

# ASSOCIATION OF FEDERATIONS MEET

Amongst items discussed at the Delegates meeting of the Association of Federations, held at the Wheatsheaf Hotel at Sheldon, Birmingham recently, the subject of administration difficulties of the Federations and their member circles was discussed at length and the chairman, John Toule, reminded those attending that this was the reason for such meetings and delegates should always feel free to voice any opinions they felt strongly about regarding the winemaking movement in general.

It has been decided to adopt the North-West Federation's pattern of competition label and to keep the cost down, Federations have been asked to "get together" through the Association so that they may be ordered in bulk.

Some fears had been expressed in view of correspondence which had appeared in the winemaking press that the Guild of Judges might not favour the training and appointment of regional Judges. Delegates assured the meeting that their Federations were not guilty of any form of "quackery", and that the appointment of Regional Judges was pure expediency and followed the principles laid down by the Guild, also that all candidates were encouraged to go on to become "National" judges. Training schemes were circulated to members and there was a high success rate in the Guild Exam for regional judges.

Other points were discussed such as communication and liaison between federations. Next year there are two festivals taking place on the same day—16th October, the Middlesex, and the North-West, although this was due to availability of venues and not lack of liaison. The Midlands Festival will be on 9th October and the Essex Winemakers Festival being held on 31st May, 1976.

The annual general meeting will take place at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Sheldon, Birmingham on 29th February, 1976 at 2 p.m.