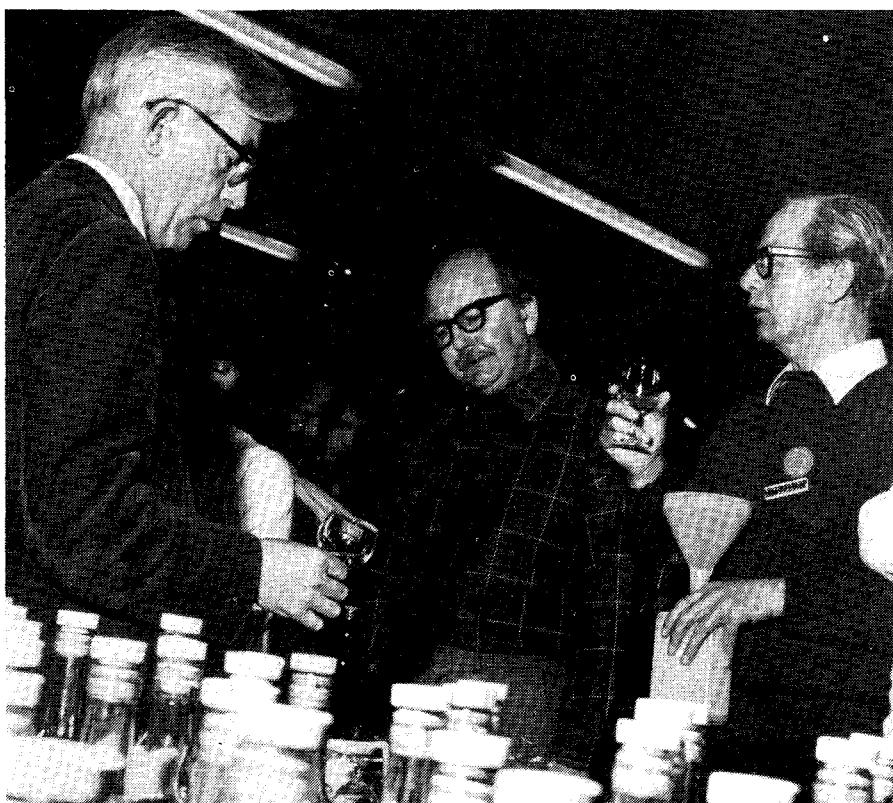


JUDGES IN ACTION



Mrs Daphne Grant and Dane Pulley attempt to decide . . .



Judges Mr Lancaster, Trudy Nicholls, Mr Tompkins and Mr Dickinson mull over their decisions.

The 23rd Annual

Southern

... or rather, South-Western comfort and hospitality were the keywords for the 1981 National Show and Conference held at Exeter University on March 25th, 26th and 27th. Nearly 450 enthusiasts enjoyed the stay in the Birks Halls of Residence, with all the inevitable wisecracks! From there a steep climb, quickly dubbed 'cardiac hill', led to the Great Hall, where all the weekend's official activities took place; 436 exhibitors entered, precisely the same as last year, but the number of exhibits dropped from 4,251 to 3,437.

Maurice Matthews, convenor, briefed the 95 judges and their stewards on Friday evening. A social evening followed, during which five brave and beautiful ladies contended for the title of National Wine Queen 1981. The sash and crown were awarded to attractive Susan Slydel of Poole Circle, presented to her by the host for the occasion, Andy Craig-Rich, the locally well-known Western television and radio personality; the judges were Mrs Craig-Rich, Mr J. F. Landers, leader of Exeter City Council, and Mr D. Baker, editor of the 'Express' and 'Echo' newspapers.

Judging of the wines, beers, and other exhibits on Saturday morning took place quite appropriately in the lower examination hall, which was spacious, reasonably well-lit, and amply supplied with tables and chairs.

NAWB and other 'Masters'

K. J. Barber of Kent gained the NAWB Trophy for most points for wine and beer classes combined; the Bournemouth Master Winemakers Cup went to R. Jenkins, also of Kent; and the Wilf Newsom Cup for the most successful beermaker was awarded to J. S. Parkin. That proficient specialist group, Ace of Clubs, bounced back into the

Conference and Show:

Comfort, 1981

limelight to take the 'Amateur Winemaker' Shield, as the club with most points overall. The gallant Tyneside Nationals were runners-up for the second year running, taking the Nottingham Trophy once more.

