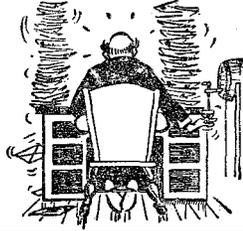


The Amateur Winemaker

Postal Subscription: 11/- per annum

**From the
Editor's
Chair**



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PROMISING

As the programme and show schedule, now in the hands of all Circle secretaries, proves a very great deal of thought and hard work has gone into the planning of the second Winemakers' National Conference and Show, this year being held at Bournemouth the weekend after Easter. The Bournemouth Circle is to be warmly congratulated upon its enterprise, for it has come up with many new and worthwhile ideas. It is in the organisation of the show that the Bournemouth winemakers have excelled, for they have thought up a schedule which will make this the first large wine show in its own right, as distinct from being an appendage of a show devoted to something else. There are classes for flower, fruit, vegetable, cereal and grape wines, both sweet and dry, wine from concentrate, wine from citrus fruit, wine from tree, shoot or herb, spiced wine, sparkling wine, and mead. There are classes for three bottles of wine, or for four bottles suitable for a dinner, there is a class for the best home winemaking invention, and one for the best design of label. Above all, there is a class for the best display by a winemakers' Circle. There are two imposing trophies to be won, and cash prizes. Such an enterprising schedule deserves the closest study-and the most wholehearted response-from all clubs and all individual winemakers. Bournemouth have done all the donkey work; will you please give them your unstinted support and make this conference a resounding success?

SENDING EXHIBITS

Do not be afraid to send your wine for competition by rail or carrier; as long as it is packed reasonably well (see instructions in schedule) it will travel safely, and if return carriage is pre-paid at the time of forwarding only half-rate will be charged for the return journey.

THE PROGRAMME

The large hall (at Bournemouth Town Hall) will hold a thousand (!) comfortably, and has a modem public address system, and there is an adjoining lounge to accommodate the show, trade stands, and exhibits. A

DO WE NEED A NATIONAL ORGANISATION?

Comments Mr. R. C. Lucas, Bournemouth's chairman, to whom we now hand over: The answer is undoubtedly "yes" if an annual Conference and Show is to be held. The number of Circles with the necessary facilities and willing to devote funds to organise such an event must be very limited, in fact only the few larger Circles could possibly contemplate taking the risk. Even then it has to be a Circle situated in a part of the country readily accessible and in a town having some attractions other than the proposed Conference, in order to cater for members and friends of winemakers not interested in all the Conference activities. From the opinions expressed at the Andover Conference in 1959 it seemed that winemakers do not want any form of organisation or federation that would require registration of members or affiliation fees, and it is true that winemakers have no need of an organisation to discuss matters or policy with a Ministry - - rather the reverse, in fact! It did seem, however, that many would welcome some national organisation to organise an annual conference and show and possibly recommend standards for classes, judging, types of bottles, etc. Unfortunately the meeting in conjunction with the National Honey Show at which these points were to be further discussed did not take place, since it was no one's job specifically to organise it.

ONE WAY

Since a national organisation must have some funds for incidental expenses, even if all the officers are voluntary, and as affiliation fees are taboo, would it not be possible to follow the example of the Beekeepers and form an organisation similar to the National Honey Show Ltd.? This is an organisation existing for the sole purpose of organising the annual Honey Show. It is a company limited by guarantee. Membership consists of individual and association members. Individual members pay an annual subscription of 7/6 and in return receive a membership badge, which carries right of entry to the show at any time. Classes for members without

further large room will be used as a cinema. The Friday evening is envisaged as an informal social affair where winemakers can get together and exchange notes, and delegates' badges to this end will be supplied. The Mayor will be present and there will be a buffet supper and some "hogsheads" of wine. The film show will be running continuously so that delegates can wander in and out to their hearts content. On Saturday there will be lectures, discussions and questions, and later on in the afternoon, time is being allowed for a business session on "Do we need a national body?" Here a microphone will be available on the floor of the hall for the use of delegates.

entry fees are also held and there are also other privileges. Association members-generally County Beekeeping Associations- pay an annual subscription of £3/3/- and in return are permitted to have classes in the show restricted to their own members. Whilst these subscriptions are not enough to cover all expenses they do provide a working capital to cover the preliminary expenses. Surely this type of organisation would be "just the job" for winemakers? At the Bournemouth Conference in April, time for business discussion is included and no doubt this question will be much to the fore.

Perhaps Circles can find time to put this on their respective Circle agendas and appoint delegates to come to Bournemouth. It would help if proposals could be submitted in writing to the Conference Chairman (Mr. C. J. Berry) prior to the Conference. This would enable him to call on speakers in order of receipt of proposals and would do much to shorten discussion. It may prove necessary to set a time limit for speakers in order that all proposals get a hearing. Now is the time for all Circles to express their views either in the next issue of the magazine or at the Conference.

Amateur Winemaker April 1960

ALL THAT'S NEW IN WINEMAKING!

24 CLASS WINE SHOW - VALUABLE CUPS AND PRIZES

Special Added Attractions:

Hear Herr Karl Thevessen, a leading German authority speak on "Home Winemaking in Germany."

