cease to be amazed at the skill of the judges of the Bottle Label classes. However they manage to get their winners from such a large entry, I'll never know!

Through the pages of your journal, could I ask for more information about GOO (Guild of Oenocartophilists), and whether an entrance examination is imminent.

Since the introduction of the class, I have also become intrigued by the activities of SODBOJ (Society of Dressed Bottle Judges).

Perhaps I should have asked the convenor if I could steward to me or the other next year

Yours Oenologically

Name & Address supplied)

Well, dear Oenocartophilist-in-Obscurity, the great problem is that our Senior Label Judge has had to rent a room in a 'safe' house, after mis-translating a Macedonian label, an understandable error as he simply confused οyx:εp(λ with

σζικερα; in other words the wine was said to contain vulture's dung, not eagle's blood as it should be. No doubt he and other members of these learned Societies will respond in time for a reply to be published in the September issue of *News & Views*.

I did make a recording of an interview with the Founder and SENior Label Judge at Camber Sands, but the tape was destroyed by the singing of the cabaret 'star' that evening. Editor

Celia Scottow has this to say:

Dear Sir,

Camber Sands for the National - definitely a Thumbs Down Job - never again from my point of view - but let me be more specific. Is the National allowing its usually high standards to deteriorate?

Camber Sands is hardly a centre of population or even near a sizeable town. Checkpoint Charlie at the gate prevented 'outsiders' from visiting the show, it was especially noticeable how few of the public were present during 'Judges at the Bar'. Surely an aim of NAWB is to publicize and encourage the hobby of winemaking? As there was no Civic Reception on the Saturday evening, local involvement and publicity were low. I for one missed the Civic Reception, Saturday became just another dance.

Next the Camp facilities - or should I say lack of....

1/ The chalets were cramped, providing the bare minimum of facilities

2/ Camber Sands was sold to us as a Holiday Camp, and because of this we were expecting that there would be plenty to occupy our children while we were involved with judging/stewarding, wine tasting etc. Our children were very



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
WINE AND BEERMENERS

MEMBERSHIP

A PARTY WORTH

NO

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disappointed and had 'done' all there was to do in two hours - that was swimming, pool, darts, and arcade games (my son had to complain about some of the arcade games which were not paying out correctly). The arcade was closed Saturday evening. The dance provided very few attractions for youngsters, and I dare not put into words what my family thought of the cabaret act.

3/ There was a distinct lack of choice of eating places in the camp. The take-away was closed. Rye, the only near town - was a drive away for reasonable food, cafés etc. Conference centres based in towns have these facilities within walking distance.

Whilst the accommodation initially seemed fairly inexpensive, the amount paid for food for self-catering, electricity for heat and light, and the cost of travelling into Rye for restaurants soon added up. I for one would prefer to pay more to have the comfort and comparative luxury of a hotel.

I have always enjoyed the National until this year. I felt quality had been sacrificed for cost. Committee - please don't let standards deteriorate or you are going to discourage many members and their families from attending what has been and should be the superlative wine show in the country

Yours sincerely,

Celia M. Scott

Sorry you were disappointed. These points will doubtless be considered by the EC, Celia, and I shall not answer them at length. I would make some brief observations: a/ the Wales and West at Pontin's, Brean Sands is an annual sell-out, b/ you get what you pay for, but all members' pockets aren't equally well-filled, and everyone has to be catered for. d/ You can only invite Civic dignitaries, you can't kidnap them!

And from Peter Webb, Hon. Sec. of the
White Lion Wine & Beer Guild, to say:

Dear Roy,

On behalf of the White Lion WBG members who attended this year's 'National', may I say congratulations and a big vote of thanks to Judith and her Committee for yet another first class weekend.

I know there were people who said it wouldn't work at a holiday camp - I say they were the losers, it did work. Well done!

The facilities on the Friday/Saturday night were as good as NAWB have had anywhere at a 'National' - the accommodation was more than suitable - and people having refurbished chalets were excellent, as good as hotel rooms in any 3 Star hotel.

Well done to Dave Pulley. How he finds time to chat to everybody and still gets all the results out as quick as he does is beyond me - and he always has a smile on his face.