The Show opened in the afternoon with judges at the bar, answering questions from a large number of exhibitors. Trade stands helped provide interest, representing Colley pumps and siphons, Munton & Fison, the Suffolk producers of Muntona malts, Boxes for Winemakers — and children's lunch boxes too — and a local winemaking and brewing supplies shop, Messrs Dymond & Smith of Exmouth, who carry an excellent wide range; plus of course, the NAWB shop for ties, souvenir wineglasses and other goods and the annual tombola with hundreds of prizes.

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker, Mr Ken Barrell, BEM, of Leeds, talked to a small but appreciative audience on public speaking. Those who attended were well rewarded, being both entertained and instructed by one who is clearly a master of his art.

Saturday evening's entertainment was a carnival dance, with a loud and lively pop group, and a fancy dress parade, won by two of Darth Vader's black-garbed spacemen; beneath the disguise they proved to be Kevin and Gwen Murray from Newton Abbott Circle. The first prize in the raffle, a portable TV set, went to a delighted Mrs Lee of Enfield. Altogether a very enjoyable evening.

AWARDS CEREMONY

A good crowd turned out on Sunday morning for the distribution of awards to successful exhibitors, by Mrs Sybil Hill, chairman. This lengthy process — there are now 40 trophies to be won — was followed by the grand draw, drawn by Ben Turner, a past president and a founder member. The first prize, of £100, was won by a lucky person from Langley, Eastbourne, by the name of Leggatt.

AGM

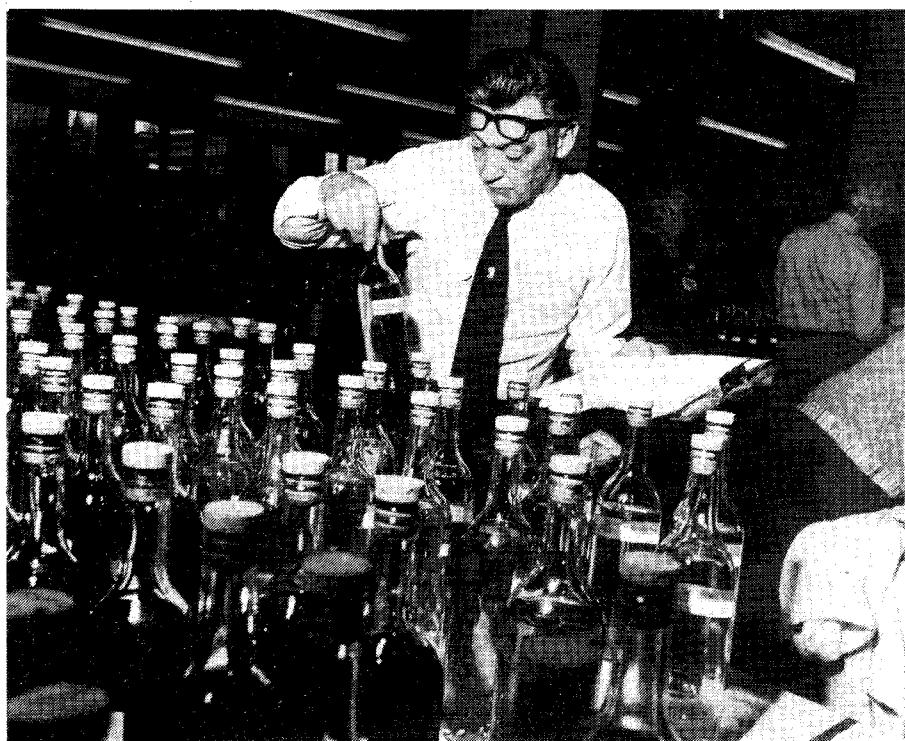
After a short break the hall was reoccupied by members and representatives for the Association's AGM. Unfortunately the president, Leslie Stagg had been taken ill just a few days previously and Mrs Hill spoke on his behalf; all present were pleased to hear that he was making a rapid recovery, but sadly he was unable to attend the last day of his presidency. Apologies were tendered for several other absent members. The chairman's report commented on the difficulty of getting schedules from the printers — this year's had arrived on Christmas Eve — and the care needed to ensure that the National Show and Conference did not end up with a large financial loss. He also announced that the 1982 Conference would be at Scarborough, where it would be warmly welcomed. Mrs Hill exhorted all members to try to engender enthusiasm for the National Association

among their fellow hobbyists and Circles, and to start planning now to attend in 1982.

