

NEWS & VIEWS

February
2001

The Journal of the National Association of Wine and Beer makers (Amateur)

Hello again, I would like to start by saying thank you to those members and federations who have written in or phoned to say how much you like your "News and Views". It has been a bit hectic producing two issues in four weeks but I think I am just about on schedule.

The most important event, of course at this time is the National Show and I have included a panel on this front page to remind you of some important facts. Particularly that the closing date for entries is February 28th which should be about the date you are reading this. So if you haven't got your entries in yet **Do It Now**. I'm sure Jo will allow a day or so over. On page 11 there is a letter from Mr D Bezzina of Malta who intends to enter his wine at Scarborough, so for those of you in the UK who think Scarborough is too far to take your wine or beer, I would like to know what your excuse is now. Also a stark message from Audrey about membership, Audrey tells me that the position has improved since 1st February but even so I make no apology for putting Audrey's message on the front page. You can all help by recruiting a new (or even a lapsed) member and you might win a £25 prize (see page 11).

Thank you for all contributions, I know I gave you a very short period in which to contribute to this issue so well done everybody. We are now back onto a normal schedule, I intend to publish the next issue in June, so can I ask you please to let me have any contributions, news, views etc. by June 14th. I hope it will be a 16 page issue with news and photos from Scarborough, but ultimately the size of News & Views depends to some extent on you.

I look forward to meeting as many you as possible in Scarborough, but if I appear to be a bag of nerves it will be because I am worried about my beer judges exam. Good luck with your entries, I hope the judges think they are as good as you do. If you don't enter you can't win. **Charles Hill**

NAWB Show At Scarborough Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March 2001

Entries & Conference bookings – **Do It Now**
Bottle Reception – 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm Friday
Social Evening with tastings – 8.00 pm Friday
Last cookery exhibits accepted – 8.00 to 8.45 Saturday
Commercial Wine Tasting – 2.15 Saturday
Presentation of Trophies followed by Collection of Exhibits – 3.30 pm Saturday
Civic Dance in The Ballroom (Don't forget your Lounge Suit) - 8.00 pm to 12.00 pm Saturday.
(Major Trophies presented at approx. 9:30 pm)
Roots of Country Winemaking
by Bob Marsdon – 10.00 am Saturday
Annual General Meeting follows (see pages 5 to 8)
(start about 11.00 – 11.30)
See Schedule for full details

Membership 2000

I have been asked to update you regularly in News & Views about NAWB membership which, unfortunately, has fallen quite dramatically over the past decade.

Our membership at 1st February 2001 is only 336. This number is over 100 down on this time last year. I know we have had problems getting the News & Views out, but please don't desert us. We desperately need to keep membership up otherwise the Association will no longer be viable and we will fold. **IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?** In 1994 membership was almost 700 – a drop of 50% in only 7 years. So where is everyone? Why can we not hold on to our members? I know that a lot of our members are elderly and possibly no longer making wine, BUT there are hundreds of people out there making wine and beer. Why can't we get them interested? **If every member recruited just one new (or lapsed) member our figures would double overnight!**

So please make an effort to find just one recruit for our wonderful Association!

Audrey Atwell Membership Secretary.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Hello to all members. I hope you are well into your early 2001 brews of Wine and Beer.

This time of year is not going to give you much in the way of fresh ingredients for your wine, but hopefully you can all raid the freezer for those fruits you stored away when you had more than you could cope with last Summer.

I hope that the recent heavy rains did not flood any of you out. I know that some members suffered with the heavy rain last year and I hope you didn't get a second soaking. The ground around our district is just not holding the new rains so the streams and rivers are filling up very quickly indeed. My vines were not flooded, but the ground is the wettest I've ever seen it. I've delayed pruning mainly so I can complete a load of decorating, but it is still a bit heavy and messy. However, it should be completed in the next couple of weeks and I just hope the crop is OK. My relative inexperience at growing reasonable quantities of grapes meant my first crop last year was not too good, but hopefully this year will be better.

Are there any growers who could share their experiences through these pages?

Now, on to NAWB business. I hope you are well prepared with your entries for The National at Scarborough in March (23rd - 25th), as we are hoping that we will have a really good entry level. In the last newsletter I mentioned one or two highlights of the weekends programme. I don't intend to repeat the detail again here, but, do get out your Schedule to remind yourself of the programme, and particularly to make sure you've put in as many entries as possible as it could be "your year".