Some of our Guild took advantage of arriving on Thursday evening. We were told there would be no facilities available until Friday morning. Wrong again! Within five minutes of finding our chalet the call went out "Coffee is ready", so quickly sorting ourselves out, we went to find the coffee, there were also sandwiches, glasses and wine, and *hours* later we went to bed. Friday morning, six of us explored Rye. We found a 14th Century inn - a swift 'half' was the call; 1½ hours later we emerged. "A very nice Inn" was the conclusion. Back to Camber and we all sat down to a hot meal and a drink or two. More of 'White Lion' were arriving and popping in to say hello and have a glass of wine. The chalet became quite lively, a Holiday Camp was certainly working for us. As the weekend went on we met old friends from around the country and had many a natter.

Saturday morning: I don't know if we Beer Judges were cramped



for space, or it might have been you, Roy, doing a beer steward's stint next to me and taking my allotted area - anyway, you had a smile on your face all morning! I think this was partly due to the quips and quotes (*I'm not quoting any of them here! Ed.*) from your judge Gerry Sparrow, which you won't find in the Judges' Handbook. Or was it the excellent standard of the beers you were sampling? All the Judges agreed the standard of the beers was second to none this year. Well Done, to all who entered.

Once again, many thanks to NAWB for a wonderful weekend! Roll on 1992

Peter Webb,

Hon Sec. W L W B G

Was that about the same week-end? Thanks for the encouragement, White Lion! And crocodiles have a smile like Dave's when they are hungry!

Bill Harvey of Wimborne, who is one of our most senior Judges and long-standing members, kindly wrote as follows:

Dear Roy,

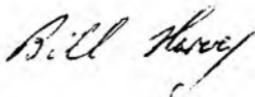
Having recovered from the 'National' and got my second wind, I thought I had better respond to the Chairman's plea for copy for 'News & Views'.

First the good news. I would like to thank the Committee and all helpers for the Camber Sands National. I thought that all the facilities were excellent, and the accommodation and meals provided were exceptional value. It was a great pity that so many people stayed away because of an apparent pre-judged aversion to Holiday Camps. All I can say is that I have, at previous Nationals, paid far more for some very inferior hotel rooms. Never mind, theirs was the loss, and God willing, I shall in 1992 once again head North to Blackpool.

Now for the bad news. A "moan". At the AGM reference was rightly made regarding maintaining the national standards. But what about the award cards? I have received better at minor horticultural shows. Surely a winner, any winner, deserves something better than a computerised print-out stuck on a flimsy coloured card. If economy is the reason. I don't believe penny-pinching in this area is the right action. I have already heard comments re not entering, if this is all one receives. I know the cost of trophy replicas, i.e. the goblets have increased in price, to a prohibitive level in my opinion, and when present stocks are exhausted should be replaced with a memento at a more realistic price, and not expect us also-rans to be grateful for a shoddy award card. In short, make the card of National standard as previously, and make it worthy of recognition at National level.

Thank you once again for Camber Sands, and for giving me an opportunity to have a moan, but as I don't win many national cards I want it to be one to display and be proud of.

Yours sincerely,



First and foremost, Bill, you don't need to be "given an opportunity" to write to News & Views; we are delighted if you do; thank you for this letter, and do please write again. You must have a fund of anecdotes stored away in your memory after so many years of the National. As for the award cards, for several years the EC has received requests for a change from the 'passport' type cards, which are difficult to display, and which, incidentally, take a monstrous amount of manpower to complete, especially when there are errors on the day and cards have to be completely rewritten. Printed slips from the computer don't look as pretty as hand-lettered entries, but

take a fiftieth of the time and are easily corrected if needs be. The new cards were an experiment, and unfortunately the chosen printer cheerfully ignored our correspondence and 'phone calls, and a late substitute had to be found. This explains the poor quality card. As you say, "Roll on 1992".

Jan Mitchell, who comes from the DEEP South (Havant Island) enjoyed her visit to Camber, as the following displays:

JAN'S JAUNT (with apologies to Dulcie Domum of The Grauniad)

Friday. Off to Camber Sands for The National! Rush out of school neck-to-neck with the children: tangle with about 100 parents' cars. Load up car, forgetting bucket, spare corks (for c.....l bottles) and spouses' ties. Oh well, he'll just have to be Medallion Man at the dances, but without the medallion. Remembered corkscrew, though.

