

**13th:  
'Unlucky  
for  
some,'  
but  
only  
for  
some!**

Despite the enormous handicap imposed on the organisers by the postal strike, this year's Conference of the National Association of Amateur Winemakers, held in Hull, was undoubtedly highly successful in many ways.

At times the executive must have begun to wonder whether there really was anything in the superstition about 13 being unlucky!

This was the thirteenth such conference and show, and certainly it met with more obstacles and mishaps than any other.

Firstly, the postal strike occurred at the very time when the committee was expecting its maximum traffic in entries, and secondly, whilst the show was being staged, a stand collapsed, and fourteen bottles were smashed, an occurrence which has never happened before in the 12 previous years, despite the thousands and thousands of bottles that have been handled. Despite these misfortunes, however, the committee triumphed, and the success of the Show was all the more praiseworthy because of them.

Last year entries reached the staggering figure of 4,100 and the Chairman, Dr. Webb, was then greatly concerned because the entry looked like getting out of hand owing to the physical problem of providing enough judges and stewards. Consequently adjustments were made to this year's schedule of classes in the hope of reducing the number of entries but maintaining a high general level of quality.

Entries fell to 2,500, but the executive were left wondering, of course, whether this was due to the schedule changes or to the postal strike. It was still an impressive show.

Socially, it was an excellent conference, the Hull hotels and boarding houses proving first-rate, with a good standard of comfort and service, and, as usual, the conference was a great reunion of old friends. The only criticism one heard was that the programme was not a very extensive one, but this can be a fault or a virtue according to one's point of view. An over-intense programme of lectures leaves little time for a gossip with acquaintances, and many seem to prefer one which allows plenty of free time, as on this occasion.

Some of the committee had turned up on Thursday and Friday was a day of busy preparation, with the show stands being erected in the main hall of the City Hall and the trade stands in the vestibule.

# Trade stands

There were few trade stands this year, owing to the fact that a Corporation ruling forbade sales, but among those represented were E. K. Gardiner Ltd., of Hull, Munton and Fison Ltd., Colley Nockolds Ltd., and "The Amateur Winemaker". The Hull & District wine club also had a most attractive central stand.

By tea-time on Friday staging was all but complete and after dinner that night Mr. S. W. Andrews briefed all the judges and stewards.

Judging on the Saturday morning was much more relaxed than in previous years, owing to the fact that judges had fewer entries with which to contend and were therefore not so pressed for time as usual. Later in the day they stood by their classes and gave any exhibitor a detailed appraisal of his wine; this is always a valuable feature of the show.

The array of trophies this year was most impressive, and the awards list included some new names, and several well-known ones.

Over the last few years Epsom Downs and West Kent have had a running battle for possession of the coveted "Amateur Winemaker" shield, which goes to the Circle scoring most points, and this year Epsom Downs were victorious and regained the trophy, which they previously held in 1969 (West Kent have held it in 1967, 1968 and 1970, and were runners-up this year).

The individual champion this year, scoring the most points and thus winning the Bournemouth Master Winemakers' Cup, was popular Mr. V. Goffen, of Liphook, who also won the Cedric Austin cup. A "local" winner was Mrs. M. Askam, of Hull, who carried off the Atcherley trophy.

The main event of the Saturday afternoon was a talk by the Conference chairman, Dr. R. A. Webb, on "The Future in Amateur Winemaking" in which he speculated as to possible future trends in the hobby and as to developments which we might see.

His main theme was that winemaking was likely to progress more and more towards "wines by purpose" rather than wines "by ingredient", and he emphasised that in our search for quality wines we were likely to find ourselves tending to use blends of ingredients rather than single ingredients. Few fruits had of themselves perfect balance, and therefore sympathetic blends of fruit were much more likely to succeed.

Everyone enjoyed another very interesting session, an "Any Questions?" period at which the panellists, Mr. Ken Hill, Dr. Harrison, Mr. G. Lucas, and Mr. A. Francis, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ben

Turner, successfully dealt with a wide range of queries. The "Judges At the Bar" session wound up the formal part of Saturday's proceedings.