The entry deadline is almost here, but if you are a few days over, don't worry as Jo will accommodate some late entries if you get them in quick.

Also, Jo and Audrey have some spare Schedules if you have lost your copy, so get in quick with your entries and conference bookings. The details of Accounts and the A.G.M. agenda are in this copy, so please bring your News & Views with you for reference to the Scarborough Weekend.

The AGM is a time to raise and discuss whatever you want about **your Association**. The committee members do pick up all sorts of things throughout the year, and of course we take note of input to this newsletter, but a lot of the changes we have made in recent years have come from points raised or discussed at the AGM. So I hope you will bring along yours ideas and raise them for discussion. One point that I hope to get your views on, perhaps during Any Other Business, is the question of the definition of Amateur status for entry in The National. This has been raised at committee in the last year by a member Federation and an individual. I have included elsewhere a more detailed description of the discussions, and hope that you will bring your views to the AGM, or, send in a letter to News & Views if you can't attend.

Most of the current Officers on Committee are prepared to continue their efforts, so I don't think we'll be looking for "volunteers" for any major jobs at the AGM. However, if anyone is interested in helping on NAWB Committee then let me know and we could discuss the possibilities. I do know that at the time of writing, we are a bit short of Stewards for Scarborough, so if you are interested then get in touch. Details are in the Schedule. I hope to see many of you at Scarborough, and remember it is all of you that will make it a Great Show. I'm off now to sort out more of my entries. Wishing you continued success in your Wine and Beer making

Alan Eldret

Dave Pulley	President.
Judith Irwin	Vice President.
Alan Eldret Yew Tree Cottage, Lew Bampton, Oxon OX18 2BB Tel. No. 01993 851031 e-mail alan.eldret@hemscott.net	Chairman.
Norman Chiverton Suttons View, Castle Lane, Woolscott, Rugby. CV23 8DE Tel. No. 01788 810344	Vice Chairman.
Charles Shelton 11, Branksome Grove, Hartburn, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS18 5DD Tel No. 01642 656218	Secretary.
Stan Drinkwater 20, Stable Row, Priorslee Village, Telford, Shropshire. TF2 9NW Tel. No. 01952 299501	Treasurer, Trade Liaison, Supplies.
Audrey Atwell 20, Stable Row, Priorslee Village, Telford, Shropshire. TF2 9NW Tel. No. 01952 299501	Membership - Secretary, Recruiting.
Jo Cowley 20 Crossfield, Hutton, Preston. PR4 5EH Tel. No. 01772 611042	Entries & Awards, Conference - Booking.
Steve Bamber 20 Crossfield, Hutton, Preston. PR4 5EH Tel.No. 01772 611042	Trophies Secy, Schedule Secy.
Richard Edge 8, Oakdale Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambs. PE2 8TA Tel. No. 01733 564982	Chief Steward.
Kate Edge 8, Oakdale Avenue, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambs. PE2 8TA Tel. No. 01733 564982	Insurance Secy, Fund raising, Asst. N & V Edit.
Keith Roberts 1, Sunningdale Close, Nailsea, Bristol. BS48 2UJ Tel. No. 01275 858996	Show Manager
Dave Pulley 43, Glanville Road, Bromley, Kent. BR2 9LN Tel. No. 0208 464 7173	Convenor of Judges. NGWBJ Rep.
Charles Hill 70, Towning Close, Deeping St. James Peterborough. PE6 8HR Tel. No. 01778 344009 (mobile 07890 515389)	N & V Editor

Dear Editor

"Take Your Kit Off – or Not?"

Have you noticed a recent trend creeping into some wine-making organisations; whereby certain classes in their show schedules are being endorsed "no kit wines"?

It would seem that certain well-known expensive "kits" are causing concern to country wine makers, especially in competitions. The quality of kits in general, over recent years, has improved considerably from all manufacturers. It might be said, some more than others.

This is apparently bringing some disquiet to some country wine makers who claim they cannot compete successfully against some of these kits. Therefore kits are being banned from the schedule, by the organisers.

My personal feelings are:

- ◆ Why should a kit be banned just because it is a quality juice or concentrate?
- ◆ We rely heavily upon manufacturers for advertising, sponsorship, raffles, tombola, etc. They might look upon the banning of kits as a kick in the teeth and decide they are unable to support us again. Why antagonise our friends?
- ◆ Hedgerow and orchard fruits are becoming more scarce through grubbing up. This could reduce entries in the future and more people will come to rely on kits.

