

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEER MAKERS  
(Amateur)

NEWS AND VIEWS

March 1991



**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

N A W B (A)

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

NEWS &amp; VIEWS

MARCH 1991

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EDITORIAL

As any beer or wine Judge can tell you, telling the whole truth is frequently impossible. I did once bravely tell a competitor at a Show that her wines were dreadful, completely undrinkable, and I couldn't understand why she had entered them. Not in the least abashed or offended, she smiled sweetly at me and said 'Oh, I quite agree, I just wanted to know what you thought of them!' I was very lucky.

Another example of the awful truth: my wife Irene was showing the children at school how to make seed-and-fat cakes for wild birds, and asked the 7-year olds to describe the dripping in both its solid and melted states. One little girl wrote that the liquified fat "smelled like Daddy's breath when he's been to the pub!"

Obviously the world would be a chaotic and turbulent place if adults spoke as openly as that all the time - it's troubled enough as it is even with diplomacy - but that doesn't mean that one cannot voice a viewpoint or make a suggestion or criticism. You may not like putting pen to paper and writing to your Editor, or your Committee Members, but very soon you will have the chance to air your views, publicly at the AGM at Camber Sands, or privately to any of those bodies wandering round wearing badges that bear words like CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE, or any other strange device. We like to listen.

A letter from our Chairman, Judith Irwin:

Dear Friends,

Well, I now know that at least some of you out there have read News & Views, and in particular my letter. We shall be having an election, for places on the Committee, for the first time for quite a few years at Camber Sands A.G.M. I would like to say "Thank you very much!" to those members who are seeking election.

The 33rd National Conference is fast approaching, March 22nd - 24th to be exact, here are a few points for you to remember:

Please visit us at the NAWB stand, if only to say hello. Membership can be paid in advance if required, ties and other products are for sale, and of course the glasses for the tasting on Saturday afternoon. A tasting with a different style than usual. Instead of wine from one country, we are tasting two wines from France, the Jura region, two wines from Australia, and two from Hungary.

The Fancy Dress will be held as usual on the Friday night, and you should notify us at the NAWB table if you are entering, to obtain a number, and to give us the information we require to announce you correctly.

The dances on Friday and Saturday evening will be ticket admission only. These you receive when you apply for your Conference tickets to Mr P Johnson. If you have not already done so, please send off at once, and include a SAE for the reply.

Sunday is the time for you to give your views, good and bad, at the AGM in the morning; the Agenda is included in this issue. Again, tickets are required, to act as a voting paper if required, and these also must be obtained from the NAWB table. Non-members are welcome to attend, but are not entitled to a vote. This is followed by the



**HURRAH ! IT'S FRIDAY**

climax of the Show, the presentation of the Trophies.

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For myself; I am looking forward to meeting once again a lot of friends that I only have a chance to see infrequently, to making new friends, and to just being there. Please come up and speak; if anything is worrying you, I will do my best to sort it out. What nicer way to spend a weekend than in the company of people you are close to, tasting and drinking interesting - and not so interesting - wines, and all within the one complex. No driving! - let yourself go, and enjoy the Conference.

See you all there,

Yours as always from your Chairman,

*Judith*

Judith Irwin

NARBERT AT CAMBER SANDS:

SATURDAY  
BREAKFAST



SATURDAY LUNCH



SATURDAY MIDNIGHT



SUNDAY BREAKFAST

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1991

## AGENDA

- 1/ The Meeting will be opened by the President of the Association, Mr R Butcher.
  - 2/ Apologies for absence.
  - 3/ Minutes of the 1990 Annual General Meeting.
  - 4/ Matters arising from those Minutes.
  - 5/ Chairman's Report 1990/91.
  - 6/ Treasurer's Report 1989/90.
  - 7/ Election of Members to the Executive Committee:  
In accordance with the amended rule 8(d), the following members having served three years will retire:  
Mr P Johnson  
Mr D Pulley  
Mr R Mitchell.  
  