## Sold out

The buffet dance at the Skyline Ballroom, only a stone's throw away, provided an evening to remember for the 600 or so who attended—all tickets had been sold. As usual with winemaking functions, it went with a bang from the start, with lively dancing, a good band, and an excellent "Al Jolson" cabaret.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Hull, Ald. Mrs. Maud Heath, was the guest of honour. She made point of visiting each table and chatting with the contingents of winemakers from all over England.

She also presented the trophies the following morning, after having been welcomed by the President, Mr. C. J. Berry, and said how pleased the City was to have the winemakers as its guests. The thanks of the Conference to the City were voiced by Mr. Philip Delmon, who also presented bouquets to Mrs. Heath and to Rosa Dodds, "representing all lady winemakers".

Finally, Mr. Berry installed his successor, Mr. B. C. A. Turner, as President, wishing him and his wife Mary a happy year of office. Mr. Turner thanked the gathering for honouring him and promised that he would do his best to serve the movement as its President in the year ahead; he hoped to see them all at Eastbourne in 1972!

## They organised it all

The Executive which organised this year's Conference earned a special vote of thanks for the many ingenious methods it adopted to overcome the enormous difficulties created by the postal strike. This hardworking and loyal team, led by its chairman, Dr. R. A. Webb, consisted of Mr. S. W. Andrews (Vice-chairman and convener of Judges), Mrs. S. Hill, general secretary, Mr. F. W. Forster, treasurer, Mrs. D. R. Martin, membership secretary, Mr. P. Awbery, entries secretary, Mr. L. P. Stagg, show supervisor, Mr. F. G. Bastin, supplies officer, Mr. C. W. Martin, schedule secretary, Mr. E. Plant, chief steward, Mr. K. Hill, programme secretary, Mr. J. C. Luker, awards secretary, Mr. P. J. Delmar, PRO & social secretary, Miss M. Disney, Journal editor and minutes secretary, and Mr. G. E. W. Styles and Mr. A. Ackroyd, local liaison.

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# 'Three-tier system' debated at AGM

Should the National Association be restructured as a three-level organisation—Club, Region and National Executive? This was the topic which provoked a lively and most helpful (to the Executive) debate at the annual general meeting. (This year the Association reverted to the idea of having the AGM at the National itself instead of on a separate occasion).

Otherwise the annual meeting produced few surprises. The Chairman, Dr. R. A. Webb, referred in his report to the death of three well known winemaking figures, Eric Malin, Harold Beall, and Leslie Hender, and went on to mention the efforts the committee had made to control the number of entries received, since the 4,100 at Caister had been rather alarming. They had experimented with the schedule to that end, but the postal strike had interfered so much with their arrangements that they did not know now whether the experiment had been successful or not; the entries were certainly down, however. Dr. Webb praised the members of the Executive for all their hard work and for the resourceful way in which they had overcome all their difficulties.

## HAROLD RITCHIE JOINS EXECUTIVE

There were ten nominations for five vacancies on the National and after a paper ballot those elected were Messrs. F. Bastin, P. Delmon, and F. Forster, all previously members, E. Plant, formerly a co-opted member, and H. Ritchie.

The treasurer, Mr. F. Forster, presented the accounts for the year ending 30th June 1970, which showed that there had been a small profit on the year's working of £110.44 and that finally the Association had total assets and equipment of £1818.17, and creditors owed only £172.77. The accounts were adopted.

The formal business having been disposed of, Dr. Webb asked for discussion on any matter for the benefit of the Association and the President initiated one on organisation. He knew, he said, from his correspondence as *AW* editor, and from his visits to Circles all over the country, that there was a strong trend towards the formation of Regions or Federations of clubs. He would like to see these brought within the National orbit, so that they had a three-tier system—Circle, Region and National. This would greatly reduce the amount of secretarial work for the National Secretary, who would be dealing principally with Regions, and Regions in turn would deal with the clubs in their group. This would produce a workable framework whereas at the moment the more individual members were recruited the more unwieldy things became.