- ◆ Like other wine makers I blend my wines, and include kits. Does the banning of kits mean that my blended wine would not be acceptable in view of this ruling. Would it be marked "Out Of Class" or even bordering on cheating?
- ◆ For those who don't make kit wines, surely the challenge is to make wine as good as the kits, or even better. (Some already do).
- ◆ You will see in the schedule that NAWB do ban concentrates from certain classes, **But** they have created additional classes to accommodate them.
- ◆ There is a danger of setting a precedent, which could then lead to the banning of quality and expensive Beer kits also.

My comments are there to be shot at and I do hope you will respond with some of your views. What do you think?

Should we be "Taking our Kit Off, or Not?"

Stan Drinkwater
Telford.

Editor – You had me a bit worried by the opening line Stan! Plenty of points for discussion – Do you feel aggrieved when your country wine is beaten by a kit? Are blenders who include kits cheating? Would the judges be confident enough to disqualify such a blend? Let me have your views please.

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SHERRY ~ KATE EDGE.

Sherry comes from a small triangle of Andalucia in the south west of Spain between the three Sherry towns of Jerez de la Frontera, Puerto de Santa Maria and Sanlúcar de Barrameda. It is exported to more than 110 countries and can range from a straw coloured light dry wine to a full rich sweet dessert wine. It can only be sold after a minimum of three years in wood and may be considerably older. The dry wines are made predominantly from the Palomino grape and it also provides the backbone for the sweeter wines which are blended with Pedro Ximénez which produces deep dark sweet wines with a strong taste of raisins. The chalky "albariza" soil of the region is said to be important for production of the wine which falls into two main types fino and oloroso, from these all others are derived.

The bone dry, pale gold finos matured in the three towns have their own distinctive characteristics resulting from marginally different micro-climates. The amount of flor that develops naturally on the surface of maturing finos depends on how close they are to the cooling Atlantic breezes. These influences result in slight differences of taste, bouquet and colour. Finos from Puerto tend to be lighter and more fragrant than the finos from Jerez and the Manzanilla from Sanlúcar because it is 5° cooler in Summer and 5° warmer in Winter causing stronger growth of flor during the year. Manzanilla (a type of fino) is unique to the coastal town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda and gets its character from the

maritime climate. Atlantic sea breezes produce conditions in which the flor grows longer and more prolifically than in other parts of the region giving the wine a slightly tangy flavour which is a perfect match for the seafood for which Sanlúcar is famous. Jerez fino is the benchmark. It is pale yellow in colour, crisp, redolent of new bread, apple smell of flor. This is the wine that has made sherry famous around the world. All finos are ideal aperitifs and go particularly well with seafood, fish, cured ham and cheese.

Amontillado is a fino aged in cask for more than six years to gain body and depth of bouquet, they are amber in colour, still dry with a deep fresh nutty bouquet. They are excellent with soups. Palo Cortado develops naturally and tastes somewhere between Amontillado and Oloroso. Like Oloroso it breeds little or no flor, the bouquet is similar to Amontillado though the colour is darker.

Oloroso is Spanish for fragrant, which is a good description of the character of these wines. They age without flor and in their natural state are completely dry growing darker and stronger with age. A dry Oloroso Seco can complement strong cheeses and is delicious with game. They are used for blending. High quality Olorosos are sweetened at an early age, the sugar is gradually consumed and the wines become smooth and acquire a drier finish. These wines are called Oloroso Dulce, a top quality dessert wine which also goes well with cheese and nuts. Amoroso is a smooth sweet Oloroso for after dinner. In Spanish the name means loving.



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)
43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, 25th MARCH 2001 11.30am approx AT SCARBOROUGH

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Opening of meeting – President | 8) Insurance |
| 2) Apologies for Absence | 9) Membership
Recruitment
Proposed increase in membership fees |
| 3) Minutes of 2000 AGM | 10) Any Other Business |
| 4) Matters Arising | 11) Presentation of Committee |
| 5) Chairman's report | 12) President and Vice President
Dave Pulley automatically retires as President
Judith Irwin automatically takes over as President
Proposed by Alan Eldret, seconded by Audrey Atwell and unanimously supported by the Executive Committee that Gerry Sparrow is elected as Vice President |
| 6) Treasurer's report | 13) Date and Venue of next Conference
Weston-super-Mare, 22, 23 and 24 March 2002 |
| 7) Election of Executive
Charles Shelton retires by rotation.
Charles Hill was co-opted onto the committee during the year and retires in accordance with the Association rules.