(Mr Mitchell is not standing for re-election).  
There are thus three vacancies to be filled. The following four nominations have been received, duly proposed and seconded:  
  
Mr P Johnson (retiring committee)  
Mr D Pulley (retiring committee)  
Mr R Redfearn  
Mr J Carpenter.
  - 8/ Motions: The following has been received:  
  
"It is moved that Liqueurs shall be shown in 100 ml clear 'medical flat' bottles with white plastic screw caps"  
Proposed by Mr E W Tappenden, Bexley.  
Seconded by Mrs. Jo Wright of Old Bexley Winemakers.
  - 9/ Any Other Business.
  - 10/ Nomination of the President and Vice-President
  - 11/ Presentation of the Executive.
  - 12/ Date and venue of the 34th Annual Conference and Show.
  - 13/ The President will close the Meeting.
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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NAMB(A),****HELD AT SCARBOROUGH AT 10.30AM ON SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 1990**

( Note from Minutes Secretary: See footnote 8 below )

The President, Mr Roy Butcher, formally opened the Meeting, and followed this with a request for a moment's silence for those who could not be with us this year. After a few words he then handed over the conduct of the Meeting to the Chairman, Mrs. Judith Irwin.

The Chairman welcomed the members, and handed over to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Lenn Drysdale, for :

Apologies received. These had been received from Mrs. Burrow, Mr D Pulley, Mr & Mrs. G Coulson, Mr A Eldret, Mr G Cooper & Mrs L Cooper, Mrs F Stagg, Mr & Mrs Lucas, Dr & Mrs J Parrack, [Mr G Cooper, Mr D Cooper].

Minutes of the 1989 AGM. Acceptance proposed by Mr I Morgan (New Forest W.C.), seconded by Mr J Chettle (Nottingham), and accepted by the Meeting as a true record.

Matters arising: Mr K Thomason' suggestion, that a ribbon or rosette be given to each bottle brought forward for finalising but not achieving an award, had been discussed in Committee and approved but was too late to be included in the Schedule

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8 As announced by the Chairman, the proceedings of this AGM were recorded on tape by the Spa sound engineer. However, there may be minor inaccuracies as the equipment was not sensitive enough to pick up clearly the voices of some of those members who did not use the floor microphone. Where there is doubt, the relevant section has been enclosed in square brackets, so [ ]. If you can clarify any of these points, please contact Roy Ekins before the Camber Sands weekend, so the Minutes can be corrected before or at the AGM.

for 1990, but will be acted on at Camber Sands, 1991.

Secondly the Chairman referred to the Ladies' Cup, turned down in 1989, and offered in lieu a Cup to be awarded to a Ladies-only class. Rejected on a show of hands.

**Chairman's Report 1989/90:** Judith Irwin said it was a matter of some concern that the average age of members was so high, and that we were not recruiting very many young people; perhaps they were not making wine because commercial wine was now relatively cheap. But we did need new members, regardless of their age grouping. She was also concerned about the lack of new blood on the Committee, and pointed out the length of time that the members had served already: Lenn 14 years, Doug. 15, Hugh 3, Peter 4, Mike 5, Dave 10, Brian 20, Gerry 9, Roy 5, Roger 3, and herself 9. (Tom is the Guild's representative). She appealed for members to think of whom among themselves or their friends could stand for Committee in 1991; new blood was needed to prevent NAWB becoming stale.

Next year we are going to Pontin's Camber Sands. Judith explained the advantages of this venture into a holiday camp, and the reasons for it: expenses for Conferences were very high in the South, yet in fairness to Southern members, Conference had to go there periodically.

Next the Chairman thanked all the people that had helped, including the General, Wine, and Beer Stewards. In particular, she would like to thank all her own friends, without whose help she could not have transported the beer and all the other luggage needed for the Show, and especially to thank Ivor Morgan, who supported her throughout the year in whatever she did for NAWB.

Finally, a look to the future: wine was cheap now compared to wages, but as someone in the trade she could say that a change was coming. The French franc was hitting hard, the Budget

hadn't helped, the Poll Tax would hit restaurants and pubs, and the cost of alcohol would go up considerably. A new decade had started, so could the members aim to get just one more person each into the hobby. Just one person, or one couple, to the local wine society meeting, and try and get them interested in the hobby. Let us try and help start the growth of the hobby again.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr Hayter presented the Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year to 30 June 1989, and the Balance Sheet at that date. He ran through the items in turn:

On the Income side the increased figure for subscriptions had arisen through the raised subs. to compensate in part for the cancellation of the Prize Draw. Patrons appeared again, as they did not all fall for renewal at the same time. Exhibitor's fees had grown, due to the increase to part cover the trial period of giving Judges their expenses, up to a pre-arranged ceiling. Advertising in News & Views and the Schedule had been increased.

