Biggenden Rose Festival may die through lack of support

THE FUTURE of the Biggenden Rose Festival is in doubt. Only 12 people, including the retiring office-bearers and the guest chairman, attended the biennial meeting last Tuesday night.

Mr Frank Binstead, president of the Rose Festival Committee for the past three festivals, declined to accept nomination for a further term.

Although quite prepared to assist his successor in any way possible, Mr Binstead stated that he had other commitments and it was time someone else took over the reins.

When others present declined nomination for the position, it was decided to defer the election of office-bearers until a later date, at which time a decision would have to be made as to whether or not Biggenden would continue to have a festival.

Mr Binstead said it would be a shame if it had to be abandoned through lack of support.

The Rose Festival promoted Biggenden more than any other event or function, he said.

"It would be fitting if at least one representative of every service and sporting club in the district were to join the Rose Festival Committee."

"During the Rose Festival nearly all clubs were involved to some extent."

"The whole shire basks in the glory of the Rose Festival week, yet out of a population of 1500 only a dozen people are instrumental in organising the proceedings, ball, etc."

"Admittedly, many other people are involved with their own club's activities during festival week, but the planning for that week commences nearly two years earlier. Where are those people then?"

In spite of these difficulties, including a period without a secretary, a most successful festival had been staged last year.

Mr and Mrs Dud Kidie had done a superb job of organising the Rose Show.

Helen Smith was commissioned for the preparation of the Art Show.

Miss Deneen Ellen and Mrs Sue Sanderson gave an entirely new concept to the presentation of the queen entrants.

The marshalling and conduct of the procession by Mr Ken Gregory and assistants ensured the smooth running of this section.

In closing the meeting the guest chairman, Mr T. Quinn, expressed the hope that interested and interested people would attend the next meeting.

The retiring president, Mr Frank Binstead, summed up the position with this comment: "The whole shire basks in the glory of Rose Festival week, yet out of a population of 1500 only a dozen people are instrumental in organising the procession, ball, etc."

He also said that the festival had helped promote Biggenden more than any other event or function.

Mr Binstead announced that because of other commitments he was standing down as president, after guiding the committee through three successful festivals. He would, however, be ready to assist his successor in any way.

His suggestion that service clubs and sporting organisations nominate one representative each to serve on the committee is a good one and could help solve the committee's problem.

In the interest of Biggenden and district it is hoped that shire residents heed his call for support and offer to help plan and organise the next festival.

It would indeed be a shame to let the festival lapse because of public indifference.

Meanwhile the Maryborough Spring Festival is reported to be going from strength to strength. Plans are very advanced for the third festival to be held in the first week of September.

The organisers are concentrating on things for which the city is noted, such as cycling and rowing, and this year hope to include for the first time a mini band contest.

All other popular festival events will be included. The organisers hope to provide a festival of which the city will be proud.