



National Association of Amateur Winemakers

News and Views

Occasional

January, 1969



*"The Association exists to serve
all amateur winemakers."*

From our advertisement in
"The Amateur Winemaker,"

95 Park Avenue North,
Northampton,
NN3 2HX

DEAR MEMBER(S),

Those are brave words indeed that I have quoted on the front page of this letter. Some even believe they are mere wishful thinking, but let me reassure all members that the Committee work with the earnest intention of bringing this about. They have the interests of ALL winemakers at heart. The Association is for winemakers, and we are searching for any ways in which we can help the amateur in his hobby. But we winemakers are a funny lot. When one visits different guilds and circles around the country, one finds an amazing difference in the ideals and intentions of the individual Circles. Some are entirely competitive, others very socially minded; some business-like, others free and easy; some very "National-looking" or "Regionally-minded," others with no interest outside their own thriving Circle affairs. How can we help all winemakers when they all appear to want different things?

The biggest job we achieve of course, is to provide the National Show—for those that want it—and even those who say they don't want it, find considerable pleasure, yes, and help, from it when it is held near enough for them to be able to attend.

Another little thing we do is publish this Newsletter. Admittedly it is on a very small scale at the moment, but it does, I hope, inform members of what is going on, and since it is not subsidised by any advertising matter, we are quite free to publish honest criticism of books, materials or other accessories to our hobby. One day perhaps we will develop to the thick, glossy, quarterly magazine (like "Drive"?) and perhaps then it alone will be worth five times your guinea membership. N.B. We shall need another editor before then!

THE A.G.M.

Enough of Editorial—what about News?

First, a few notes about the A.G.M. for the benefit of those who didn't come. We were very pleased to have our President, Mr. Cyril Lucas, with us for the occasion, and also to have the opportunity to meet other friends from different parts of the country gathered together in that rather sombre room in Red Lion Square. We were not so pleased to see that the balance sheet showed a loss for the year, but Fred Bastin's account of the rise in printing costs over the past year showed where one of our main difficulties lies.

Elected to the Committee for the year were Mesdames Hill and Martin, and Messrs Luker, Martin and Stagg. One feels very sorry always that any aspirant to committee work has to be defeated, because volunteers to do work of this nature really are most welcome. (I was defeated once myself, but I kept on trying, and look at me now—up to my ears in it!)

The Committee's proposal to introduce Associate Membership was carried, and it is up to all of us to make it work. We would all like to see a large National Association (I *think* all of us would) with the larger fraction of all discerning amateur winemakers in the country claiming membership. And wearing the badge, which will then mean something nationally.

Equally important perhaps was the approval of a select committee to re-appraise the Constitution. Many points were brought out during the discussions at the A.G.M. which will be considered in the amending of the Constitution, which amendments will be submitted at the next A.G.M.

The rest of the A.G.M., strangely perhaps, was a long list of motions lost or motions withdrawn. It doesn't often happen this way but it certainly happened this time. However, even though these subsequent motions were lost, there was a great deal of healthy discussion, which is what A.G.M.'s are for, i.e. for the members and representatives to say what they feel about the running and the policy of their Association.

BRIGHTON IN 1970

One final point from the A.G.M. Following a certain amount of spadework by Bill Millett, who certainly had plenty of facts at his fingertips, the 1970 Show will be held at Brighton. The authorities have said they don't mind having us.

Well, that was the A.G.M., and since it was last November, perhaps it is no longer News. Since then there has been the "Carve Up" committee meeting—the one where we all allocate the difficult jobs to each other. There have been several important changes, so if I list the full committee now, together with their various responsibilities, you will know exactly who to blame for what.

Chairman and Convenor of Judges	S. W. "Andy" Andrews
Vice-Chairman and P.R.O.	Dr. R. A. Webb
General Secretary	Mrs. S. Hill
Treasurer	F. W. Forster
Membership Secretary	Mrs. D. R. Martin
Entries Secretary	P. Awbery
Show Supervisor	W. Millett
Chief Steward	L. P. Stagg
Assistant Chief Steward	C. W. Martin
Supplies Officer	F. G. Bastin
Awards Secretary	J. C. Luker
Schedule Secretary	W/Commander R. W. Woodley
Programme Secretary	K. Hill
Journal Editor	P. J. Delmon

Even then, there are some jobs that some of us are "doubling up" on, and when it comes to Southport, well you can put any name there against the honorary post of Show Dogsboddy.

You may well be surprised to find the omission of Cyril Berry from this list, and you will probably be as disappointed as all members of the committee were, to hear that he has had to resign from the committee due to pressure of work elsewhere. This is quite a blow to the Association as a whole, because as our first Chairman, and more recently as Vice-Chairman, he has carried a great deal of work on his shoulders, and discharged it effectively and smilingly. We can only hope that he will find time to give advice and encouragement to us, and we hope we shall see him at Southport, Brighton and many many more Nationals to come.

I have been writing this early in January. I don't know how long it will be before you get it, but I hope it is not too late to wish you a very happy, prosperous and prizewinning New Year.

Philip Delmon

P.S. *You know my address—it's at the top of page 2.*