Committee expenses were higher than previously, as the year had included four EC meetings, not three as in the year before; three meetings is now the norm. Most of the increase in expenses arose from normal inflationary factors, but one major item had been the purchase of a second computer. One is used for membership records, the other for show entries etc. Additional expense had also been incurred by the printing of the new Constitution and Rules.

On the Balance Sheet the total net assets of the Association were £7322, including a debtor, annual subs. paid in advance, and Life membership fees spread over ten years. The net surplus for the year was £581.86.

Although it was not required as part of the auditable accounts, Mike had supplied a fourth sheet giving a more



detailed breakdown of income and expenses.

Subscriptions were being left at the same level for 1990/91.

Mr N Chiverton proposed acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Mr D Reid. Carried.

The Chairman then added that the payment of expenses to judges had proved very costly, and it was expected that in the following year Judges would instead be offered a Conference ticket. She also thanked Mike for the clarity of the accounts, where the members could easily see where their money was going.

**Motions:** the following Motion had 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 by Mr B Pearce, seconded by Mr B Edwards. Mr Pearce explained that the feeling was that if the Federation name was put on the entry form at the same time as the other details, a Federation with the most members' points would receive a trophy and the Central Counties Federation would doubtless donate a Trophy if the motion was passed. Mr Edwards said that the motive was to encourage Federations to take an active part and encourage their members to enter the show, to prevent the shrinking of Clubs and Federations. It would also give smaller Federations a fighting chance to win a trophy.

[ Mr Beabey: Some clubs are members of two Federations. Mr Marsdon: spoke in favour, this was a way of bringing the Federations to the notice of wine and beer makers, and be useful publicity; it would also help NAWB and the Federations to come closer together. Mr Harvey thought that this was a duplication of the existing trophy given to the entrant with most points.] [Points were also made by Mrs B Mallinson, and

Mr K Simpson, Mr E Tappenden, and Mr D Reid.1. Mr R Butcher explained that this would entail a great deal more keying by the Entries Secretary; he already keyed over 100,000 characters into the computer for each Show.

The Motion was defeated by a large majority, on a show of hands.

Election of members to the E C. All three retiring members, Mrs Irwin, Mr Drysdale, and Mr M Hayter, were returned unopposed.

**Any Other Business:** Chairman announced that the car mileage rate paid to EC members had been increased from 14p to 15p per mile.

Mr D Turner asked if the **starting time of the Meeting** could be returned to 10.00 am as it was before. Mrs Irwin explained that the Mayor had not been invited to distribute the trophies this year, and it was expected that despite the later start the presentation would finish earlier than previously. This change also gave the Committee a little more time to withdraw the trophies from security, to display ready for presentation. Mr E Tappenden asked, in view of the high cost of added alcohol, if the **liqueur class could be displayed in 100 ml medicine bottles**. This seemed to meet with general approval, and the Chairman said it would be considered by the EC. In answer to a request by Mr P Awbery, the Hon. Sec. said that at Feb 11th there had been 6 Patrons, 13 Federations, 38 Circles, 450 Double memberships, 131 Singles, 16 Life, and 16 Honorary Members, making a total of 673. The Membership Sec. Mr G Sparrow said the total was now half a dozen below last year, and was 772.

Mr J Gorton said [he enjoyed reading News & Views, but was sometimes concerned about the quality of the production, and would like to know when the new Desk-Top Publishing program

bought by NAWB would be brought into use.] Roy Ekins said that as with any other new program, time was needed to become familiar with it. He had a great deal of other commitments at present, but the new program would be implemented as soon as time permitted. He added that he had so far used only Locoscript on his own computer, ( which the Committee had not bought him, but he only mentioned this because if his computer broke down there would be no N & V. ).

Mr G Lashbrook announced that he had continued with looking at Plymouth as a venue and gave details of the premises that would be available in the future, and the estimated costs. The Chairman thanked George for all his efforts, but pointed out that members would not be willing to pay the high charges while other less expensive venues were still available.