Peter Awbery, treasurer, then discussed the accounts, followed by Mrs Hill introducing each member of the Committee in turn and outlining the work they did for the Association. Doug Ives, general secretary, conducted the elections, resulting in his wife Margery being elected to represent the Circles and Dave Pulley of Bromley to stand for the Federations. George Christmas and Ken Hill retired from the committee and the other members were returned unopposed.

The motions on the agenda were all passed, with slight alteration to the wording of one: subscriptions were raised to £4.40 single and £7.80 married couple; small alterations to the constitution and rules were accepted. Each member is to receive, in due course, a copy of the revised constitution

continued...



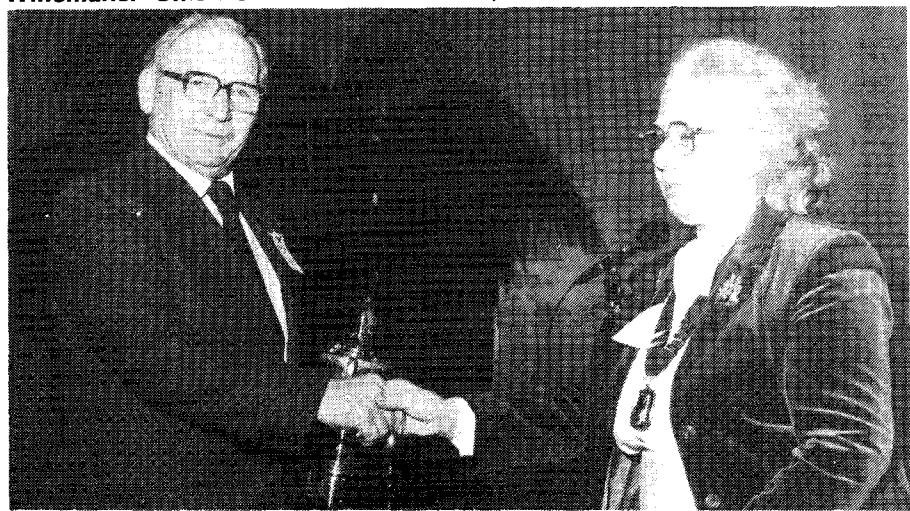
Doug Ives, judge, hard at work.



K. J. Barber, NAWB Master Winemaker (left) with R. C. Jenkins, winner of the Bournemouth Master Winemaker's Cup. Mr Barber was 1980 Master Brewer!



Mr George Dale, chairman of Ace of Clubs, collects the 'Amateur Winemaker' Shield on behalf of the Circle, from Mrs Hill.



Master Brewer for 1981 is J. S. Parkin, here receiving the Wilf Newsom Cup from NAWB chairman Mrs Sybil Hill.

Southern Comfort, 1981 (cont.)

and rules in a small plastic wallet, which will also take the membership fee receipt.

The chairman thanked all who took part in the show, with particular reference to the local liaison officer, Andy Wakeford of the Exmouth Circle, and the excellent stewarding by members of Circles in the South West Federation.

After Roy Butcher, vice-chairman, thanked Mrs Hill for all her work both on behalf of the president and as chairman, Ken Hill was declared new president of the Association, with the approval of all present. Ken spoke a few words of appreciation and thanks, saying he would do his best to uphold the high traditions of past presidents, particularly Leslie Stagg, his immediate predecessor. Wishing all a safe journey home, he then closed the Conference. So ended another memorable weekend.

Show Credits

Credits for a successful Conference and Show are due to: president - L. P. Stagg; chairman - Mrs S. Hill; gen sec - D. B. Ives; treasurer - P. Awbery; awards sec and vice-chairman - R. Butcher; convenor - M. Matthews; membership sec - J. Chettle; show manager - G. Christmas; entries sec - N. W. Chiverton; schedule sec - Mrs S. Hill; chief steward - Mr K. Bilham; PRO - K. Hill; social and prog sec - Mrs M. Drysdale; asst treasurer, fund raiser - B. Edwards; asst sec, minutes sec - Mrs S. Chiverton; accomm sec - L. Drysdale; local liaison - A. Wakeford.

The Trophy Winners

NAWB trophy - **K. J. Barber**.