The above have offered themselves for re-election
Charles Shelton proposed by Alan Eldret, seconded by Audrey Atwell
Charles Hill proposed by Charles Shelton, seconded by Richard Edge | 14) Close of Meeting – President |

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND
BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)**

MINUTES OF 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday, 16 April 2000 at Weston-super-Mare

- 1) The meeting was opened at 11.15am by the President, Mr Dave Pulley who welcomed the members to the 42nd AGM. A minutes silence was held for all of the members who had died in the past year. He then handed the meeting to the Chairman, Mr Alan Eldret. There were 87 members present.
- 2) Apologies for Absence were received from Bill Elkes, June Awbery, Jim and Brenda Holgate, Doug and Marjorie Ives, Don Hawkins, Eric and Margaret Tappenden, Marion Morgan, Audrey Newton, Andrew Bristow, Alan and Shirley Downes, Pauline and Barry Pearce, Mr Anderton, Miss Littlewood, Lillie and Harry Buxton, Denis Reed, Joan Burrows and Mary Garside.
- 3) Minutes of the 1999 AGM were taken as read: proposed by Gerry Sparrow and seconded by Harry Rose.
- 4) Matters arising: none
- 5) Chairman's Report: Alan reported that the new committee members had settled in well and had mastered all of the skills needed. Good things had been inherited but major changes have had to be made. He hoped that new innovations could be brought in for next year. He said that he often asked himself if he was being judged during the week-end event and hoped that the committee had made it a good week-end for the members. Where do we go from here?, 2500 bottles at the show, about the same as 1998, but the number of entrants were down. Scarborough always attracts more entries, there were 2800 last year. We need to be dedicated in our hobby, but it gets more difficult to get home-brew products, Boots are closing the home brew sections and people will not bother seeking out dedicated home brew shops when they are not situated close to the shops. Cheaper commercial wines are easily available from supermarkets. Can we bolster our membership, is the show format right. Trophies have increased from 62 to 65 over the last 5 years and classes have been increased or altered to try and get more exhibitors. We need ideas from our members to be published in N & V for the Scarborough show. The Insurance service offered through NAWB has been improved. The Committee is enthusiastic and the experience of Dave and Judy is always helpful. Alan finally asked if our members would still keep pushing NAWB at club level.
- 6) Treasurer's Report: Stan said that the accounts had been circulated through N & V. He explained how the £372 miscellaneous expenditure was broken down. He also said that the Sponsorship at present does not show any income, but he has devised a 3 year package, which hopefully will bring in extra income. There was a £629 profit from the Scarborough, but it is expected that Weston will run at a loss as it costs more for the complex. Alan (Chairman) said we are always trying to cut costs. Gerry Sparrow asked if we received any commission on the insurance. Kate (Insurance Officer) said that the insurance had been re-jigged, but we did not get commission. The accounts were accepted, proposed by Chris Jones and seconded by Mervyn Bartalis. Alan thanked Stan for his competence and the easily understood presentation of the accounts.
- 7) Election of Executive: Dave Pulley, The President, explained that Alan Eldret, Audrey Atwell and Stan Drinkwater are due to retire by rotation and had all offered themselves for re-election.

Norman Chiverton, previously the Guild of Judges representative and latterly co-opted onto the Executive had also offered himself for re-election. There were no other nominations so these members re-elected en-bloc. Alan said that if there are any volunteers, they could be co-opted. There were no offers at the meeting.

8) Change of Constitution and Rules: Alan read out the proposed changes printed with the agenda and went on to say that some of the proposed changes were to bring the constitution and rules into line. The proposed changes had a full discussion and it was proposed by Harry Rose and seconded by Bob Marsdon that the changes be made. There was one minor amendment "Accountant" should be changed to auditor" (small "a")

9) Insurance: Kate said that 18 Federations had joined the scheme and another was considering joining. Kate said that she was not able to give new insurance rates as fresh negotiations were being carried out with a new insurer. An administration of £5 will be added to the premiums to cover postage, telephone calls etc. Kate also said that the Federations must be members of NAWB otherwise the package would be invalid. Kate said that she hoped to send out the renewals by the 8 May 2000. Rose Wyatt asked what would happen if the claim was in excess of the £2m limit; Kate said that if Federations thought that £2m was insufficient, the cover could be customised and Kate asked for Federations to contact her if £2m was not enough. Further discussions ensued in which it was stated that one County Council insisted on a minimum of £2.5m cover whilst another required £5m cover, but it was not clear whether this for public liability or personal liability. Alan thanked Kate for the difficult task she undertakes and for her presentation.