Mr. G. Styles, of the Yorkshire Federation, who last year proposed a similar but more detailed idea, spoke strongly in support of this, saying that he was glad the conception was slowly taking root, but it was vigorously opposed by Mr. S. Baker and others, who were adamant against what they called "a pyramid" and against any regimentation or "control" from above. Several argued that any such national organisation was unnecessary and on the whole the feeling of the meeting did seem to be against the idea, although no formal vote was taken. But as the Chairman observed, the Executive must have gained several useful indications of the opinion of winemakers generally on this subject.

Only two other matters were dealt with: Dr. Webb announced that Mr. B. C. A. Turner, of Harrow, had been selected by the Executive to be the ensuing year's President, and Mr. Philip Delmon enquired if there would be any support for an annual winemakers' dinner on a large scale, to be held somewhere central. The idea met with a large measure of support.



## *Engraved Glasses from the Yorkshire Federation*

A pleasing gesture from the Yorkshire Federation: it gave each member of the National Executive two of the handsome engraved wine glasses it had produced to mark its tenth year. Dr. Webb, National Chairman, thanked the Federation's Chairman, Mr. G. Styles.



# ALL THE WINNERS!

## TROPHIES WENT TO . . .

**MARCONI CLUB TROPHY** (Class 1): EPSOM DOWNS  
**ERIC MALIN MEMORIAL TROPHY** (Most points, Classes 2-4): K. BILHAM, Epsom Downs  
**BASTIN CUP** (most points, Classes 5-6): V. THOMAS, Mid Cheshire and M. WATTS, West Kent  
**VINA TROPHY** (most points, Classes 2-7): V. THOMAS, Mid Cheshire  
**TURNER TROPHY** (Class 7): V. THOMAS, Mid Cheshire  
**ATCHERLEY TROPHY** (Class 10): MRS. M. ASKAM, Hull  
**SOUTHERN VINYARDS TROPHY** (Class 10c): MRS. P. FARMER, Thames Estuary  
**LOFTUS CUP** (Class 11c): V. TREVEIL, A.V. Wine  
**ANDREWS CUP** (Classes 12a, b, d) V. TREVEIL, A.V. Wine  
**HIDALGO TROPHY** (Class 12c): MRS. P. FARMER, Thames Estuary  
**SWEET 'N DRY CUP** (Associate Member most points, classes 8-13): MISS J. RADCLIFFE, Merseyside  
**SHAW PORTER CUP** (most points, Classes 10-13): V. TREVEIL, A.V. Wine  
**GORDON INSTONE CUP** (Class 13c): MR. and MRS. MOUNTFORD, Birmingham  
**HAROLD BEALL MEMORIAL CUP** (Class 19): MR. D. GRAY, Stockton-on-Tees  
**CEDRIC AUSTIN CUP** (Judge, Classes 8-21): V. GOFFEN, Liphook  
**BOURNEMOUTH MASTER WINEMAKERS CUP** (Classes 8-21): V. GOFFEN, Liphook  
**HILL CUP**: V. TREVEIL, A.V. Wine  
**ROYCROFT CUP** (Runner-up, Classes 8-21): D. GARRETT, Vauxhall; C. KENT, Harrow; D. GRAY, Stockton-on-Tees; MRS. R. DODDS, Thames Estuary; S. JONES, Thames Estuary; K. BILHAM, Epsom Downs  
**BILHAM TASTEVIN** (Class 17): D. GARRETT, Vauxhall  
**ITONA TANKARD** (Class 22): A. BUCKLEY, Wakefield  
**WILF NEWSOM CUP** (Classes 22-25): DR. P. DRANSFIELD, Mid Cheshire  
**TEMPLE TANKARD** (Classes 22-25): A. BUCKLEY, Wakefield; N. PARKINSON, Oxford; V. WHITEHOUSE, Torbay  
**LUCAS CUP** (Classes 2-27): NO AWARD  
**AMATEUR WINEMAKERS SHIELD** (most points): EPSOM DOWNS