Bournemouth Master Winemakers Cup - (highest points over 16 wine classes) - **R. Jenkins**.

Hill Cup - (runner-up 16 wine classes) - **K. J. Barber**.

Cedric Austin Cup (judge, red table) - **D. A. Reed**.

'Amateur Winemaker' Shield (Circle with most points) - **Ace of Clubs**.

Nottingham Trophy - (2nd highest Circle) - **Tyneside Nationals**.

Marconi Club Trophy - (Circle, 3 bottle) - **Old Bexley**.

NAWB Beer Trophy – (Circle, 3 bottle) – **Cranford Ales.**

Chempro Trophy – (Federation, 3 bottle wines) – **Middlesex Fed.**

Association of Federations Trophy – (Federation, 3 bottle beer) – **SW Counties Fed.**

Vina Trophy – (purpose wine) – **E. W. Tappenden.**

Eric Malin Memorial Trophy – (table) – **Not Awarded.**

Bastin Cup – (dessert classes) – **M. C. Sullivan.**

Roycroft Cup – (dry aperitif) – **V. Goffen.**

Bilham Tastevin – (dry red table) – **T. McArthur.**

Audrey Newton Cup – (rosé table) – **Mrs K. M. Norman.**

Harold Beall Memorial Cup – (dry white table) – **Mrs M. B. Bowan-Jones.**

Turner Trophy – (3 wines for dinner) – **L. Williams.**

Rankin Trophy – (dry mead) – **W. F. Grant.**

Timmins Trophy – (sweet mead) – **R. Jenkins.**

Shaw Porter Cup – (4 fruit classes) – **R. Jenkins.**

Atcherley Trophy – (dry red, fruit) – **G. Christmas.**

Andrews Cup – (dry white, fruit) – **B. J. Ratcliffe.**

Heriff Trophy – (sweet white, fruit) – **K. J. Barnes.**

Southern Vinyards Trophy – (red dry conc.) – **B. T. Lawson.**

Loftus Cup – (red sweet conc.) – **A. Howard.**

Hidalgo Trophy – (white dry conc.) – **A. Howard.**

Gordon Instone Cup – (sweet white, fruit) – **R. Jenkins.**

Boots Trophy – (most points, kit beers and wines) – **T. McArthur.**

Tom Caxton Trophy – (kit bitter) – **B. Edwards.**

Wilf Newsom Cup – (beer) – **J. S. Parkin.**

Temple Tankard – (runner-up, beer) – **V. Whitehouse.**

Itona Tankard – (lager) – **J. S. Parkin.**

Muntona Trophy – (India pale ale) – **K. Simpson.**

Cordon Brew Trophy – (barley wine) – **K. Lovell.**

Sybil Hill Tankard – (judges, India pale ale) – **K. Simpson.**

Sweet 'n' Dry Cup – (open, 9 classes) – **T. McArthur.**

Tilly Timbrell Trophy – (cookery, 2 classes) – **Not Awarded.**

Stagg Challenge Trophy – (fortified wines) – **K. J. Barnes.**

Yorkshire Trophy – (sparkling wine) – **Mrs B. E. Sampson.**

Full and detailed Show results are not yet available, but will appear in June.



THE NEW WINE QUEEN

Mrs Susan Mary Slydel, seen above being congratulated by Western TV and radio personality, Andy Craig-Rich, was a popular choice for the honour of being National Wine Queen 1981/2. Brunette, 5 ft 4 in Susan is also Poole Circle and Dorset Federation Wine Princess. A bank clerk, her hobbies are all types of needlework and she has recently taken up winemaking. Her other interests include gardening and caravanning and, naturally, winetasting.

Susan lives at 116 Halstock Crescent, Poole (tel Broadston 695990). Any requests for her to attend Circle or Federation functions should be made directly to her, not to the NAWB or the 'Amateur Winemaker'.

Draw Winners

The National draw winners were: (£100) Mr/Ms Leggatt, of Langley, Eastbourne; (£75) B. Cobb, of Steeple; (£50) D. Reede, of Basingstoke; (£25) Mr Cunningham, of Phoenix Club; (£15) J. Connolly, of St Helens; (£10) G. J. Casse, of Uckfield; (£5) D. A. J. Harris, of St Lawrence.

The National Conference and Show 1982 will be held at Scarborough on March 26th, 27th and 28th.