Fight the Friday evening traffic all the way from Havling island to East Sussex. Well, at least it's not as bad as trying to get to Llandudno (Then we seemed to be 10 miles from Betws-y-Coed for hours.)

Get past the Stasi at the gate and check in. Almost lose the fight with the duvet, trying to haul it out of the car (don't like the blankets at Brean Sands!) Have enthusiastic audience from New Forest. Discover decent duvets in chalet!

Saturday Judging: must have decent breakfast for solid foundation. Oh dear - half the cooker doesn't work. Discover that two forks can support one floppy slice of bread over cooker ring and produce warm singed toast. No time now for bacon etc.

Farewell to spouse: off to do battle. He can explore
...the sand dunes! I must find time for a walk. What a relief - white wine: no black teeth today! All went well; took a long time though. Spouse well into sport on chalet TV. Just time

for a quick bite and then back to the bench. Phew - no awkward customers, thank goodness. (Not that many, either)

Rush to Judith's Wine Tasting (Quaffing!) Stagger back to friends' chalet for tea and their Wedding Anniversary cake. Great fun - a lesson on how to make tea for six in an aluminium saucepan. Windows interestingly festooned with toilet paper and bits of elastoplast, bearing Happy Anniversary greetings. Walk over those sand dunes now? No, MUST have a rest.

Midnight: take shattered eardrums and tired feet back to chalet and discover Maintenance Man has been in and we have heat and a working cooker. Faith restored.

Sunday: no time to swim - must struggle with king-sized duvet back to the car. Walk over the dunes? No, it's off to the AGM. All good fun; liked the bit about the medical flats. Could give rise to remarks about the health of the horse?

Escape through Checkout Charlie. Explore delightful Rye. Quaff welcome half a pint in the Mermaid. Spouse remarks "Shall we drive back with the chalet key, or shall I post it?"

Well, we could always do that walk over the sand dunes....

Jan

And if you enjoyed that, you've more of Jan's welcome humour in our September issue, and an odd tale told by Dr. Bernard Lamb. To finish this June issue's contributions, here's one by Valerie Harris, another Judge. She had a very enjoyable weekend at the National, and after judging the After Dinner (Dessert) Red Wines, she was moved to write this piece, all about a person so very different from herself, and an event so very different from Camber. Miaow!:

I received an invitation to a weekend away. It was quite a

long journey from the frozen North, but it was a special occasion not to be missed, and the company and the conversation was always of the highest calibre. The highlight of the weekend was my host's famous party, into which he always put so much thought and careful planning, catering for a wide diversity of tastes.

I must tell you about the other guests I encountered. There was the anorexic, very little body, existing mainly on water, and a vegetarian, chomping into a plateful of boiled cabbage and broccoli stalks. A hearty, robust type, full of his own importance and quite overpowering was on my left, and then the joker with a dry, sparkling wit which didn't appeal to my sense of humour. Next to him, Rose was an unexpected guest; I thought she'd be at another party, but she must have slipped in uninvited. Then a very nice mellow old lady, cosily plump with a mature grace vied for my attention against a smooth elegant girl shyly nudging me. I had surreptitiously removed the large bowl of geraniums which formed the centre-piece of the decorations, as I am allergic to them. Katie of TV fame rudely crumbled one of her cubes into the main course, I tried to avoid her as she can be quite a pain, as I know from experience. On the table had been placed some of that hard rubbery cheese that I can't abide and I was contemplating the pros and cons of sampling a meagre portion, when a small grey mouse slithered across the corner of my eye. Not the sort of thing you'd expect to see in these refined circles. Ugh, I must have a drink of water quickly, I feel quite faint. If I shut my eyes for a moment perhaps it will disappear.

My neighbour was tucking into the crisps and Lady Wry was knocking back the sherry as she thought no-one was watching her. My host, a very thoughtful person, knowing I had a sweet tooth, had provided a veritable array of desserts. The raspberry soufflé, cherry pie, blackcurrant cheesecake and

bramble crumble were positively mouth-watering, but I was torn between the fresh fruit salad and a superb tarte aux fruits.

Such an elegant feast had to be paid for, and I was called upon to give my customary after-dinner speech. I discoursed for an hour on my favourite topic, taking care not to step on too many toes. Well I must dash now and write my 'Thank you' note to my host. I want to make sure I'm invited again next year.