### MEMBERS' CLASSES

1. (3 bottles for a dinner): 1 Epsom Downs, 2 West Kent/3 Mid Cheshire, 4 Spen, VHC Leeds.
2. **Table, red, dry**: 1 K. Bilham, Epsom Downs; 2 D. Garrett/Vauxhall; 3 W. Luger, Bramcote; 4 A. Price, Penning; 5 D. Bowler, Twickenham; Mrs. I. Luger, Bramcote; Mrs. J. Smith/Wolverhampton; E. Smith, Wolverhampton; P. Amesbury/Welwyn Garden City; VHC Mrs. P. Farmer, Thames Estuary/HC Mrs. K. Evans, Southampton.
3. **White or golden, dry**: 1 Mr./Mrs. R. Wilson, North Tees; 2 Mrs. M. Gregory, Twickenham; 3 Mrs. J. Smith, Wolverhampton; 4 W. Lord, Thames Estuary; 5 D. Bowler, Twickenham; Mrs. P. Baker, Faversham; J. Stevenson, Notts; K. Bilham, Epsom Downs; Dr. R. Webb, Bristol; VHC Mr./Mrs. E. Evans; Hull; HC Mrs. A. Dovey, Wakefield.
4. **Table, rose, medium**: 1 Mrs. E. Crawley, Hull; 2 Mrs. D. Wappet, Hull; 3 K. Newitt, Southend; 4 Mrs. J. Wheatley, York; 5 Mrs. I. Luger, Bramcote; VHC Mr./Mrs. C. Tubb, Notts.
5. **Dessert, red**: 1 M. Watts, West Kent; 2 D. Credlands, Hull; 3 J. George, Bexley Heath; 4 Mrs. B. Cross, Notts; 5 R. Johnson, Crosby; VHC H. Silvester, Solihull; HC Mr./Mrs. Mountford, Birmingham.
6. **Dessert, white or golden**: 1 V. Thomas, Mid Cheshire; 2 G. Holt, Epsom Downs; 3 Mrs. P. Farmer, Thames Estuary; 4 Mrs. A. Dovey, Wakefield; 5 F. Rose, Harrow; Mr./Mrs. A. Webster, Birmingham; Mrs. M. Bingham, Notts; VHC, D. Garrett, Vauxhall; HC, Mrs. F. Trivett, Notts.
7. **3 bottles**: 1 V. Thomas, Mid Cheshire; 2 G. Holt, Epsom Downs; Dr. P. Dransfield, Mid Cheshire; 4 P. Dewdney, Surbiton; 5 R. Johnson, Crosby; VHC K. R. T. Bilham, Epsom Downs.

### GENERAL CLASSES

- 8a. **Flower, dry**: 1 W. Eliot, Barnsley; 2 Mrs. O. Ashton, Manchester; 3 Mrs. N. Lomax, Birmingham; 4 I. McDougall, Crosby; VHC W. Curtis, Birmingham; HC E. Kilby, Hull.
- 8b. **Elderflower, dry**: 1 Dr. & Mrs. J. Leadley, Notts; 2 Mr. & Mrs. C. Walker, Hull; 3 Mr. & Mrs. W. Hawkin, Mid Cheshire; 4 G. Daplyn, West Kent; VHC D. Gowler, Twickenham and R. Cannon, Three Rivers; HC D. Credland, Hull.

9a. **Flower, sweet**: 1 F. Jubb, Crosby; 2 J. Bancroft, Derwent Valley; 3 Mr. & Mrs. A. Webster, Birmingham; 4 Mr. & Mrs. W. Fairholme, Notts; 5 J. Parwin, North Tees; VHC Mrs. A. Newton, Hull; HC R. Kirke, Hull.

9b. **Elderflower, sweet**: 1 Mrs. D. Linnegar, Chertsey; 2 Mrs. A. Davey, Wakefield; 3 Mr. & Mrs. Mountford, Birmingham; 4 J. Jensen, Hull; VHC Mr. & Mrs. E. Evans, Hull.

10a. **Elderberry, dry**: 1 Mrs. M. Askam, Hull; 2 J. Parkin, North Tees; 3 Hatley, Bexley Heath; 4 D. Hawkins, Thurrock; 5 G. Daplyn, West Kent; M. Watts, West Kent.

10b. **Blackberry, dry**: 1 P. Awbery, Faversham; 2 Mr. & Mrs. C. Tubb, Notts; 3 Mrs. J. Hull, Solihull; 4 W. Searles, Belfast; VHC E. Miller, Epsom Downs.

