
Association of Federations

Federation Delegates approve new constitution

The first business of the Delegates Meeting of the Association of Federations held at Sheldon, Birmingham recently, was to approve the Constitution drawn up for the Association. Concise but sufficiently comprehensive, it was approved without any significant controversy.

The main points of this constitution are primarily the objects of the Association to represent the interests of wine and beer makers Federations and to promote liaison between

them. Secondly the membership shall consist of Federations which have a circle membership exceeding five.

On display at the meeting was the new Association stand carrying the now famous map of Federation boundaries. It was agreed that this should be on display at as many Regional and National shows as possible. The Associations proposal to inovate special Federation classes at the National has been agreed and that in the next National Schedule two new classes will appear for entry by Federations. A three bottle class of wines for a meal—dry red, dry white, and dessert, and a three bottle class of beer—lager, pale ale, and irish type stout.

The National have promised a trophy for the first, and the Association will provide a trophy for the second. At present the Association has eleven member Federations and three or four more interested and attending delegates meetings as observers. Present members are: Essex, Middlesex, Midlands, Wales and West, N.W. Counties, Yorkshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, E. Midlands, N.W. Kent, N. Yorks and S. Durham, 23/25. Any Federations still on the outside and requiring more details of the Association are invited to contact the P.R.O., J. H. Toule, 40 Bromley Heath Road, Downend, Bristol. The next meeting of the Association will be the A.G.M. and will be held at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham on Sunday, 2nd February, 1975 at 1.30 p.m. You can get a very good lunch at the Hotel prior to the meeting. Access is easy. M6 Junction 4, A446, A45, past the airport and its on your left with ample car parking.

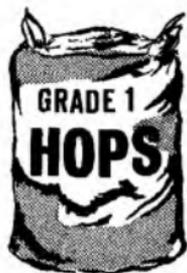
Please note these dates for forthcoming Festivals:

- 22nd February—23/25—Purley.
- 4th—6th April—North West—Southport.
- 19th April—Wales and West—Trowbridge.
- (23rd April—The National—Bognor.)
- 3rd May—Essex—Silver End.
- 21st June—Oxford and S. Midlands—Oxford.
- 4th October—Middlesex.
- 18th October—Midlands—Dudley.

NEW MEMBERSHIP RULES FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The secretary of the National Association of Wine and Beermakers (Amateur), Ken Bilham, of 24 Wilson Road, Chessington, Surrey, tells us that under the new constitution and rules, annual membership subscriptions are as follows: (a) and individual member, unattached to any Wine or Beer Circle, Circle membership, Federation membership, £2.00; (b) Individual current paid up member of a circle, (with membership exceeding fourteen), Circle membership where affiliated to a Federation (with not less than six members circles, £1.50; (c) Individual members whose circle is currently affiliated with not less than six member circles, £1.00.

Members may name only one Circle or Federation in each financial year. Application to the secretary for membership from circles must include a list of the names and addresses of officers and a certification that the circle has a membership of at least fifteen members. Where a member circle has fifteen or more paid-up members of the N.A.W.B. in one financial year, that circle shall be entitled to a rebate of 20p per N.A.W.B. member. All refunds must be claimed from the treasurer, Mr. Peter Awbery, Forest Lodge, Challock, Ashford, Kent. Applications from Federations for membership shall include the names of member circles with the name and address of the secretary. Members and prospective members must note that subscriptions not paid or renewed by 31st December will be deemed to have elapsed and will render the person or circle concerned ineligible to compete in the next National Show, e.g. if you do not pay your subscriptions by 31st of December, 1974—the "National" next year at Bognor Regis is "out" for you as far as entry to competition is concerned and a re-registration fee of £2.00 will be payable.



DOUBTS ABOUT 1974 HOP CROP

No comment is really necessary on the months that are humorously called our "Summer Season" or, more particularly, on the crucial weeks when the hop crop reached fruition.

Torrential rains and gale-force winds during the week-end of 31st August flattened several hundred acres of hops in the South East and the buffeting taken by the cones will be reflected in the appearance of the majority of the crop.

Working under these conditions presented many difficulties to the labour force and it is still too early to say whether the total quantity harvested will be sufficient for the contracted demands.

The home brewing fraternity must therefore be prepared to see hops of much less attractive appearance than normally, but thanks to previously agreed marketing arrangements it is not anticipated that the average price will be substantially increased, although grade prices may have a marked variation. Over and above this, however, is the considerable increase in the cost of packaging materials and the ever advancing charges for carriage and cartage, which must have due effect.

N. H.

