

UNEVENTFUL A.G.M. FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Despite the sudden cancellation of this year's Conference and Show—which some had predicted would provoke discussion—the annual general meeting of the National Association of Wine and Beer-makers passed off very quietly indeed, with debate on no topic of major importance.

It was reported that the Association now had 1,100 members, but less than seventy made the journey to Birmingham for the A.G.M.

After the opening remarks of the President, "Andy" Andrews, the report of the Chairman, Mr. Ken Hill, naturally concentrated upon recapitulating the reasons for the cancellation, and was accepted by the meeting.

The treasurer's report for the year ending June 1974 (covering the Margate conference) showed that the turnover

for the year was up from £2,783 to £3,147, but that there had been a loss on the year's working of £270, as opposed to £220 the previous year. This had reduced the Association's capital to £1,343, and its total resources were now £1,798. The accounts were adopted and subsequently, after Mr. K. Bilham had given a detailed explanation of how the membership subscriptions were spent, the annual subscription was increased from £2 to £4.

Those elected to serve on the Executive (which itself appoints its members to various duties) were: Mrs. F. Dobson (representing Circles), Mr. K. T. Bilham (representing Federations), Mrs. S. Hill (representing the A.W.N. Guild of Judges), Mrs. M. Leggett, Mrs. F. Stagg, Mr. P. Awbery, Mr. A. Briggs, Mr. R. Butcher, Mr. G. Christmas, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. K. Hill, Mr. D. B. Ives,

Mr. L. Stagg, Mr. A. B. Smith and Mr. N. Wilkenson. Miss S. Varley, Mr. F. Bastin and Mr. P. Delmon have retired,

Suggestions for mementos for all past and retiring committee members, and for badges of office for Past Presidents, proposed by Mr. Stan Balier and Mr. K. Bilham respectively, were turned down, at least for this year.

Mr. Bill Martin, a former long-serving member of the executive, was elected the new President for 1975-6.

The only other business was a proposition by Mr. Stan Baker that a salaried general secretary (full or part-time) be appointed, a post that Mr. K. Bilham offered to fill, but the idea was vetoed in the present financial circumstances.

Next year's National (book the date!) will be at Nottingham University from 9th to 11th April.