10c. **Grape concentrate, red, dry**: 1 Mrs. P. Farmer, Thames Estuary; 2 A. Stanley, Hemel Hempstead; 3 C. Weates, Norfolk; 4 W. Lord, Thames Estuary; VHC Mrs. P. Baker, Faversham; HC B. Treveil, A.V. Wine.

10d. **Fruit, red, dry**: 1 Miss J. Radcliffe Merseyside; 2 B. Mason; 3 Mr. & Mrs. R. Wilson, North Tees; 4 Mrs. B. Baker; Sittingbourne; 5 G. Harfield, Farnham.

11a. **Elderberry, sweet**: 1 F. Tittley, Kings Standing; 2 G. Collyer, P.S. Fisher; 3 C. Griffiths, Faversham; 4 E. Baxter, Derwent; 5 G. Daplyn, West Kent; VHC N. Newitt, Southend; HC A. Beals, Notts.

11b. **Blackberry, sweet**: 1 D. Credland, Hull; 2 Mrs. E. Spencer, Liberty; 3 P. Dewdney, Surbiton; 4 W. McCarthy, B.R.C.W.G.; VHC Mrs. W. Luker, Guildford; HC G. Waddy, Hull.

11c. **Grape concentrate, red, sweet**: 1 V. Treveil, A.V. Wine; 2 E. Miller, Epsom Downs; 3 Mrs. E. Parker, Epsom Downs; VHC J. Bancroft, Derwent Valley; HC Mrs. I. Harris, Brighton.

11d. **Fruit, red, sweet**: 1 J. Stevenson, Notts; 2 D. Morley, Notts; 3 D. Bowler, Twickenham; 4 Glendinning; 5 G. Christmas, Epsom Downs; 5 E. Smith, Wolverhampton; 5 H. Holloway, Birmingham.

12a. **Citrus, white or golden, dry**: 1 Mrs. R. Dodds, Thames Estuary; 2 Mrs. A. Newton, Hull; 3 Mrs. F. Handy, Birmingham; 4 Mrs. L. Fieldsend, Barnsley; VHC Mrs. P. Baker, Faversham; HC, Mrs. B. Reeves, Bexley Heath.

12b. **Gooseberry, dry**: 1 B. Treveil, A.V. Wine; 2 Mr. & Mrs. C. Chambers, Birmingham; 3 Mrs. E. Lilley, Manchester; VHC A. Francis, York and E. Miller, Epsom Downs; HC W. Barnett, Southall and G. Banham, Epsom Downs.

# FULL 'NATIONAL' LIST

12c. **Grape cane, white, dry:** 1 Mrs. P. Farmer, Thames Estuary; 2 V. Owen, Reading; 3 Mrs. G. Pheasant, Three Rivers; VHC E. Baxter, Bexley Heath; HC K. Simpson, Bishop Auckland;

12d. **Fruit, white, dry:** 1 Mrs. W. Begg, Stockton-on-Tees; 2 Miss C. Hitchin, Birmingham; 3 S. Clarke, Notts; 4 Mrs. D. McCune, Hull; 5 F. Rose, Harrow.

13a. **Citrus, white, sweet:** 1 Mrs. F. Botto, Ashford; 2 C. Johnson, Solihull; 3 Mr. & Mrs. W. Fairholme, Notts; 4 W. Lord, Thames Estuary; VHC Mrs. P. Lee, Liphook, N. Newitt, Southend; HC Mr. & Mrs. B. Howard, Thurrock.

13b. **Gooseberry, white, sweet:** 1 Miss C. Hitchin, Birmingham; 2 Mrs. W. Luker, Guildford; 3 Mr. & Mrs. R. Wilson, North Tees; VHC L. Green, West Kent and V. Treveil, A.V. Wine.

13c. **Grape concentrate, white, sweet:** 1 Mr. & Mrs. Mountford, Birmingham; 2 V. Goffen, Liphook; 3 A. Coley, A.V. Wine.

13d. **Fruit, white, sweet:** 1 E. Roycroft, Harrow; 2 S. Clarke, Notts.; 3 R. Johnson, Crosby; 4 Mrs. M. Davis, Tay Valley; 5 Mrs. M. Elsmore, Notts.

