

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

NO.159.

OCTOBER, 1968.

The next meeting of the I.C.A.
will be at Holloway Institute,
Hornsey Road, London, N.4.
(nearest station - Finsbury Park)
as an extension of the Monday
Concertina Class, by courtesy of
The Principal.

On Saturday 26th October, 1968.
from 7.30. to 9.30 p.m.
(Committee at 6 p.m.)

* S P E C I A L N O T I C E *
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RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER

On the occasion of the September Meeting, and at the Committee Meeting which preceded it, The Secretary gave formal notice of his intention to resign at the end of the current year. He said he has served the I.C.A. for fifteen years, twelve of these as Secretary. Contrary to expectations he was not prepared to fill the years of his impending retirement with the affairs of the Concertina Association. It was time a change was made, and a new Secretary could give a welcome boost to the I.C.A. Mrs. Butler, The Treasurer, would also resign, leaving the way clear for re-organisation.

The Committee has now the task of selecting a new Secretary, whose appointment should be confirmed at the next A.G.M. Mr. J. Harvey, 42, Barnabas Street, Ebury Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. agreed to make initial enquiries, and would be glad to hear from members with suggestions to make, and prepared to undertake the duties of Secretary.

This Newsletter is Issued by The Secretary,
Frank E. Butler, 60, Mayfield Crescent, London, N.9. England.

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING (Contributed)

Missed it! As the Radio Times used to say in Advertisements. If you did miss the September meeting you missed a .good one, but with every chair taken perhaps it is as well that you did. We welcomed two new members, Mr. Chapman of Beaconsfield and Mr. Brown of Basingstoke. To demonstrate to them as many styles of playing as possible Frank Butler concentrated on persuading members to play solos, and remarked in passing on idiosyncracies of style and arrangement.

The variety may be judged from the following list of performers and pieces.

F.J.Hutcherson - Lilac Time Second Selection
A. Crook - 0 Rest in the Lord from Elijah
R. Cross (first public appearance) - Concertina Studies
F. Watts - Chevalier du Breton
C. Parslay - My Treasure Waltz (arrangement by H. Stanley aroused special comment)
T. Williams - Druids Prayer and other pieces
Billy Hartford - Autumn Leaves

The general improvement in playing was noticeable, and also the changing styles. A. Crook's contribution maintaining a reverend manner with nicely contrasted expression. Billy Hartford played Autumn Leaves in a thoughtful appealing mood, but reverted to his 'pop' style in an encore. He was also joined by Tom Meekham in a continental march, and twice by request, played a miniature.

Vena McDougall had not brought a solo, but played beautifully in a Mazas duet, partnered by Frank Butler. Frank and John Hutcherson teamed for an impromptu rendering of "Still is the Night" on the insistence of Dick Cross, who provided the score.

Charles Parslay anxious to help the fund, provided from his garden the where withal for a competition. First we had to guess the weight of a cabbage of surpassing beauty and staggering size, and if successful, choose between the cabbage and a bouquet of fresh cut flowers for a prize. F. Watts won the cabbage, but lacking transport, Vi Fordham took it home. B. Hartford had the flowers, and the Treasurer looked benevolently on a useful addition to the funds. So thanks to Charlie for fun and games and material advantages too.

Tommy Williams brought as a curiosity, a Lachenal English Concertina with four sides end many folds to the bellows. It had accordion reeds, three to each treble note and two to the lower notes. In consequence it consumed air at a tremendous rate and was a problem to play. Many members "had a go", some with conspicuous success. The model was originally marketed at £20 - no one suggested its value to-day.

Of course we managed some concerted for Frank is still adding to his library as well as resurrecting favourites.

Gavotte and March by Woodhouse, and The Prefects March were new to us, but we were equally pleased again to play The Curtsy, and Old Comrades March.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Dorothy Nicoll and Elsie Smith visited the Firth Brothers at Emley Moor, finding there Mr. Pearce and Mr. Pullen. With such a fine body of players together, it would have been worth a special journey to hear them.

We are sorry to hear that dear old Tom Smellie has struck a bad patch, necessitating a stay in hospital. He had several falls, and some difficulty in using his fingers, which robbed him (and others) of the pleasure of his concertina playing. Now home again, and pble to do his shopping, he must nevertheless be careful and take things slowly. May Tom's white hairs be seen again at a meeting, with him in good form once more!!

Edith Wheeler wrote from Clevedon in Somerset, sending a splendid picture of the new Severn Bridge, which she was proposing to cross into Wales. When we saw her last she had not acquired p. Welsh accent, and we forgot to call her Edie the tina.

J. Davies of Eccles New Road, Salford expressed interest in Harry Crabb's special Duet arrangements, and wishes they were published.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Harry Brown,
8, Browning Close,
Basingstoke,
HANTS.

Eric W. Chapman,
"Neldoreth",
Long Grove,
Seer Green,
Beaconsfield,
BUCKS.

J. McBeath,
c/o 14, Goldschmidt St,
Quigney,
East London,
REPUBLIC OF S.A.

MORE NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Neil Wayne is back from the U.S.A. and now resident at 35, Stewart Road, Acton, W.3.

The Evening News of October 8th had a splendid picture of our President, raising funds for his church. Father Loveless tours Hoxton with an ancient perambulator and gramophone raising the spirits and touching the pockets of his cockney parishioners.

Peter Honri is featured in the film 'Oliver', playing a special miniature Anglo, originally the property of Dutch Daly. The sound track, however, is of his own miniature English concertina. Peter was also asked by the British Film Institute to film and record his Duet concertina at the City Varieties, Leeds. The film will be called "Laughing Gas at the Royal Surrey Theatre". As a British Film Institute production, it may not be on general release, but it would undoubtedly appeal to our members.