10) Membership: Audrey read out the membership details and said that numbers were getting less. There are 18 members who renew their membership every other year. Renewal reminders sent out recovered over £300 membership. Receipts will not be sent for cheque payments in future unless the payment is accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope. The recruitment draw took place and this year the winner was Ilford Wine Circle. **Membership Fees** were then discussed at length after Audrey stated that the Weston venue costs around £3000 and thanked everybody for digging deep into their pockets during the week-end and contributing to the many finance raising functions being held. She said that the Weston venue still runs at a loss and asked about increasing the fees from £10 and £15 to £12 and £17. The summarised views were: apply Government cost of living index: increased fees causes membership to go down: have a minimum fee and let members pay more voluntarily: have a once a year lottery: some members objected to any increase: others said there should be an increase: those with standing orders would need to be reminded to alter the fees. Gerry Sparrow asked what affect would this have on Life Membership. Alan said that we have a smaller committee and have tried to cut costs. Audrey said that the proposed increase would bring in approximately £800, the sum needed to keep the Association going and asked whether the members wanted the Association to continue. Kate asked if the members could come up with an idea to raise £800. Gerry Sparrow said that we usually have a better year at Scarborough and suggested we deal with the matter next year. Alan asked for a straight vote either for or against the increase and the majority of the members present voted against the increase.

11) Any other Business: Bob Marsdon drew the attention of the Committee to the wording about the voting arrangement at the AGM whereby the members should produce a current membership receipt. The arrangement would need amending if receipts were not to be issued for cheque payments. Harry Rose asked about the entertainment we provide and has the committee considered younger people. Alan said that we had spent a great deal of time on the entertainment issue and this was the reason why the Saturday night group had been booked as a result of a very strong recommendation from the South West Counties. Eric Clarke asked if the Friday evening could include a bingo session to which there strong roars of disapproval. Alan said that we had tried to make Friday night a social night where members could mingle and talk to each other. We are open to ideas and anybody with views how Friday night could be altered should either send positive ideas to the Committee or send an article for News & Views. Jim White said that whilst he was running the "Whisky" table, a few said that Friday was a glorified club night - the response was that we are a club. Harry Rose asked who arranges the music programme for Friday night - Alan said that it was left to the keyboard player, but he did announce that people could ask the keyboard player for special requests. **Brian Gent said lets be positive** - it was a great week-end and this comment received roars of approval. Alan then thanked everybody who had helped to steward, scribes, run organised events and help generally with the show during the whole week-end.

12) Presentation of Committee: Alan Eldret, Chairman, presented each incumbent and thanked them for jobs well done during the year. There was particular praise for Steve Bamber,

Jo Cowley and Keith Roberts who were all new on the Committee this year and had taken on very responsible jobs. Steve had reproduced the Schedule from scratch and had done an excellent job. Jo had taken on the entries, awards and conference bookings, the computer programme to deal with the entries and awards has been amended to avoid the 1999 problems. Keith had taken on the Show Managers job and had organised it well, everything had gone so smoothly. There is much advanced work to be undertaken, early meetings with the Conference Manager to make sure the arrangements are adequate for the show. Dave Pulley then praised the Chairman, Alan Eldret for his co-ordinating role and for being the organiser and editor of News & Views. Dave Pulley also thanked the wives of the Committee who had helped at the show during the week-end.

13) Date and Venue of next Conference: Scarborough, 23 - 25 March 2001 - note this is 3 weeks before Easter. The message was "Get the members and the entries to the Conference".

14) Dave Pulley closed the meeting at 12.25pm, thanked everybody for turning up and wished them a safe journey home.

Charles Shelton, General Secretary.

Notice for Judges & Stewards

Please note that entry to the Judging Hall on the morning of the show will not be permitted until **after** the Briefing of Stewards and Judges.