14. **Mead, dry:** 1 Mrs. J. Smith, Wolverhampton; 2 J. George, Bexleyheath; 3 Mrs. F. Barnard, Bexleyheath; VHC J. Hughes, Manchester; HC B. Tass, Twickenham.

15. **Mead, sweet:** 1 V. Goffen, Liphook; 2 Mr. & Mrs. M. Sims, Solihull; 3 N. Glegg, Pennine.

16. **Sparkling, white:** 1 D. Hebbs, Twickenham; 3 J. Toule, Oakfield.

17. **Table, red, dry:** 1 Mr. D. Garrett, Vauxhall; 2 Mr. A. Stanley, Hemel Hempstead; 3 Mr. C. Weates, Norfolk; 4 Mr. J. Toule, Oakfield; 5 Mr. M. Watts, West Kent; Mr. & Mrs. Todd, Wakefield; VHC Mr. K. Bilham, Epsom Downs; HC Mr. J. Greenfield, Notts.

18. **Table, rose, medium:** 1 C. Kent, Harrow; 2 V. Goffen, Liphook; 3 G. Barnham, Epsom Downs; 4 Mrs. V. Jordan, Sittingbourne; 5 Mr. & Mrs. L. Stagg, Birmingham and M. Chase, Kidderminster; VHC W. Lord, Thames Estuary; HC A. Ackroyd, Hull.

19. **Table, white, dry:** 1 D. Gray, Stockton-on-Tees; 2 E. Miller, Epsom Downs; 3 A. Ball, Derwent; 4 K. Bilham, Epsom Downs; 5 Mr. & Mrs. H. Cooke, Liphook; Mr. & Mrs. A. Webster, Birmingham; Dr. R. Webb, Bristol and Mrs. S. Clarke, Notts.; VHC M. Chase, Kidderminster; HC Mrs. E. Murphy, Hull.

20. **Dessert, red:** 1 Mrs. R. Dodds, Thames Estuary; 2 J. Toner, Belfast; 3 Mr. & Mrs. B. Cross, Notts; 4 Dr. J. Harrison, Wembley; 5 P. Dewdney, Surbiton and D. Bowler, Twickenham; VHC J. Cosnett, Twickenham; HC R. Johnson, Crosby.

21. **Dessert, white:** 1 S. Jones, Thames Estuary; 2 Mr. & Mrs. M. Sims, Solihull; 3 M. Watts, West Kent; 4 Lt.-Comdr. A. Bourne, Liphook; 5 Miss C. Hitchin, Birmingham; K. Bilham, Epsom Downs; S. Harkess, Hull; W. Lord, Thames Estuary; VHC Mr. & Mrs. H. Cooke, Liphook and Mrs. A. Watts, West Kent.

## BEER AND STOUT CLASSES

22. **Lager:** 1 A. Buckley, Wakefield; 2 R. Brooksbank, Notts; 3 J. Chandler, Twickenham; 4 C. Clarke, Wakefield.

23. **Pale Ale, Burton type:** 1 N. Parkinson, Oxford; 2 T. Whitehouse, Torquay; 3 E. Gardiner, Hull; 4 A. Shakeshaft, Kings Norton; VHC A. Briggs, Wakefield; HC F. Forster, Faversham.

24. **Brown ale.** 1 V. Whitehouse, Torquay; 2 K. Hill, Merseyside; 3 Dr. P. Dransfield, Mid-Cheshire; 4 C. Clarke, Wakefield.

25. **Stout, Irish type:** 1. Dr. P. Dransfield, Mid-Cheshire; 2 D. Morgan, Silver Wings, B.E.A.; 3 Mr. & Mrs. Todd, Wakefield; 4 E. Bell, Twickenham; VHC F. Lane, H.E.S.A.

## COOKERY

26. **Savoury dish:** 1 Mrs. H. Timbrell, Harrow; 2 Mr. W. Curtis, Birmingham; 3 Mrs. M. Rudkin, Hull.

27. **Sweet or dessert:** 1 Mrs. M. Rudkin, Hull; 2 Mrs. H. Timbrell, Harrow; 3 Mrs. N. Lomax, Birmingham.