Valerie Harris

COOKERY CORNER

This year's winner of both Classes 60 and 61 was Mrs J R Rawlins, of Fairlight, Hastings, and I give below her scrumptious recipe for the Wine and Food Class for your delectation:

SMOKED TROUT SAVOURY MOULD

1 packet aspic	8 oz skinned and boned smoked trout
¼ pint dry white wine	¼ pint fish stock
1 packet gelatin	¼ pint double cream
1 tablespoon lemon juice	Carrots, peppers, cucumber, tomatoes etc. for decoration and garnishing.

Make up the aspic as directed, pour a little into a pint mould and set. Arrange decoration on set aspic, and cover with the remainder; leave to set. Flake the fish into a bowl, stir in the lemon juice and fish stock, add seasoning as necessary.

Dissolve the gelatin in the wine over a pan of hot water, stir into the fish mixture, then fold in the lightly whipped cream. Pour carefully into the prepared mould and leave to set. When set, turn out onto a serving dish and garnish as desired.

The wine chosen to accompany this dish was a white table wine, made from English-grown grapes.

IN BRIEF! The Wales and West was a great success, as usual, the weather was kind, and everyone had a great weekend. I quote from their April newsletter:

"Some years ago during the hot summer when the redcurrants were abundant, I noticed a blackbird constantly paying attention to them. One day, going out into the garden, I came across an amazing sight - a Blackbird was lying on his back in an empty flower pot, his wings were spread out and his beak was wide open, his expression was one of a person who has drunk deeply of the wine." Who does that remind you of?

The North Western Federation were faced with a dilemma, when Pontins cancelled their October booking and offered an April date instead, giving the Federation Committee barely seven weeks from scratch, to organise, publicise, and produce a Show weekend for over 500 people. And they did it! Great credit is due to the Committee for actually achieving what appeared impossible, and getting more bookings than the previous year! Unfortunately, it appears that the N W Fed. Show will now be in the Spring each year, thus competing with the shows already established at that time.

There's a lot happening in a short time next Spring, so make sure you get the dates listed to save any disappointment

DATES FOR 1992,

The N W Fed.: March 20/22, at Pontin's, Ainsdale,

The NATIONAL: April 10/12 at the Norbreck, Blackpool

The Wales & West: May 1/4 at Pontin's, Brean Sands

HBWTA Trade Show: May 9, the Adelphi, Liverpool (provisional)

Two more dates for 1991: The Wine Fair & Festival is being held at Bristol 10th to 14th July AND at Edinburgh 28th August to 1st September. Details from Bristol Exhibition Centre or Purnell PR, 2 Canons Rd, City Centre, Bristol BS1 5UH.

BREWING CORNER

Well, with about 2364 beermakers in the Association I thought I would like to print a beer recipe, just for a change. Disinterring myself from the mound of recipes that you all nearly sent to me, I chose as a substitute a recipe borrowed from the newsletter of the Amateur Brewers Association - Victoria, Australia, with thanks to Colin Penrose, their Editor, and Barry Hastings, President and the brewer:

BARRY'S BICENTENNIAL BEST BITTER

First prize winner April '90. This is my 3 year old recipe for traditional English Pub Bitter, for 22.5 litres.

Yeast: ex-bottle Cooper's Sparkling Ale, made up as a starter 3-4 days before brewing.

Mash: Strike 78° C, mash 69° C 1 hour 10 mins.

Mashing Salts: 1 teaspoon Calcium sulphate, ½ tsp Magnesium sulphate, ½ tsp Calcium carbonate

Grist: 3.3 Kg Pale malted barley, 750 gm "80" Crystal malt

Liquor: 10 litres of mashing liquor mixed with grist

Sparge: to collect 16-18 litres

Kettle: 1.5 hours rolling boil. 20 gm Green Bullet pellets from start of boil (New Zealand high alpha acid hops, equivalent 30 gm Pride of Ringwood).

Filter: after boiling filter onto 4 litres of ice to drop temperature to 27° C quickly (you may need more ice). Pitch working starter immediately temperature is right.

Fermentation: Skim and aerate for 2 days in primary, transfer to secondary with gelatine finings and add 15 gm Hallertau Aroma hop pellets to the brew. Bottling: when correct gravity is attained, skim off hop residue and discard, bottle and leave a couple of weeks before trying. **CHEERS!**