Mr A Procter of Phoenix asked about a missing trophy . He was advised by the Chairman that the holder of the trophy had moved house, and had not come to the AGM. The Committee would take all necessary steps to ensure that the trophy was recovered.

Mr Granger (W Kent) said [ some of the judges were worried about Judges at the Bar. It was largely a wasted period, and he wondered if there were not some other way of passing on information to the exhibitors. Mr E Tappenden suggested that a self-adhesive tear-off Remarks column on the judging sheet might be suitable. Mr S Baker pointed out that a judge's remarks are confidential. Mr T Wilson said he would like to compliment the judges this year on the accuracy of the comments they had made. Mr S Muir said that judges' remarks had to be made with tact and diplomacy. ] The Chairman agreed that this was a topic that would be discussed by the EC, and she hoped she was not out of order in suggesting that the Guild might consider giving guidance to judges on a standardised set of comments. Comments cards for each bottle

had been completed as an experiment one year, and 60% of them had been left on the show bench when the entries were collected. The experiment had ceased then.

The Chairman then went on to say she had several points she would like to make: **General Stewards:** some had not yet collected their wine glasses or their certificates. **Yvonne Davey had lost a 3/4 length camel-coloured coat** at the dance (Sat.) Anyone knowing anything about please advise the Chairman afterwards. There is a TV programme called **Fruity Passions'** starting on BBC2 in May. This is a six-part series, and includes Phil Hardy in 4 parts, and Gerry Fowles in 2 parts, and it is on winemaking. [ Stan ] said that Channel 4 TV was currently running a series called **'Beer Hunter'**, by **Michael Jackson**.

We were invited to return to **Scarborough**, and had **provisionally booked for 1994**. She looked forward to the return visit, and thanked the Yorkshire Federation for all the help they had given.

**Nomination of the President of the Association, and of the Vice President for the year 1990/91:** It was with great pleasure that we nominated **Roy Butcher** to be our President for his second year. It was with equal pleasure that we nominated **Sybil Hill** as Vice-President.

**Presentation of the Executive:** Mrs Irwin introduced each member of the EC , explaining each person's duties, skills and strengths, and the problems they faced, thanking each one (and their wives for their help) in turn.

**The President** then remarked that the Annual Conference and Show was now drawing to a close, except for the presentation, and it had been a very pleasant weekend. Before the AGM ended officially, Mr I Morgan asked to say a few words to Conference. He said we all knew what a very important person

the Chairman was, and he would like to say on behalf of all present 'Thank you so much' to Judith and her team, for giving us such a lovely weekend. (Applause).

While all the delegates were still present, the Chairman of the National Guild of Wine & Beer Judges, Mr D Hodgkinson, presented a Certificate to a new Wine Judge, Mr Peter Ramsden and congratulated him on his success.

The President then declared the Meeting closed.

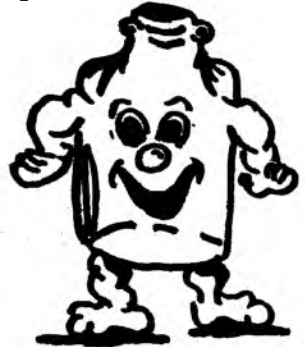
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**NEWS AND VIEWS - DECEMBER 1990**

Due to a hiccough in the system - someone dropped a sparrow in the works - several paid-up members were not sent the last issue of News & Views, or the Show Schedule and various other show-related enclosures.

As far as is known, every member should by now have received all the papers they ought to have done in December. However, if by some dreadful oversight you are still without the Schedule, entry forms, News & Views, or any other document, PLEASE telephone Roy Ekins at once. His (my) telephone number is 07048 75898, and if no-one is at home, you can leave your name and address and a message on my answering machine, which doesn't bite! Your call will be dealt

with as quickly as possible. I have some spare copies for any members who had not paid the subscription by mid-November. Just send a SAE with 32p prepaid postage for your bumper bundle of the above-mentioned literary wonders.