See the latest German Winemaking Equipment and Materials.

Win a 5-gallon cask.

Win a Sherrard-Smith Fermentation Jar.

TICKETS 7/6, or 5/-, from 1 p.m. on Saturday

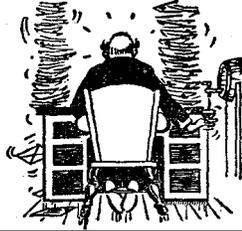
Schedules and Tickets from V. J. Tanks, 4 Elm Tree Walk, Parley Cross, Wimborne, Dorset

ALL Winemakers cordially invited. Conference and Show open to all whether club members or not

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1961 CONFERENCE

As the "Amateur Winemaker" went to press a meeting had been called at Andover (for Saturday, 29th October) to discuss the holding of a 1961 National Conference on the lines of those in previous years at Bournemouth, and Andover. (Those at the Bournemouth Conference will recall that the Editor was deputed to call such a meeting to consider the possibility of setting up a small permanent steering committee to run such a conference year by year). All existing Club's were invited to send representatives and at the time of writing (mid-October) it looks like being a well-attended meeting, for 19 clubs have already accepted. Items on the agenda include the desirability of forming such a committee, its composition, the location of the Conference, and the financing of it (to remove the burden upon any one club).

HERTFORD GET-TOGETHER

The winemakers of Hertford, led by their president, Mr. S. W. Andrews, are already well advanced with plans for another get-together on a smaller scale. They are arranging a Festival for the winemaking societies in their immediate area on 25th March, 1961, but are having to limit the attendance to 120 or so because of accommodation difficulties.

HAS HIS OWN TAVERN !

Hertford, incidentally, has some expert and enthusiastic winemakers, but none more so than "Andy," their president. Visiting the club recently, we went to his house afterwards for the late-night "session" that seems to be the pleasant and inevitable concomitant of such visits, and; after a few minutes conversation in the lounge, were mildly astonished to be conducted downstairs to his "Winemaker's Tavern," a completely equipped and very attractive wine bar which he has constructed in really professional style, in the basement. It was a winemaker's paradise, row upon row of gleaming bottles and jars, all attractively labeled and displayed, old beer tankards hanging from ceiling, and the walls and shelves decorated with dozens of prize cards won for honey (he's a beekeeper too) and wine. As if that were not enough, a further quite large cellar

HIGH QUALITY

Another visit to a Wine Guild which produced surprises was that to Harrow. The Guild there has been formed only 16 months, so one might have been forgiven for assuming that judging its first competition should not prove a very arduous task. How wrong we were! Well over 100 bottles of wine were exhibited in the three classes (dry, medium and sweet) and what was astonishing, even more than the quantity, was the extremely high standard. There were hardly a score of indifferent wines among them, the rest were much more than merely good, and judging became a real marathon both in terms of endurance and discrimination. For a club to have produced such remarkable results in so short a time is highly commendable.

NOVELTY THAT WILL BE POPULAR

Messrs. W. R. Loftus have produced a novelty that will have an instant appeal wine glass cloths with a home-made wine motif. Since they are really bright and colorful we see them adorning many clubs' display stands next summer. They are of good quality Irish linen, and printed in bright fast colours in a most attractive design, embodying recipes for primrose, elderberry, potato, rhubarb and damson wines. Three of the recipes omit any mention of yeast, but old hands will not fall into that heresy! We mention these cloths because they really are attractive and well worth the 4/6 they cost. If you want an apt small Christmas gift for a winemaker, here's, an idea.

OUR CARTOONIST

Several readers have asked us who draws the cartoons which are such a popular "Amateur Winemaker" feature. So meet REX ROYLE, jovial 33 year-old Andoverian who, after a long struggle, is now making a name for himself nationally as a cartoonist. Rex started his art studies at a school in Austria, whilst still in the Army, and when he was "demobbed" in 1948 decided to try to break into the cartoon market, by no means an easy task. He has been studying art intensively and doing art work professionally ever since - he also designs Christmas cards, greeting cards, and children's drawing books with

leading off this little bar was crammed with wine, all neatly binned or otherwise stored-gallons and gallons and GALLONS of it! There must have been several hundred gallons, but it defied a quick estimate. It was certainly the most impressive display by any winemaker that we have- ever seen and we hope to show readers pictures of it soon. Back in the little bar, needless to say, conversation on wine topics amongst our group of six lasted into the small hours. As a place to spend a stimulating evening, we can recommend "The Winemaker's Tavern"!

excellent colored illustrations (quite unlike his "A.W." contributions!). He has a daughter of his own, aged eight. His cartoons have been meeting with increasing success, particularly in the last year. His always original jokes-he insists on devising all his own-have appeared in the Sketch, the Daily Mirror, the Daily Herald, Reveille, the Sunday Graphic, the News of the World, and the People, and many magazines and are now syndicated abroad-so watch out for his signature. But the "Amateur Winemaker" can claim to be the first to publish his work. "You gave me my start," he says, and that is good to know. In answer to your unspoken question: No, he's not a winemaker himself - yet!