

21st National entry

BRIGHTON CENTRE – ULTRA-MODERN VENUE

The brand-new Brighton Centre – a vast exhibition and conference complex – provided a superb and ultra-modern venue for the 21st annual conference of the National Association of Winemakers' and Brewers. Indeed, it was so vast that many of us spent much of our time trying to find our way about! By and large, it was a successful conference, though not as largely attended as had been expected, and there was a good entry in the wine show (4117 as against 3815 last year) from 398 exhibitors (314 last year).

The entries came pouring in on the Friday (30th March) and that evening judges were briefed by the convenor, Ken Bilham. The latter part of the evening saw an innovation, an informal social evening at which the opportunity was taken to elect this year's Wine Queen, who proved to be charming Ann Johnson, of Beverly (Yorkshire) Wine Circle. The judges were the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Cllr. and Mrs. Alfred Feld, the president, Mr. Fred Bastin, and past president and Mrs. C. J. Berry.

Judging started early on the Saturday morning and although conditions were slightly congested all the judges got through their stint very efficiently and had finished by lunchtime.

The Ace of Clubs, who have been champions on two previous occasions, regained the Amateur Winemaker Shield from Nottingham, to whom they lost it last year, and the individual champions were Ken Barnes, of Southall (wines) and (jointly) Alan Briggs and A. Tomlinson (beers). As usual, the trophies went to Circles all over the country.

In the main foyer several trade stands drew the interest of those who attended, among the firms represented being W. R. Loftus Ltd., Southern Vinyards, J. & M. Sales, Hambleton Bard, the Amateur Winemaker and Home Brewer, Independent Tours, Winemaid, Russell's Boxes, Winemaker's Vineyard (Thornton Heath) and Chempro.

After lunch there was the usual rush to inspect the exhibits, identify the winners, and cross-question the judges "at the Bar".

30 YEARS

Later, in the foyer hall, Mr. C. Berry, a past president and the founder chairman of the National, gave a talk on "30 Years in Winemaking", in which he told something of his own experience and of the history and development of the hobby, the National itself, and the Trade.

DEBATE

This was followed by a rather desultory discussion on a motion "that

YORKSHIRE LASS IS 1979 WINE QUEEN

This year's Wine Queen is attractive Ann Johnson, of Beverly Wine Circle, York, who was chosen from seven entrants at the Friday evening social who were judged upon appearance, personality, and winemaking experience.

Ann, who is 28, is a keen winemaker. She and her husband, a sales representative, first joined the wine Circle at Pockington, in the old East Riding of Yorkshire, and they are now members of the Beverly club. This was her first National conference.

Main outdoor activity: "Walking the dog!"

She received her tiara, sash and cloak from her predecessor, Judith Bell, of Dorset.

Ann is looking forward to the Inter-city wine competition at York at the end of this month and hopes to be invited to many Circle and Federation events.

Her telephone number is Melbourne (07593) 596!

this conference deplores the withholding of a first prize at a National show". Vic Goffen proposed the motion, and Bill Harvey opposed it. Several speakers "had a go", and the motion was finally carried overwhelmingly.

SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION

Undoubtedly the great success of the weekend was the Saturday night civic reception at which the Mayor of Brighton was host to – our estimate! – some 800 winemakers.

The arrangements were faultless – an enormous hall and dance-floor but ample tables and seating, a first class dance orchestra, Sid Dean's, and some excellent refreshments.

Everyone really enjoyed it, and one highlight of the evening was the draw for the £100, £50, £30 and £20 prizes generously given by Southern Vinyards.

Next year's conference is to be held at Blackpool on 28th, 29th and 30th March.

Despite the overnight hi-de-ho there was a full turn-out on the Sunday morning for the presentation of prizes by the Mayor, and at the annual general meeting which followed the chairman, Mrs. Sybil Hill, was able to report a very successful year, and thanked and introduced all her team. She made a plea that more Circles and Federations should invite the National chairman and the Wine Queen to their functions throughout the year, they would both be only too willing to attend and keep the Association's aims in the public eye. She also raised the subject of the possibility of integrating the Association of Federations with the National, but said that the executive, having discussed it, felt that the Federations were adequately represented on the executive, and that there seemed little point in making changes.