**I NEARLY SAID AT  
THE AGM.....**

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Perhaps this is a suitable occasion to remind members of the subscription etc. timetable. Subscriptions are due for the year commencing July 1st, and ending the following 30th June. They can be paid in advance, at the NAWB table at Conference, and this will craftily save you any subs. increase the Treasurer might think it necessary to announce at the AGM. Subscriptions can also be paid by post, direct to the Treasurer; a joining/renewal form is in every News & Views.

Even more crafty are those who pay ten times the current rate of subscription, to become a paid-up Life Member; they can laugh at inflation for evermore, they have paid up for good.

If you do not pay your subs. you cannot attend Conference as a Member, so your ticket will cost at least £10 more! And you can't enter the cheap Members' Classes, only the more expensive Open Classes. Being a paid-up Member is cheaper, and you get four issues of News & Views as well.

Subscriptions are due from July 1st, though many members pay in advance. You will get a reminder in the June News & Views. Three months grace follows, to let you pay up, and if you still overlook it, you will be reminded once more in the September News & Views. That will be your last issue, until you renew your membership - no Christmas issue, no Schedule, no contact, no nuffink! It sounds hard, but it would be unfair on the paid-up members to spend funds on postage and printing, for members who may or may not decide to return to the fold.

Our Membership Secretary, Gerry Sparrow, tells me that all 1990/91 subscription receipts bear a membership number starting with 0. And that initial number changes each year, so it is easy to check whether you have renewed your subscription for the year, especially if you keep the receipt with your Constitution and Rules booklet in its plastic cover..

**WHAT'S ON...**

In the December issue I mentioned the next **North Western Federation Show weekend**, which will be held at **Pontin's Holiday Village, Ainsdale, Southport, on October 18/20 1991.**

I have since heard that unfortunately there has been a clash of bookings: the **Midland Region Show** is to be held on **Saturday October 19th** at **Kidderminster Town Hall.** Winemakers and brewers outside the **Midland Region' Liaison Officer** will be able to obtain Schedules etc. from the **Midland PRO, John Carpenter,** who lives at **110 Heathfield Rd. Webb Heath, Redditch B97 5RD** (tel. **0527 401 377**). Schedules should be available from **May 1991.**

And to remind you-

**3-6/5/91 Wales & West of England Regional Fedn.** 27th annual Show at **Pontin's Brean Sands.** The Booking and Schedule Officer is **Mr. P Best, 49 Wellcross Rd, Robinswood Hill, Gloucester GL4 9RA**

**11/5/91: Home Brewing & Winemaking Trade Association Show,** (kit wines & beers only) **Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.** Entry forms in **HomeBrew Today,** or homebrew shops, or from the Secretary, **Mr D R Ham, 21 Cole Park Rd. Twickenham, Middx. TW1 1HP.**

**6-7/7/91 Lakeland Rose Show** at **Cark Showfield, Flookburgh, Cumbria.** Schedules from **Mr J Houghton, 70 Portland Crescent, Hawcoat, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 4ET.** NB - There are some caravan pitches available for the weekend; in 1990 the fee was £10 per unit.

**22-24/8/91 Southport Flower Show,** to be held as usual on the Show Ground, **Victoria Park, opposite the Pleasure Beach.** The wine and beer section is organised by **Southport Wine Society,** with **National and Federation judges,** but the Schedules (from **Easter onwards**) are obtained by post from **Southport Flower Show, 44 Houghton St. Southport, Merseyside PR9 0PQ.**

11-13/10/91 South Western Counties Wine & Beermakers Federation will be holding its umpteenth annual weekend Festival at Twitchen Park Holiday Centre. The cost per adult is £28. Booking forms and Schedules can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. Mr A G Wakeford, 166 Exeter Rd. Exmouth, Devon EX8 3DZ (tel. 0395 271642).

Andy Wakeford has also sent me a list of the Circles in the SW Counties Fedn, and details of where and when their meetings are held. If anyone is going that way, perhaps for a holiday, I can give them details of whom to contact to ensure they receive a typical SWC welcome.

19 /10/91 Midland Region Show, Kidderminster Town Hall.

18-20/10/91 North Western Federation Show, Pontin's Holiday Village, Ainsdale, Southport.

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**IF YOU FEEL LIKE QUAFFING WINES...**

instead of entering them in competitions, the WINE FAIR & FESTIVAL is being held again at BRISTOL, on July 10-14, 1991.