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N.A.W.B.
ACCOUNTS
1/7/99 - 30/6/00

1999	Income	2000	2000	Expenditure	1999
£3,200.00	Membership	£2,792.00	£789.06	Committee Expenses	
£1,675.30	Fundraising	£1,106.80	£260.77	Star & Garter (Lunches)	£976.90
£2,151.30	Conference Tickets	£2,120.00	£2,868.90	Conference Exp's.	£3,084.71
£924.05	Entries	£797.35	£864.92	Comm. Conf. Exp's.	£1,230.53
	Conf/Ent Post & Stat	£78.25	£143.82	Fundraising	£356.94
£189.00	Tastings	£292.00			
£211.00	Donations	£95.00	£145.93	Postage/Telephone	£306.48
	Sponsorship	£1,250.00	£145.48	Stationery	£200.53
£37.00	Adverts	£34.00	£3,481.00	Insurance 99/00	£2,827.00
£95.00	Advance Membership	£550.00	£4,214.14	Insurance 00/01	
	Insurance 99/00	£3,219.00	£851.22	News & Views	£1,008.90
£2,565.32	Insurance 00/01	£3,596.74	£494.00	Conf Exp's (2001)	£160.00
	Insurance Admin	£85.00	£41.96	Photocopying	£91.35
£71.62	Bank Interest	£85.55			
£126.00	Sales	£132.94			
	Miscellaneous	£107.50	£229.36	Miscellaneous	£372.51
<u>£11,245.59</u>					<u>£10,615.85</u>
			<u>£14,530.64</u>		
			<u>£1,811.39</u>	Excess Income/Exp.	
		<u>£16,341.93</u>	<u>£16,341.93</u>		

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2000

Accumulated Fund		Assets		
	Balance 1st July 1999	£5,589.56	Bank Current Account	£1,142.04
	Excess Receipts		High Interest Account	£6,258.91
<u>£629.74</u>	over Payments	<u>£1,811.39</u>		
		<u>£7,400.95</u>		<u>£7,400.95</u>

Presented by Hon Treasurer:
Stan Drinkwater

SR Drinkwater

Entries & Vouchers Audited by:
Terry Russell
Bank Manager
H.S.B.C.

T Russell

NB:
2000 Show at Weston paid after
accounts Year End

£3,105.12

38th Middlesex Festival of Winemaking & Brewing.

Saturday 9th June 2001
The Great Barn, Bury Street, Ruislip.

66 classes of wine, beer and liqueurs !
Schedules from Show Secretary -
Colin Hotham
137, Carpenders Avenue,
Watford, Herts. WD1 5BN.
Tel: 0208 386 3310.

Show open to the public - "free of charge!" at 2.30pm.

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Wine and beer tastings
Tombola
Presentation of Awards

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Further information from :-
Middlesex Federation P.R.O.
Bob Marsdon - Tel: 0208 578 8211.

Telford 9th Annual Open Wine Festival

We are staging our 9th annual Festival on Saturday 7th July 2001 and extend a welcome to all.

We have twenty classes of wine and beer, including a 'wine & dine' class (a plate of food with a wine to compliment). There are thirteen magnificent trophies, a cash prize for each 1st, and a £25 cash prize to the winner of 'most points in show'.

Throughout the day there are videos, tastings, tombola, lunches, 'Match the Judges'. The 'Presentation of Trophies' at 3.45 is followed in the evening with a 'Let your hair down' dance with fish 'n chips supper.

Entries are only 25p each and the Evening Social costs just £4.00 (inc. supper)

Schedules from Audrey Atwell,
Tel: 01952 299501.

North Yorkshire & South Durham Federation

Our planning is well advanced for 2001, after having enjoyed a particularly successful Millennium year. We have 12 member circles and hold an annual wine & beer show in May, as well as running an inter-circle knock-out competition.


Last year's show attracted nearly 800 entries in 70 classes and maintained the high standard set over the years. We are grateful to our long-time home-brewing sponsors, Hop & Grape for their continued support. Our 33rd Annual Show is to be held on 11th & 12th May. Schedules from Charles Shelton, either at NAWB at Scarborough or by phoning 01642 656218

South Western Counties Wine & Beermakers Federation

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October
At Twitchen Holiday Parc

Schedules may be obtained from the Festival Organiser along with booking and programme details.

Festival Organiser:
Mr Morris Walmsley
14 Canhaye Close
Plympton
Plymouth
Devon
PL7 1PG



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AMATEUR STATUS

During the last year or so, a member Federation and an individual have raised the above issue with NAWB. The individual is a Club member within the Federation raising the issue.

The individual runs a Home Brew shop, but also makes a limited amount of wine each year to sell as a bottled, finished product to the public. The individual supports local clubs and wishes to enter wines made at home from separate brews, into Club, Federation and National competitions.

The Federation wanted to understand NAWB's interpretation, in the hope that they could then be consistent in their own rules.