## DISPLAYS

28. **Winemakers' Display:** 1 Mr. & Mrs. G. Holt, Epsom Downs; 2 Mr. F. Lane, H.E.S.A.; 3 Solihull.

29. **Item of equipment:** 3 Mr. D. Morley, Notts.

30. **Presentation bottle:** 1 Mr. & Mrs. G. Holt, Epsom Downs; 2 Mrs. C. Furness, Epsom Downs; 3 Mrs. E. Eaton, Manchester.

31. **Label:** 1 Mrs. P. Baker, Faversham; 2 Mr. K. Clarkson, Notts; 3 — Hounslow; VHC Mrs. B. Baker, Sittingbourne; HC Mr. P. Dewdney, Surbiton.

# NEWS from the Clubs

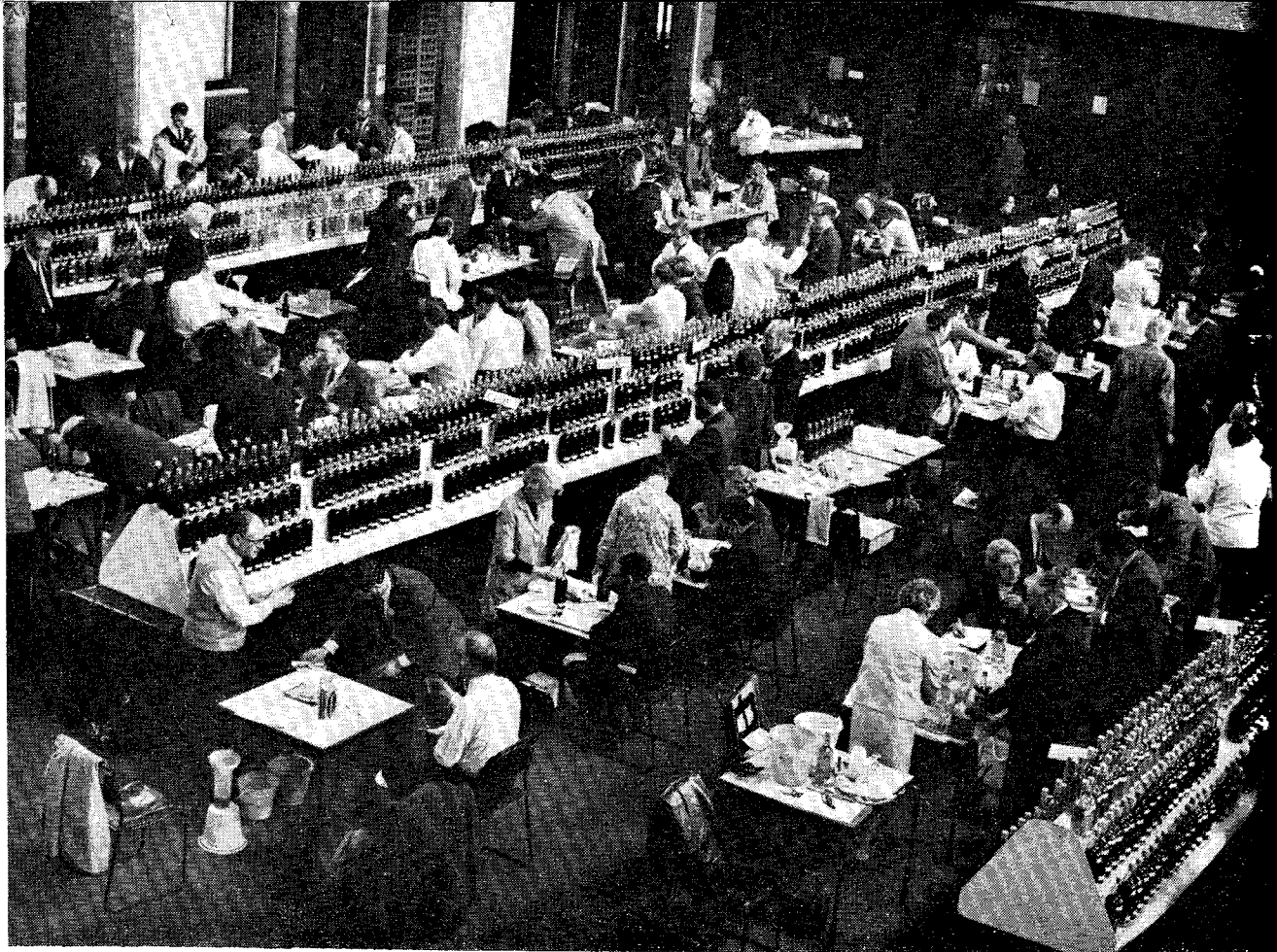


Those of **ST. AUSTELL** Wine Circle who had met Mr. J. D. Gallagher on the occasion of the very first Cornish Circle's Challenge Contest, found it an extra pleasure to welcome him as guest speaker. A good turnout of members were well rewarded by a most enjoyable and informative account of the history and present-day activities of H.M. Customs and Excise. It was perhaps a little horrifying to learn just to what extent the country's income depends upon wine and beer drinkers and to hear of the cunning devices that are necessary to ensure that no drop goes untaxed. However, on second thoughts, perhaps this merely emphasised the economy and so heightened the pleasure to be gained from brewing own.

The first meeting of 1971 was a Film Evening for **BASING-STOKE** Amateur Winemakers, when members brought their cine films and slides of Club events and other interesting items, including films taken at the Rudesheim Wine Festival. Approximately 100 bottles of wine were entered in the Spring Wine Competition which was judged by M. Cox, D. Lancaster and R. Bishop. The following were the winners in each class: Red Sweet, A. House; White Sweet, Mrs. I. White; Red Dry, M. Williams; White Dry, Mrs. H. Cooke. The points gained in this competition will be added to those given at the Autumn Show being held in October and trophies will be presented to the winners at the Club's Annual Dinner/Dance in December. A large party of members recently enjoyed a Skittles Evening at The Harvest Home, Whitchurch, where a fish and chip supper was served.