Further information will be published in the next issue of News & Views.

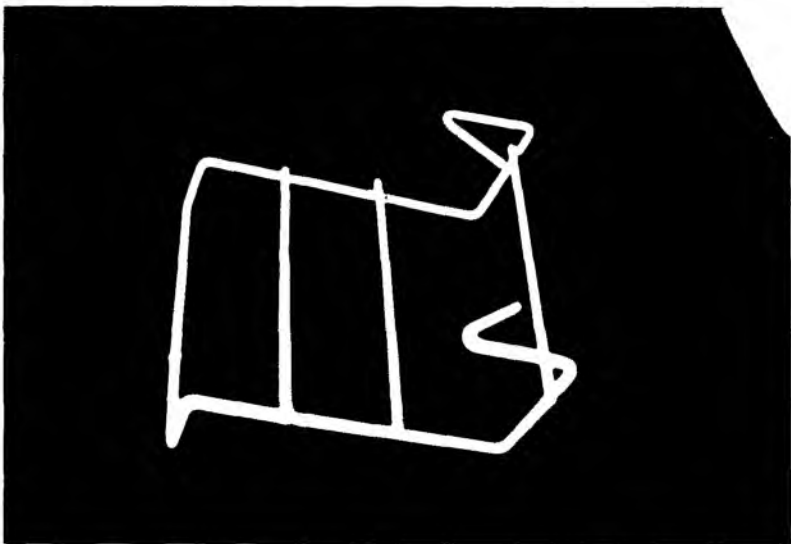
A good day out, though in 1990 they spoiled it for many potential customers by restricting the Sunday access hours so it was not worth travelling hundrds of miles for a short visit.

Perhaps the visiting times for 1991 will be better arranged, to encourage the long-distancetravelling enthusiasts.



**IT'S SUNDAY  
LUNCH - GOODBYEE**





**WHAT IS IT? A WINE-RACK FOR THE BATH? A BENCH-HOOK FOR BOTTLE-LABELLING? A BUDGERIGAR'S LADDER? NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING!**

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**NEWS FROM THE COMMERCIAL WORLD**

Especially for any wine and beer makers in the North who have difficulties in getting to a homebrew shop, another new mail-order service is being offered. **Village Home Brew**, of 24 Corstorphine High St, Edinburgh EH12 7ST, has been in business since 1978 selling to local hobbyists, and now has a catalogue for those who request it. Most of the major suppliers are represented in the wide range of goods offered. Telephone 031 334 1821.

**Weltonhurst Ltd** say that in future their **King Kegs** will only carry a twelvemonth guarantee, though this will be extended to apply to all Weltonhurst home-brew products.

The Company will of course honour all previously issued 5 year guarantee cards.

**ENGLISH VINEYARDS** are always a source of interest and inspiration, particularly to those winemakers who are not content to restrict their winemaking to kits and other fruits than grapes. It must be very satisfying to grow grapes and wine prizes with the wine you have made from them yourself. Maisie Power, (who describes herself as "the 'Chair' of Plymouth W C, but not the sort to be sat upon") has written and told me about the success of a S W Counties Judge, Betty Sampson and her husband Reg, who make and market **Loddiswell Vineyard** wines, with their son Andrew, who manages the vineyard.

The Loddiswell Reichensteiner 1989 was on of the top three Medium Dry wines selected by 'Which' Wine Monthly. This is an excellent result, as some 400 English vineyards were invited to compete.

Loddiswell produced 22,000 bottles in 1990, and it is expected that about half this wine will be bought by visitors to this South Devonshire vineyard.

Another vinous place to visit is the **Carr Taylor Vineyards, Westfield, Hastings**, which for motorists is within easy reach of Camber Sands (tel. 0424 752501). Situated between the A21 and A28, the 37 acres have produced the first commercial 'methode champenoise' wines in England. From Rye take the B2089 (signposted Broad Oak), turn left

onto the A28 to Westfield, then turn right at New Inn Pub and follow towards Sedlescombe for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile. The vineyard will be open for visiting only on the Friday of the NAWB weekend, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Details will be posted on the NAWB Stand.



OF COURSE YOU KNEW ALL THE TIME.....