The Constitution of NAWB clearly states **The designation of the Association shall be "The National Association of Wine and Beer-makers (Amateur)"**. On committee we have defined that Amateur

status within NAWB applies primarily to the process of making the wine or Beer.

We have defined that individuals who make wine or beer, for resale as part of their business, are classified as professional in relation to our Association. By definition, the individual is a professional maker of wines or beers, who is selling not only the ingredients, but their own labour/expertise in making the finished product. The individual might also be improving their skills beyond the scope of normal amateurs by the practising them professionally.

We believe that there is sufficient differences in Wine and Beer making such that if an individual only makes wine professionally, as defined above, that does not classify them as professional in relation to Beer making and that we would still accept their entries. Conversely, if an individual only made Beer and resold it, and could be classified as professional in line

with the above, then that individual would not be barred from entering our wine classes.

Our Association is clearly defined as Amateur, and that relates to Wine and Beer making. Individuals employed in the wine trade or beer trade as dealers, shops etc., but who do not make wine or beer professionally as defined above, should still be classified as Amateur for the purposes of entering The National. (We do not consider the making of samples to give as tasters, or the trying out of kits to infringe on Amateur status).

Membership of NAWB is not restricted to Amateur status, in fact we encourage all individuals and businesses in the trade to have membership as we hope that this will help our mutual interests in promoting the Hobby of Wine and Beer making.

However, with a number of shops now making kits and selling the resultant wine in order to bolster their often struggling businesses, I think it is important that you, the members, let us know your thoughts. These same shops are often very supportive of local Clubs, and we certainly don't want to lose them as shops or as members of Clubs, Federations and NAWB. However, I think our interpretation is clear, and certainly supported in the main by a number of members I have canvassed.

What do you think? Should we address a change to our rules/constitution? Bring your views for discussion at the AGM.

Alan Eldret - Chairman

Editor - The individual has written to News & Views. I have not printed the letter because it uses fishing as an analogy but the main points made are:

- ◆ *The equipment used is no different to that used by any amateur wine maker.*
- ◆ *The wines for competition are kept separate from those for sale*
- ◆ *The income from sales is small (but needed in times of reduced home brew sales) monthly income is less than can be won in some amateur competitions.*

I think we need the debate that Alan has suggested at the AGM. There will have the biggest (87 at last year's AGM) and most experienced group of wine making opinions possible.



Around the World

the superior quality wine kit
available in both 6 and 30 bottle sizes



Australian SEMILLON
A crisp, citrus fresh, dry white wine.



Argentinian SANGIOVESE
Dry red full of currants and aged oakiness.



South African PINOTAGE
Smoky and fruity soft rich red.



Spanish MUSCATEL
A golden, heavy, honey-sweet white



German MULLER-THURGAU
Light, tangy, fruit flavoured medium dry white.



Australian SHIRAZ
Velvety smooth dry red with plummy fruits and hints of pepper.



Chilean CABERNET SAUVIGNON
Supple textured, fruity dry red.



Californian ZINFANDEL
Slightly fragrant and fruity medium dry blush.



New Zealand CHARDONNAY
Golden dry white with hints of gooseberries.



Around the World
the only difficulty is choice!

A Letter to Audrey from Malta

Dear Madam,

I would like to thank you for sending me N&Vs which I enjoy reading with great interest. Enclosed please find cheque for 2001 subscription.

Further to this I would like to know if it possible to participate in 43rd National Show by sending a couple of bottles of wine to you, or perhaps somebody you might know, who can take care of these for me. Please give me your comments about this, as it is important for me to compare the quality of wine produced in Malta with that of the UK.

In Malta we do have a few shows but unfortunately the standard of these is very poor. It is my wish that in future I will have my own association, which somehow will be connected to NAWB. With this I will be able to organise local shows in a more professional way and perhaps even send me some judges from NAWB over to Malta.

Should anyone from NAWB would like to communicate with me and would like to know more about wine making and wine cultivated in Malta, please do give my address or e-mail which is Bezzbros@fastnet.net.mt

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all members of NAWB a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, with lots of good wine to drink.

Yours sincerely
Mr D Bezzina
Malta



Membership of NAWB

**We are again running a
Recruitment Prize Draw**

You will be entered in the Draw if you:

Recruit a New Member
or
Recruit a Lapsed Member (pre 1999)
or
Recruit a New Circle
or
Recruit a New Federation

The Draw will take place at the AGM in
Scarborough

On Sunday, 25th March 2001

Send completed application forms to
Membership Secretary,
Audrey Atwell, 20 Stable Row, Priorslee
Village, Telford. TF2 9NW
(Before 20th March).

