

From the Editor's Chair

PROMISING FOR CLACTON

As I write this, halfway through February, there comes the cheering news that we now have well over 400 firm bookings for the National Conference and Show at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Clacton, on April 23, 24 and 25. Bookings were due to close on 26 February, so it seems certain that we shall get the 500 we hoped for and, if there are a few latecomers who have forgotten to post their forms we may even exceed that number. No doubt Butlin's would allow us one or two days grace, but 26 February was the official closing date and if you have not booked by the time you receive this magazine, and intended to do so, write at once to Mr. W. Millett, 196 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, enclosing the booking form (from your Circle secretary) and fee, or you really will be too late. Even so, you may be disappointed, I should warn you, although we do not want to be too rigid about it. We are, however, in the hands of Butlin's in this respect, and it will only by their courtesy if any late bookings are accepted.

ENTRIES

By the time these notes appear schedules will be in the hands of all Circle secretaries and previous exhibitors; if you have not had one, please send for one to Mr. J. W. Mann, "Burnside," 35 Kenton Park Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, who will be pleased to forward one. Now is the time to be exploring your cellar and sorting out your entries, so as to have plenty of time for choosing and preparing them. Remember that **ENTRIES CLOSE ON MARCH 29** and must by then be in the hands of Mr. W. Martin, of 78 Broomhill Road, Minley Estate, Farnborough, Hants.



THE PROGRAMME

Show stands and trade stands will be set up on the Friday afternoon, and during the evening the Conference will be assembling, and everyone be bringing their exhibits. After dinner there will be a concert, but the officials meantime will be busy, the judges and their stewards will be getting

their briefing, and the show stewards will be setting out the exhibits. The judging will take place on the Saturday morning, and one interesting innovation will be that some of the actual classes will be used as the practical section of the examination for the first candidates for the Guild of Judges. At lunch there will be a speech of welcome and the afternoon will be devoted to a Forum, with pairs of speakers debating items of interest, and a talk by Mr. Bryan Acton on "Making Wines Like Those You Buy." Dinner in the evening will be followed by a

wine party, and for an hour (before the party, we hope!) judges will be available at the show bench to expound the why's and wherefors of their judging.

Two main items on the Sunday: A talk by Mrs. Suzanne Tritton, long famous as a leading wine expert, and one by a well-known author, Mr. George Ordish, whose book "Wine Growing in England," is a little classic. Finally, we shall have lunch, and the presentation of trophies. But above all, at Clacton there should be plenty of time for meeting one's friends and having a good natter, since we shall all be under the one roof. All in all, the prospect is a promising one for the 1965 National.

AMATEUR WINEMAKER APRIL 1965

GREAT NEWS ABOUT CLACTON

Writing last month about bookings for the National Conference and Show to be held at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Clacton, on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of this month, I said that it "seems certain that we shall get the 500 we hoped for ... and that we may even exceed that number." Even this, as it turns out, was an understatement, for by the time that issue of the magazine had gone to press we had close on 800! This exceeds even the expectations of the committee who, needless to say, are delighted at the popularity of the innovation. Just how much work this wonderful response has entailed for accommodation officer, Bill Millett, needs little imagining, for each booking means two or three letters, and this must have been no light task. One question he had to answer several times, and that was whether those attending the Conference were entitled to the full facilities of Butlin's for the week-end. Some apparently found it hard to believe that the week-end could be offered at so low a price. The answer is that the full facilities of the camp will be available to all winemakers attending. Bookings, it should be noted, are now closed.

LATE NEWS FLASH: Final Clacton bookings, 791, plus 38 for Saturday only.

HANDBOOK

One thing has astonished (and pleased) me over the last two or three months-the lack of comment about the handbook "Judging Home-made Wines," produced by the Amateur Winemakers' National Guild of Judges. This may seem a rather peculiar observation, but I make it because to me this absence of comment means that the book has been found so good that it has won general acceptance. There have been one or two minor criticisms, it is true, but they are minor, and it is true to say that the book's main approach and principles seem to have won general acceptance. This is a great tribute to the hard and detailed work of the committee and sub-committees who produced it, led with great enthusiasm by Mr. S. W. Andrews.

From the Editors Chair

JOINING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Several inquiries have reached the "A.W." editorial office recently about individual and Circle membership of the Amateur Winemakers' National Conference and Show, and this is perhaps an opportune moment to go into some detail, because on 1 May, 1965, a new membership scheme comes into force. Any individual (not only members of Circles) can now become a full member of the Conference by subscribing one guinea per annum, and Wine Circles can join by subscribing two guineas. Membership, of course, carries definite benefits, which can be summarised as follows : For individuals-

1. Free admission to Annual Conference.
2. A distinctive Member's Badge.
3. Exhibit in classes restricted to Members at reduced entry fees.
4. Compete for a Members Only Trophy.
5. A copy of Programme and Schedule direct by post as soon as published.
6. Priority for admission tickets to any activity organised by the Conference.
7. Copy of audited annual accounts and full information on any matters of interest issued by the Committee.
8. The feeling that one is supporting a Conference and Show organised by voluntary workers for the especial benefit of wine and beer makers.

Wine Circles which subscribe two guineas per annum will be entitled to :

1. Two free Conference tickets.
2. Two Conference Badges.
3. One Delegate to attend the A.G.M. with full voting rights.
4. Copies of programme and schedule direct by post as soon as published .
5. Priority for admission tickets to any activity organised by the Conference.
6. Copies of audited annual accounts, agenda for A.G.M. and full information on any matters of interest issued by the Committee.
7. The advice of the Conference Committee on any matters appertaining to the organisation of local or regional shows, festivals, etc.
8. The feeling that one is supporting a Conference and Show organised by voluntary workers for the especial benefit of wine and beer makers.

The first year's membership will run from 1 May, 1965, to 30 September, 1966, and the free Conference admission and the special Members' classes will therefore not be available until the 1966 Conference. Subscriptions should be sent to the honorary Membership Secretary: Mrs. L. K. Lucas, Molburn House, Lone Pine Drive, Ferndown, Wimborne, Dorset, and cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to The Amateur Winemakers' National Conference. A Banker's Order will be sent on request to any member preferring to pay by this method. Associations are requested to give full title, and name and address of Secretary or other official to whom correspondence should be addressed. Principal officers of the National Conference and Show are: Chairman, Mr. C. J. J. Berry, North Croye, the Avenue, Andover, Hants ; vice-chairman, Mr. S. W. Andrews, 6 Tamworth Road, Hertford, Herts; hon. secretary, Wing Comd. R. W. Woodley, Burnside, Chalkpit Lane, Monxton, near Andover, Hants ; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. C. Lucas, Molburn House, Lone Pine Drive, Ferndown, Wimborne, Dorset.