

Letters you write:

Association of Federations

John Toule, P.R.O. of the Association of Federations, reports on the reaction to the National Committee's rejection of an integration proposal.

At the Association of Federations meeting at Meriden in October the main business of the afternoon was the proposed integration with N.A.W.B. and the reaction of the National committee to this idea. It was explained how the Association had prepared a mandate showing how it proposed carrying on its work for the Federations under the umbrella of the National instead of existing as an independent body. It was pointed out in this mandate that the National committee was too involved in the organisation of a National show to spend much time on the interests of the Federations.

The response of the majority of the National committee to this was that there was no need for this integration, that the Federation representative on the National committee could take care of all that was necessary. This was felt by the meeting to underline a very naive view of the function of Federations by the National committee.

The meeting then pointed out that whilst the National represents 7-800 members, the Association of Federations represents 10 member Federations comprising in total over 10,000 members. This is a body not easily pushed under the mat.

At this point it was resolved that the Association of Federations would not renew its subscription to the National and that many Federations might follow suit. It was pointed out that before the inception of the Association of Federations, there were no Federations as members of the National and most if not all of the present member Federations were members of the Association of Federations. It was therefore resolved that the Association would carry on its work without the support of the

National committee if this was not forthcoming.

Discussion then centred on regional judges, regional association groups, and multi-club meetings to justify the expense of top line speakers.

The question of an up to date register of U.K. wine circles was then raised. The Association does possess such a list which needs updating. The many requests from organisations and individuals for such information has underlined the need for this. Alan Smith was therefore appointed liaison officer to organise this function. The meeting then considered inter-Federation meetings—a point often considered for getting neighbouring Federations together. It was thought that the best way would be to stage these meetings at appropriate Federation wine shows. The Wales and West show at Pontins Holiday Camp at Brean, Somerset from 6th to 8th April, 1979, and the Midlands show on 13th October in the Birmingham area were suggested as very suitable.

It would appear that after a docile existence for five years, the Association of Federations is in a fighting mood.