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

In order to save time and cost for your Association, and your own time, we strongly recommend that you use this standing order mandate for your annual membership payments. Please fill in the form below and return it to your Bank or Building Society, and, notify the Membership Secretary that you are paying by this method.

Please fill in the areas as indicated. Don't forget that it's £10 for single membership and £15 for joint membership.

To: The Manager **Bank/Building Society,** **Branch**

Please pay:	Beneficiary's Bank:	Royal Bank of Scotland Plc, Llandudno Branch
	Sort Code:	16-24-14
	Beneficiary's Name:	National Association of Wine and Beer Makers
	Beneficiary's Account Number:	11857449

The sum of: £ **Quote my Membership No.**

Date of payment **and annually thereafter on 1st July**

Please debit my account: **Sort Code** - -

Account Number

Name of Account Holder(s)

SIGNATURE (S) _____ **DATE** _____

Drunken Toads

This is a version of Toad-in-the-Hole, but made with lager, which imparts an unusual flavour and results in a nice, crispy batter.

- 2 ozs plain flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tblsp oil
- 4-6 sausages
- 1 onion
- ¼ pint lager (drink the rest while waiting for your supper!)

Put sausages, onion and oil into two 7" tins and cook for 15 minutes at 180°C or Gas No 4. Sieve flour and salt into bowl then mix in egg and lager. Beat for 5 minutes. Turn oven up to 220°C of Gas No 7. Pour the lager batter over the sausages and cook for further 25-30 minutes.

Enjoy!

Audrey Atwell

Commercial News

Low Gravity Beers

The February and March editions of "What's Brewing", the newspaper of The Campaign For Real Ale carry stories of the possibility of a new band of duty for lower strength beers. Apparently Michael Portillo has said that a Tory government would create such a band. The bad news however is that by lower strength beers he actually means weaker than any that are currently brewed.

Brakspear of Oxfordshire are challenging Gordon Brown to match this in his budget due shortly, and have produced a new low gravity cask ale, called "2.5", at 2.5% ABV.

Brakspear's managing director says a low gravity duty band would create a generation of low cost ales that would bring custom back to community pubs, combat bootlegging, help in the battle against drink-driving, and encourage drinkers to stay within recommended consumption limits.

Aren't we home brewers lucky in that we don't have to worry about duty levels on our beers. I don't think we will be needing a new class at NAWB.

Wine Agers

A winemaker has sent me a copy of an advert for wine agers (cost £45) from a catalogue called "Modern Originals" and asked for comment.

The advert reads " Don't wait ten years until that wine is ready for drinking. Now you can age a wine in 30 minutes with this incredible alcohol ager. Not just wine and champagne but whisky, cognac and liqueurs can be aged and mellowed scientifically by magnetic waves that alter their pH to release their locked in aroma and quality. Of course you can't turn supermarket plonk into a grand cru but you can bring a 1995 wine to the maturity level of one 10 years older, for instance. Laboratory tested and approved by many professional wine experts, it works particularly well with young good quality wines. Works on batteries (not supplied). Try it for 15 days and if you're not completely convinced we'll buy it back from you. Height 9"."

I will not be rushing to spend £45. Has any of you seen or heard of one? Any technically minded readers care to comment?

NAWB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Please note membership fees are due by 1st July each year. A Standing Order Mandate Form is available overleaf.

INDIVIDUAL OR JOINT APPLICANTS

Surname

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms etc.)

Fore names (First person)

Fore names (Second person)

Address

County Post Code

Telephone No

Club/Circle/Guild

Membership Nos. if known

fee enclosed

CIRCLES AND FEDERATIONS

Name of Circle or Federation

Details of representative and position, for all NAWB correspondence

Name

Position

Address

County Post Code

Telephone No.

Membership No. if known

fee enclosed

Membership fees :

- Individuals/Circles/Federations £10
- Husband and Wife or partners £15
- Life membership only available for individuals and couples and is ten times the current annual fee.

Cheques or PO's payable to NAWB

All Membership correspondence and payments to :
Audrey Atwell NGWBJ - NAWB Membership Secretary
 20, Stable Row, Priorslee Village, Telford, Shropshire TF2 9NW
 Telephone No. 01952 299501 PLEASE ENCLOSE A S.A.E.