THE MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER OF THIS PARTICULAR DEMIJOHN TILT IS NOT KNOWN, BUT YOUNG'S HOME BREW LTD OF BRADLEY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS, ONE OF OUR PATRONS, SUPPLY A VERY SIMILAR GADGET.

IT HOLDS THE DEMIJOHN NEATLY FOR RACKING THE WINE, SO THAT IT DOESN'T ROLL OR FALL OFF WHATEVER YOU HAVE IT PROPPED UP ON. VERY HANDY! FOR MORE CLEAR WINE PER GALLON.



The third vineyard featured in this issue is **MOORLYNCH VINEYARD AND SPRING FARM**, near Bridgewater, Somerset. Moorlynch Vineyard produces a range of white wines from the warm south-facing slopes of the Polden Hills, near Glastonbury. The principal varieties of grape grown are *Muller Thurgau*, *Seyval Blanc*, *Madeleine Angevine*, and *Huxelrebe*. A few hundred cases of single-variety wine are made from time to time, and in 1988 and 1989 a *Faber* was made, a smooth dry wine which requires some bottle-aging to reach full maturity.

With 14 acres under vines, Moorlynch is one of the West Country's largest vineyards. Quality standards are strict. All the wines bear the English Vineyards Association's seal of quality. They have been chosen for three Royal occasions, have won numerous awards up to national level, and for three years

in succession they have been highly commended in the London International Wine awards.

Estate bottled, Moorlynch Wines range from £4.20 to £5.20, comparing well with their New World equivalents. Case discounts are available. The wines have great appeal to visitors to the county. See the Moorlynch advertisement below for details of tastings and tours etc.

This looks like a good day out, especially if you are going to the Wales and West weekend, Take the children with you, as the farm has a breeding flock of ewes, a small herd of Devon 'Ruby Red' cattle, rare black Berkshire sows, and some unusual breeds of chickens run free-range. The shop sells all sorts of local produce, and a wine-bar provides light lunches and coffee as well.

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## MOORLYNCH VINEYARD — SOMERSET —

Award winning 15 acre vineyard  
producing four white wines and a red wine, apple wines and cider.

ENTRY FREE!

*Wine tastings & tours arranged for visiting groups all year round. ●*

Our bistro and wine-bar are open for lunches, wines and Somerset cider

— From: 10 a.m. To: 6 p.m. —

The bistro, vineyard and farm are open **April 1st to October 31st.**

**SHOP OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND!**

\* For Bookings and Further Information \*

CONTACT:

Mr. S. Berry,  
Bistro and Wine-Bar Manager,  
Moorlynch Vineyard,  
Moorlynch, Bridgewater,  
Somerset. TA7 9EU.

**TEL: 0458 210792.**

**FAX: 0458 210247.**



**HOME-BREW KITS TO BE MARKED WITH "BEST BEFORE" DATES.**

Due to changes in the E E C Regulations on food labelling, Beer and Wine kits will eventually have to be marked with a 'Best before..' month and year.

Because such kits have hitherto been exempt from these rules, the marking does not become a legal requirement until 20th June 1992. After this date it will be illegal to display stocks that are not date-marked.

However, the Home Brew and Winemaking Manufacturers Association is working to a programme to help ensure that all retailers' stocks are in legal form by the operative date. We may therefore see date-marked stocks in our homebrew shops as early as the Spring of 1991.

I am sure all homebrew addicts will welcome the introduction of this legislation. It may cause some difficulty to retailers who do not make sure that stocks are turned over quickly and efficiently, but it will make certain that the kits we buy are fresh, and not deteriorating through being on the shelf for an undue length of time.

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and from **Roy Alliver:**

A beer judge, while working at Camber,

Of a sudden burst into a samba.

When Tom McA queried why,

He gave a great cry

And said "There's insects preserved in this Amber!"

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**NEWSLETTERS**

I am delighted to report that Federation and Association newsletters continue to roll in.

**Roy Helps** has sent a copy of the bi-monthly 'Grapevine' that he produces for **SAST**, (the **Surrey & South Thames Wine & Beer-making Federation**). From this we learn that SAST ran a weekend at Bracklesham Bay for over three hundred winemakers. A very full programme included a seminar on the subject of Chardonnay wines "very ably presented by Beryl Dickerson (with the assistance of the Dynamic Digit)". The mind boggles.....