Messrs. K. Bilham, R. Butcher, J. Chettle and A. Briggs, all of whom had been due to retire, were re-elected, as was Mr. Maurice Matthews, of the Assn. of Federations. Mrs. Audrey Newton

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tops 4,000 bottles



Master Winemaker Ken Barnes (left) and double trophy winner Lionel Williams with hoard of silverware.

WHERE THE TROPHIES WENT:

Master Winemaker: Ken J. Barnes, Southall, Master Brewer (Wilf Newsom Cup) A. Briggs and H. Tomlinson.

Bournemouth Master Winemakers Cup: (40 classes) K. J. Barnes.

Hill Cup: (runner-up 40 Classes) E. N. Tappenden.

Cedric Austin Cup: (Judge) E. N. Tappenden.

Amateur Winemaker Shield: (Circle with most points) Ace of Clubs.

Nottingham Trophy: (Runner-up Circle) Nottingham.

Marconi Club Trophy: (Circle - 3 wines for Dinner) Twickenham.

Chempro Trophy: (Federation - 3 wines for Dinner) South West Counties.

Association of Federations Trophy: (Federation - 3 bottles of Beer) Northumbria.

Vina Trophy: (11 purpose wine classes) J. Cotter.

Eric Malin Memorial Trophy: (3 Table

wine Classes) R. N. Brooksbank, Mr. L. Williams.

Bastin Cup: (Dessert Classes) C. Kiefer, T. J. Lang.

Roycroft Cup: (Dry Aperitif) L. Rushworth.

Bilham Tastevin: (Dry Red) R. N. Brooksbank.

Audrey Newton Cup: (Rosé) F. Higbed.

Harold Beall Memorial Cup: (Dry White) L. Williams.

Rankin Trophy: (Dry Mead) R. Dear.

Timmins Trophy: (Sweet Mead) R. C. Jenkins.

Shaw Porter Cup: (Highest points in the 25 Fruit Classes and sub-classes) Mr. E. N. Tappenden.

Atcherley Trophy: (Dry Red, Fruit) V. H. Goffen.

Andrews Cup: (Dry White, Fruit) D. A. Fraser.

Heriff Trophy: (Sweet White, Fruit) N.

I. South.

Southern Vinyards Trophy: (Dry, Grape Concentrate, Red) T. McArthur.

Loftus Cup: (Red, Sweet, Grape Concentrate) N. D. Pease.

Hill Trophy: (White, Dry, Grape Concentrate) K. J. Barnes.

Gordon Instone Cup: (White, Sweet, Grape Concentrate) Dr. J. D. Parrack.

Boots Trophy: (Wine Kit Classes) D. L. Hawkins.

Temple Tankard: (8 Beer Classes) K. E. Wilkinson.

Itona Tankard: (Lager) C. T. Beabey.

Muntona Trophy: (India Pale Ale) D. A. Fraser.

Cordon Brew Trophy: (Barley Wine) K. B. Wilkinson.

Sweet 'N' Dry Cup: (Open Classes) A. J. Morgan.

Tilly Timbrell Trophy: (Cookery Classes) W. F. I. Bate, Mrs. Brenda Cross.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (continued)

joined the executive to represent the Circles.

During 1978, the treasurer, Mr. P. Awberry, reported, the Assn. had had an excess of income over expenditure of £1,296.74.

During the meeting it was agreed on the proposition of the executive that a joint subscription of £6 be introduced for husband and wife (individual subscription is £3.50).

The Assn. has just under 900 members.

The final business of the annual meeting was to invest as president for the next two years Mr. Leslie Stagg (who retired from the executive last year).

Owing to a breakdown in the duplicating facilities a full list of winners was not available, but we hope to publish one next month.

THEY DID THE WORK

The National Executive responsible for the very successful Brighton Conference: chairman, Mrs. S. Hill; general secretary, D. B. Ives; treasurer, P. Awberry; vice-chairman and awards secretary, R. Butcher; convenor of judges, K. Bilham; membership secretary, J. Chettle; show manager, G. Christmas; entries secretary, A. Briggs; schedules and supplies, N. W. Chiverton; chief steward, N. Pease; PRO, K. Hill; programme secretary, L. Drysdale; fund raiser, B. Edwards; assistant secretary and assistant awards secretary, R. Budge; assistant chief steward and assistant entries secretary, M. Matthews.