

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR WINEMAKERS

*News and
Views
Occasional*

MAY 1968

*"I now feel I belong to an Association instead of some secret society which
one contacted once a year at the National,"*

Extract of a letter received from D. G. Sayers

Dear fellow members,

Most of you treated my efforts in the first newsletter very kindly, and while there were criticisms, nobody was downright abusive. Now here comes News and Views No.2, and we'll see if we can change all that!

The current news of the Association is, of course, the news from Torquay. The straightforward statistics are that some 150 members were there, together with an estimated 600 other winemakers, and altogether they produced 3,265 bottles for exhibition (and possibly twice this number for consumption); also various photographic, gastronomic, artistic, exotic, and eccentric items for the miscellaneous classes. The Trophy winners for this year were:

The Shaw Porter Cup...	...	...	Mrs. R. Dodds, Mr. W. G. Dunkley.
Bournemouth Master Winemakers Cup	Mrs. R. Dodds.		
The Andrews Cup	...	...	Mr. W. S. Owen.
Turner Trophy...	...	...	Dr. J. C. Harrison.
Amateur Winemaker Shield	...	...	West Kent Winemaking Club.
Hill Cup...	...	...	Mrs. G. Williams.
Atcherley Trophy...	...	...	Mr. L. Green.
Cedric Austin Cup	...	...	Mr. J. H. Toule.
Gordon Instone Cup	...	...	Mr. and Mrs. Skelton.
Lucas Cup	...	...	Mr. W. B. Aggas.
Marconi Club Trophy...	...	...	Faversham Amateur Winemakers Guild.
Wilf Newson Cup	...	...	Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. D. Moon.
Roycroft Cup	...	...	Mrs. G. Williams, Mr. H. Harper.
Eric Malin Trophy	...	...	Mrs. A. Newton, Mr. F. Foster, Mrs. B. Ward, Mr. E. Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. F. Russell.
Bastin Cup	...	...	Mr. and Mrs. A. Mountford, Mr. D. Garrett.
Beal Trophy...	...	...	Mrs. M. Gregory.
Southern Vineyards Trophy...	...	...	Mrs. M. Gregory
Loftus Cup	...	...	Mr. F. W. Rose
Hidalgo Trophy.....	...	...	Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Russell

Congratulations to them, and all other prizewinners.

Financially the Show did not quite 'break even this year, but socially it was an undoubted success. Could it be otherwise? Admittedly there were some groans at the very crushed accommodation provided on Saturday evening. You do all realise, I hope, that the Civic Reception is in no way the responsibility of the Committee, nor should it be considered as something you have paid for in your admission charge to the Conference. It is entirely arranged, and given by, the Civic authority, and those present will remember that the Mayor of Torquay tendered a sincere apology for the shortage of accommodation in the Hall on Saturday evening.

Let me now apologise to the general stewards in case I led anyone astray, and to any past stewards whose efforts I tended to minimise. It has been brought home to me that the work involved is neither short nor sharp. It tends to extend into one hard grind, certainly for the conscientious ones, so I put on record now the thanks of all members to Leslie Stagg, George Shrubsole and all the helpers at Torquay. And also for the record. Thank you, Torbay, for your welcome.

Lastly - a word on those mistakes. How does it happen that prizes and trophies can be awarded to the wrong person and the error only found at the

last moment? Well, nobody can ever say why mistakes happen, but many of the very important results sheets had errors on them, and I myself spent much of Saturday afternoon moving from the Show benches to the office and back again trying to decide which result of two - or even three sometimes - was the correct result. It is simply a case of some 60 or more 'persons being absolutely certain that what they write down is correct. Although Jim Luker took it upon himself to apologise for the errors, it cannot be said that he was to blame for them.

BACK TO No.1

The criticisms didn't pour in in a flood, but I have been asked by several Members to include a fuller account of the A.G.M. proceedings. I accept full blame for not so doing, and in future (if I last that long on the job). I will remedy this. I feel it is now too late to cover the last A.G.M., particularly as official minutes are being circulated. However, I can comment on the creation, at the A.G.M., of the Office of President of the Association, and the unanimous election of Mr. Cyril Lucas to that premier position in the Winemaking world.

ON A PRESIDENTIAL THUMBNAIL

Cyril Lucas, if not already known to every Member, should be, for he has been one of the dedicated workers towards the formation and successful continuation of this Association. He has always been a very keen, and very successful beekeeper, and thus started off his winemaking days by making mead and fruit flavoured *meads*. This was about 1946 when sugar was difficult to obtain, but as sugar became available so he turned his hand to more general winemaking. In 1957 he founded the Bournemouth Circle, of which he was Chairman for some five years, and by 1959/60 this Circle was quite competent to *stage* the Second National 'Conference (which included the first National Meeting and the first Civic Reception). He was the first General Secretary of the Association, and in recent years has very ably managed the financial affairs in his capacity as Treasurer.

He was also one of those responsible for the formation of the National Guild of Judges, of which Guild he is Vice-Chairman. Needless to say, all these offices demand 'a great deal of spare time and energy, and for 10 years now. Cyril has given generously of both.

Although semi-retired, his career has been that of Financier (hence his ability to handle our affairs so successfully) and one of his other absorbing (and equally successful) hobbies has been golf.

In all these activities, Cyril Lucas has been aided and abetted by his wife, Lilian, who has not only assisted him in a wifely way, but has also, for some years, been a committee member in her own right. To both of the Lucases then we must say "Thank you indeed. Your efforts have not been unappreciated." The Committee, in wishing to show some small measure of this, appreciation have offered to both Mr. and Mrs. Lucas an Honorary Life Membership of the Association.

AND NOW - YOUR VIEWS

(1) The Title of this Newsletter. I had about twenty suggestions, but the most popular was definitely - "Keep it as it is." So I have. I liked the double meaning in "The Grapevine" suggested by Mrs. Brooks and also Miss Stokes. Have just received a letter from Mr. Elvin Plant containing eleven title suggestions - not all repeatable!

2) My view on "sensible winemakers" was not universally acceptable. & Mr. A. H. Barlow wrote - "There's still a lot of fun in being an accentric winemaker. Please don't pension us off,"

(3) May we have more copies? Circles are finding problems in circulating two copies, between fifty members. Much as we would like to offer our 80 member Circles 50 copies each, this just isn't on. We will continue to supply two copies per Circle free, but spare copies may be purchased from me (as long as they last) at cost price of 5/- per dozen.

For husband and wife double memberships, I send a single copy for them to share over the breakfast table, but they are entitled to two free copies and may have both regularly if desired. One committee member stated emphatically "One's enough in our house, thank you." I'm not quite sure how I take that!

(4) Mr. Dick Garrett of Luton suggests some sort of liason between teachers of winemaking at Evening Classes, to pool ideas at least. It would be very difficult to do anything more than this I'm afraid, but such a pool of ideas may be extremely helpful to those concerned. Perhaps regular teachers of winemaking would like to comment on this.

BEHIND THE SCREENS

Committee meetings so far this year have been concerned with arrangements for a successful National. We have not forgotten the motions for a look at Regional representation, accommodation lists, etc., and now the National is over for this year, your -committee will be dealing with these, and other problems. Incidentally, now we are beginning to think about the date of the next A.G.M., when would you, the Members, really like it to be held?

Finally, to borrow a phrase that I rather like from Dick Garrett, who signs his letters "yours fraternally" when he writes to me,

Yours fraternally,

PHILIP DELMON