Roy also mentions that **Eric Clarke**, **Chief Examiner for the NGWBJ**, is running a Beer Judges course for the Mid Wessex Federation, up to National Guild examination standard. This will start around March, at about £10 per head. So all you potential beer judges, contact Eric now at Rose Cottage, 75 College Ride, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5EW.

**Haydn Herbert**, **Editor of the Wales & West Federation's** newsletter, sent a long and interesting copy of the Jan 1991 issue. The W & W has also had a weekend away, at Bournemouth, organised by their President, **Ken Shaw**. This sounds to have been an entertaining weekend, including a 64-bottle knock-out competition (won by **Bill Whitchurch**, the organiser!), and a "smellies" competition. This sounds alarming, but was actually matching pairs of wines with identical bouquets. The arrangements are already well under way for the 1991 Bournemouth weekend next December. The letter gives a lot of news about member Circles, and closes with some terrible jokes by **John Stephen-Jones** which are reminiscent of our **Hugh Garth Thomas**. Is it something in the Welsh blood?

Example:

Customer: Do you serve crabs here?

Waiter: Sit down, we serve anyone.

Barry Pearce has forwarded both 'Mail Shot', the newsletter he edits as PRO for the Central Counties Federation, and 'Grapevine' the newsletter he produces for Scraftoft Village Wine Circle, which is full of interesting snippets about Circle affairs - perhaps 'events' would be a better word! 'Mail Shot' was sent out to the member Circles with the Federation's AGM Minutes, and a copy of the C C F Guild of Judges list. I was also pleased to see that Barry has given Camber Sands a good plug in each of the newsletters, and I hope that he is rewarded by an enthusiastic turnout by his members.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

My indefatigable correspondent, Stan Baker, has sent me two articles/letters for 'News & Views', but unfortunately space decrees that to keep a balance of solemnity and light-heartedness - never easy in the AGM issue - I cannot print them. Especially as one runs to twelve pages! Still, I am very grateful, Stan, for the trouble you take, particularly in view of the eye complaints and vision problems you have been undergoing. Get well soon!

Stan's last letter does include an apology to Audrey Evans, whose name he omitted when discussing past winners among the fair sex at the National. He also feels that Peter Iveson was right in saying that many people are short of time for winemaking, and suggests that Circle officers might encourage attendances by putting on more commercial beer and wine tastings to widen their members' experience.

Talking of judging, Stan makes an unusual point. "In some ways, National Judges have a harder task than Masters of Wine, of whom there are about 150 worldwide. When M W's suspect a wine they merely say "O. O. C." (out of condition). They, unlike

National Judges, do not have to diagnose the defect or suggest a remedy." *Possibly true, Stan, but they do start by knowing what the wine is made of, probably where and who it comes from, and what is in it. From what I have experienced of the trade training, up to Diploma, which is one step down from M W, their judgements can be much more profound when they need to be. True, they are dealing with professional winemakers, who should ensure that the basics are right, and M W's do not (often) meet the commoner faults found in home wines made from a miscellaneous variety of ingredients and methods.*

*Stan continues: "Judith Irwin NAWB Chairman, is the wine-buying Director of Cathedral Wines Ltd, her own company. Buying and selling any product is not an easy business, so I wish her every success in her new venture."*

#### **BOOK REVIEW: "FIFTY YEARS OF HOME WINEMAKING"**

Fifty years or so ago, a bright young pharmacist became interested in home winemaking. Since then the hobby has developed from bowls of mashed fruit, left until a mould formed on the surface, to the scientific and technically controlled practice of modern home winemaking.

But that pharmacist developed with the hobby and, now in his seventies, Maurice Chant of Bristol has written a fascinating booklet on winemaking. Arising from a series of talks given over the years, this small booklet contains chapters on acidity, recipe building, extraction, hydrometers, and on making wine from a variety of types of ingredients. There are only 40 printed pages, but they contain a lot of potted good sense and advice. Aimed primarily at inexperienced winemakers, it will be of interest to all.

(£2.50 inc. postage from your local shop, or from M D Chant, 519 Fishponds Rd, Fishponds, Bristol, Avon BS16 3AJ).