

The seventh Amateur Winemakers' National Conference and Show on 23, 24 and 25 April will certainly be remembered as "the National" with a difference." Firstly it was the biggest National yet in the numerical sense, for over 2,000 bottles of wine were exhibited by more than 400 exhibitors; secondly it was the first National to be held

THE AMATEUR WINEMAKER

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“NATIONAL” WITH A DIFFERENCE

Whilst Princess Margaret was visiting a Butlin's holiday camp at Minehead, 850 winemakers were doing likewise at Clacton!

at a Butlin's holiday camp, a factor which gave it a character all its own.

No less than 800 people availed themselves of the opportunity to book in for "a week-end at Butlins" and some 50 more had taken day tickets for the Saturday.

The fact that we were all there under the one roof for the whole week-end meant that the programme was not so crowded, and that everyone had more leisure than has been the case in previous years; there was ample time to meet old friends, exchange samples, and "have a natter." Being at Butlins meant that other amusement facilities were available if desired, and everyone enjoyed the novelty of the holiday camp surroundings.

Holding the National at a Butlins camp had many advantages--everyone was under one roof, the cost was most reasonable, and above all, one could make it a family week-end, as many did to an unprecedented extent.

The disadvantages seemed to be that even our 850 tended to be lost in the maze of the camp, and to be too dispersed, and it was a pity that the wine exhibition and trade stands were quite so far from the lecture theatre and main lounge and bar. It was perhaps these factors which marred the wine and cheese party on the Saturday evening, which was not as successful as in previous years. But these are minor, if justified, criticisms (made with all the wisdom of hindsight!).

The successes of the week-end certainly outweighed them, and the winemakers were grateful for the remarkable co-operation which they received from the camp management on every point.

The Conference assembled on the Friday afternoon and evening, and whilst exhibits were being received the judges and their stewards were being briefed by the Convener, Mr. S. W. Andrews.

Judging started immediately after breakfast on the Saturday morning and went on until lunch time (and in one or two classes for a short while afterwards). Judging was slowed a little in a few classes because the opportunity was taken to use them as the practical portion of the first examination of the National Guild of Judges. Would-be members judged with the actual National judge, who could assess their performance, and they later took a viva voce test.

Lunch time saw the company welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. C. J. Berry, and after lunch there was a forum at which pairs of speakers debated items of controversial interest. Later Mr. Bryan Acton spoke on "Making Wines like those you buy," and after dinner judges were at the Classes they had judged to answer questions from exhibitors, a feature of the Conference programme introduced for the first time last year and immediately popular.

Sunday morning was devoted to two extremely worthwhile talks, one by Mrs. Suzanne Tritton, of Grey Owl Laboratories, on "Wine from Fruit," and one by Mr. George Ordish, author of "Wine Growing in England," upon "Wine from Your Own Grapes."

The awards were presented by the Chairman of Clacton Urban District Council, Cllr. Bilby, J.P., and the Conference proper ended with luncheon, at which the Committee were thanked for all their work and planning by Mr. B. C. A. Turner, President of the Harrow Guild.

THE COMMITTEE

The Organising Committee consisted of: *Chairman:* C. J. J. BERRY, Andover. *Vice-Chairman and Convenor of Judges:* S. W. ANDREWS, Leith Villa, Hertford.

General Secretary: Wing Cmdr. R. WOODLEY, Andover.

Treasurer: R. C. Lucas, Wimborne.

Membership Secretary and Asst. Treasurer: Mrs. L. K. Lucas, Wimborne.

Minutes Secretary: B. S. BROWN, Reading.

Entries Secretary: C. W. MARTIN, Farnborough.

Show Supervisor: L. W. GILBERTSON, Pontypridd.

Programme Secretary: R. A. WEBB, Long Ashton.

Accommodation Secretary: W. MILLETT, Chelmsford.

Schedule Secretary and Publicity Officer: J. MANN, Harrow, Middx.

Supplies Officer: F. G. BASTIN, Harrow.

Draw Secretary: I. C. MORGAN, Southampton.

Awards Secretary: C. B. Lucas, Abingdon.

Public Relations Officer: E. A. MALIN, Bishops Cleeve.

2,000 ENTRIES IN WINE SHOW

The Wine Show, staged in the Viennese ballroom, was again a triumph for the Harrow Guild, for they won the "A.W." Shield for the most points, and their member, Mr. F. G. Bastin, carried off both the Shaw-Porter Cup and the Bournemouth Master Winemakers' Cup, and Mr. and Mrs. Adcock won the Turner Trophy for three bottles for a dinner.

Tally Ho won the handsome new Marconi trophy in the Circle single-bottle championship.

Mr. E. A. Roycroft won that most difficult trophy, the cup for the judges' and stewards' classes, the Cedric Austin Cup, and the principal brewers' award, the Wilf Newsom Cup, went to Mr. R. B. Stoks, of Harpenden. The Roycroft trophy for the wines-by-purpose classes went to Miss C. Nairn Hitchin, of Birmingham, and Major G. Instone, of Hove.

Other successful trophy winners were Mr. A. H. Ritchie, Greasby, the Hill Cup for the runner-up to the Master Winemaker, Mr. E. W. East, Bishop's Cleeve, Andrews cup for dry fruit wine, Mr. R. Butcher, the Atcherley trophy for the novices classes, Mr. L. Carpenter, the Gordon Instone Cup for the best display or invention, and Mr. R. E. French and Mr. W. Harvey, the Lucas Cup for the Bournemouth member gaining most points.

There were over 2,000 entries-a record-from some 400 exhibitors, and, from the reports of the judges, the general quality was if anything higher than last year ..

The wines were well displayed, and the exhibition was completed by the trade stands of W. R. Loftus Ltd., Grey Owl Laboratories, Merrydown, the "Amateur Winemaker," a most attractive and neat display stand by the Hounslow Circle, and a display of tombola prizes. The tombola, run by Mr. Ivor Morgan, was both novel and successful, and made £67.