At the A.G.M. of the **BEDFORD** Circle, Mr. G. Trundley was elected Honorary Secretary for 1971 and Mr. Gordon Lester was re-elected as Chairman. The Circle lost two of its most active founder members when Kathleen and Bernard Bose left for Australia with their two young children. However, their presentation to the Circle of a cup for internal competitions, inspired Dr. Gareth Rowlands, the first Circle Chairman, to present a cup for wine competitions to the Bedford Gardeners' Association—with whom the Circle has been closely associated for several years. The Circle is also presenting a cup for a similar purpose to the Biddenham Show Committee with whom we have been associated for a similar period. In return Kathleen and Bernard Bose were presented with an inscribed pewter tankard to remind them of old friends left behind—and to inspire them to start another wine circle "down under". The Circle arranged one of its most successful meetings in conjunction with the local Eastern Gas Board whose cooking demonstrator, Mrs. Sharpe, introduced members of both Bedford and Biggleswade Circles to the delights of cooking with wine. Lucky members drew lots to take portions of the dishes cooked home.

At **BRISTOL** Wine Circle's last meeting was a film show and tasting of wines from Eastern Europe given by Dr. Glendinning. The quality of photography and commentary was superb. The award of trophies took place at the annual dinner, Shirley Archer won both the "Vincent" cup and the "Rutherford" cup. The "Tritton" cup went to George Beard.



**Top** General view of the hall during judging

**Left** Entries being received on the Friday night (l to r Mr. John Grindell, Mrs. D. Grindell, Mrs. D. R. Martin, Mrs. E. Soare, Mrs. M. Pym)

**FACING PAGE**

**Top left** Two judges hard at it, Mrs. Jill Saunders (Gosport) and Mr. D. Rouston (Leeds)

**Top right** David Moon (Rickmansworth, left) and Jim Whiteman (Hull) seem to be enjoying their beer class

**Bottom left** Happy Epsom Downs' Ken Bilham with the Eric Malin Trophy, Bertie Boyles with the AW Shield and Geoff Holt with the Marconi Club Trophy

**Bottom right** Vic Goffen, of Liphook, winner of the Master Winemaker's Cup and the Cedric Austin Cup





# OUR CANDID CAMERA AT THE NATIONAL