



From the Editor's Chair

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE NATIONAL

I hear that there was a surprise at the first meeting of the committee of the National Association of Amateur Winemakers following the annual general meeting. (The committee elects the officers of the Association from its own membership so that all the various tasks can be shared amongst them). "Andy" Andrews, the Association's popular chairman, declined to take this office again, and Dr. R. A. Webb was elected in his stead. It is an open secret that Mr. Andrews has found it hard going in the past year or so, being chairman of both National and of the Guild of Judges, and the double job must have thrown a great strain upon his time and energies, for he has not spared himself in either. He retains the Guild chairmanship and, of course, his membership of the National Committee, on which he is the Convenor of Judges for the annual show. His successor to the chairmanship, Dr. R. A. Webb, is one of the longest serving members of the National Committee, having served since its inception and having done a whole range of jobs in it, from running the tombola to arranging the entire lecture programme.

STEWARDS WANTED

Incidentally, if you are thinking of attending the National next year—it is being held at a holiday camp at Caister-on-Sea, nr. Gt. Yarmouth, April 3rd, 4th and 5th and you would like to act as a judges steward (this is essential if you wish to become a judge yourself one day by taking the Guild examination) you should contact Mr. S. W. Andrews now, and volunteer. His address is Leith Villa, 6 Tamworth Road, Hertford, Herts. A large number of judges stewards will be required and it is an excellent opportunity to be with a National judge on this important occasion, and again valuable experience.

Guild and National AGMs at Birmingham

This year for the first time the experiment was tried of having the annual meetings of the Amateur Winemakers National Guild of Judges and of the National Association the same weekend, at Birmingham, to avoid many of those who are involved in both meetings having to give up two weekends. The idea was an undoubted success both socially and organisationally.

The Guild members, a muster (with their wives and husbands) of over 60, met at the Cobden Hotel, and had their annual meeting on the Saturday afternoon. The Chairman, Mr. S. W. Andrews, reported that entrance examinations for the Guild had been held during the year at Southport, Hull, Cardiff, Greenford, and Burton-on-Trent later in the month, and in all 20 Candidates had been examined and 8 had been successful in obtaining a pass. In addition, the first examinations in judging beer were held at Greenford. Two Candidates were examined and both were successful. The total number of Candidates examined was now 144 of whom 68 had been successful in obtaining a pass.

The A.G.M. itself produced a lively debate about membership for those who for reasons of health found that they could not continue active judging. Everyone wanted them to have their services recognised by being granted some form of membership but everyone had their own idea what the membership should be called —“Associate?” “Life?”, “Past Service?” or just plain “Past?”. Finally the last won the day and these members will be shown on the roll as “Past Members” so they are not embarrassed with invitations to judge.

The most useful part of the judges' weekend was undoubtedly the before-dinner group discussions on such topics as the appreciation of types of beer, how to sub-divide or otherwise deal with the very large classes when judging, the colour classification of home-made wines, and how best to judge three-bottle classes. These provided some lively and most useful thinking, which was summed up by the four group leaders in a further session on Sunday morning.

THE NATIONAL

The Annual Meeting of the National Association, held at the Civil Service Club, Birmingham, on the Sunday afternoon, with a satisfyingly large attendance, produced few fireworks but some useful debate.

The feature of the meeting was the adoption of a new Constitution, proposed by the committee, under which membership will be open to affiliated societies, individual members and associate members. (“Affiliated Societies” are organised clubs paying the annual subscription and individual members are those paying their own subscription and becoming members in their own right. “Associate Members” may be nominated by affiliated societies, and have their sub paid by their society.)

The idea is that individual members shall have one vote, and affiliated societies two votes, plus one for each ten associate members. The result of this it is obviously hoped, will be that “he who pays the piper calls the tune”.

This committee recommendation was finally approved, but only after another proposal by the

Yorkshire Federation for a different constitution had been defeated. Yorkshire wanted to see membership organised through the medium of the new Groups or Federations of clubs, and Mr. G. Styles argued this case powerfully, but without avail.

The only other resolution of any importance, passed after some opposition by Dr. Lucas, was that the committee's travelling and subsistence allowances should be increased.

Mr. C. J. J. Berry, A.W. Editor and a former chairman of the National, was installed as President by his predecessor, Mr. R. C. Lucas, who was thanked for his services, and those elected to the committee in a ballot were Dr. R. A. Webb, Mr. S. W. Andrews, Mr. K. Hill, Wing Cdr. R. W. Woodley and Miss Disney, of Derby Winemakers. (The committee elects the officers at its first meeting).

