

President: The Rev. Kenneth Loveless, V.R.D., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.,
R.N.R.

Secretary: J. Harvey, 42 St. Barnabas Street, London S.W.1.

Treasurer: F.J. Hutcherson, 45 Valentine Avenue, Bexley, Kent.

Notices

The next meeting will be on July 30th at the Conway Hall, from 3pm to 5pm. The committee will meet at 2pm as usual. I cannot find any more notices, so on with the

News

On Thursday 16th of June, the Montem branch of the Holloway Institute had a Music Evening, and naturally Mr. Crabb's Concertina Group took part. They played Heykins Serenade and Estudiantina, and Mr. Crabb tells me they were very well received.

Tommy Williams carries on bringing the concertina 'gospel' to various parts of the country. The following is extracted from an article sent to me by Malcolm Penny of Chipping Sodbury in Gloucestershire:

"The fact is, no one knows how to define 'folk music' anyway... Ask us down at the 'George' in Sodbury, and we'll tend to tell you that anything goes, just so long as it's home-made music, played from memory, something the player wants to offer as his contribution to an evening of mutual entertainment... So Tommy was home and dry, playing his favourite tunes on an instrument on which he is a past master, and it didn't matter whether they were from opera (you should have heard our crowd joining in with the duet from 'Il Travatore') or traditional tunes from Scotland, with everyone in the room singing along.

"The reception was amazing. Tommy said he'd never had one like it, which is hard to believe, but it was certainly enthusiastic, to say the least: To be sure, there were a few false notes from the old fingers, not perhaps so nimble as they were, but his deftness and his mastery of the instrument and the material won the audience from the first. But that wasn't really why Tommy was a success that night; it was the way he entered into the spirit of the evening, making himself at home from the start. After his first set of tunes, he said he was feeling tired, and wasn't sure if he'd feel like playing much more: something we could accept, if reluctantly. But then he did play a few more, including some of his own pieces, to a further tumultuous reception; and right at the end of the evening, when we were just getting ready to finish up with some chorus songs, he showed how well he had judged the crowd by popping up yet again and playing 'The Rose of Tralee' before rounding off the evening with a lovely lilting waltz. That left just the right feeling, the impromptu offering to a group of friends; and that's why said friends were on their feet cheering when Tommy had finished ...

"We were grateful to him for one more thing apart from his music and his delightful personality. He gave us all something to look forward to, us home-made musicians just beginning to get to grips with squeezeboxes and fiddles and the old music. He showed us what a long-lasting pleasure it is, to be able to make music among friends, a pleasure which has lasted him through a very long lifetime. That's the sort of encouragement we can really appreciate."

Tommy himself writes of a different occasion: "I received an invitation to take part in a talent contest from the Town Hall in Battersea, well the result I won first prize, I received tremendous applause from the audience when all stepped on the stage. The Mayor of Battersea handed out the prizes. When he came to me I won the top prize: £10 and a silver cup. He told the audience, 'He is recognised by the BBC as the most outstanding performer of the concertina in the whole of England,' then went on to say 'and I think? and the rest of you would agree, he deser-

ves that title, so I'm going to ask him to play one of his own compositions..' So I played 'Springtime in Battersea'.

The Yorkshire Concertina Club's convention at Pontefract is now over, and I have received a report from Jim Harvey, and various addenda from Neville Crabb. Jim writes:

"Arrived at Pontefract Town Hall around 10.45, & saw Mark Davies who was M.C. He fixed me up with a long table, and it was soon covered with around 50 large photos of various players and combines. Plus 2 freak concertinas, Most of the time I was answering questions of who were these & these, & those, etc., and if I wanted to sell the concertinas.

Just after 11am playing commenced, Donald Pullen being first, followed by several more whom I don't know, but included Harry Hatton. Lunch followed. After lunch I saw Harry Firth & Mr. Palmer, two friend of long ago, natter, natter, of the London Concertina Festivals, who won this and that, who had passed on & days of Len Jones with his two fingers doing the 'V' sign.

The afternoon followed the pattern of the morning, & the evening the same, except that there was a workshop of the English, Anglo & Duet 'tinias. The food bar was open all day with plenty of snacks. The licensed bar was open all day. Both did a fair trade.

All hands helped to clean up & stack the chairs & out by 11pm.

We left Pontefract at 11pm, arrived home 2am, tired & weary but happy for a successful day."

Neville Crabb writes:

"My thanks to the members of the club for a really good day. The welcome we received (Geoff & I) would be hard to beat. There were about 70 people there and everyone we met made us feel at home.

The convention was very well run with every need catered for and thanks for this must go to Pam & Richard Harrison, Janet & Tim Pearson (who even supplied us with 6-sided slices of home-made bread with our Sunday breakfast after very kindly putting us up for the night) and also Mark Davies who was the informal M.C. but his handling of the job made it look easy.

Also thanks to Steve Wood for his History of the Concertina (with slides). This job brought out the comedian in him and at times his audience were in fits of laughter (Thanks Steve).

The enthusiasm of these concertina players was unbelievable and it was a pleasure to see them."

When's the next one then, and how about the rest of you putting on a convention?

Wanted

Peter Boris Koval, of C/O Insurance Adjusters (Liberia) Incorporated, P.O. Box 1450, Monrovia, Liberia, requires a large duet, a bass & a tenor/treble. Is there anyone who can help him? Please write to the address given if you have one of these instruments for sale.

The June Meeting

This was held on June 25th, from 7-9pm, at the Conway Hall. About a dozen members were present.

The music started with concerted music - A Stately Measure by Woodhouse.

Howard Rosenblum started the solos with Sir Sidney Smith's March followed by the Golden Eagle hornpipe.

Mr. Blakeman followed with 2 test pieces from the last Festival: an Air from Handel's Water Music, and the Andante from Orpheo.

More concerted music followed: Brahms' Little Sandman, and Lullaby.

Mr. & Mrs. Crabb did a duet of the Obersteiger, and Birth of the Blues.

Then came more concerted music with the Soldiers Chorus, Chorale and Valse from Faust.

We then had another duet consisting of Eva Tyson & Mrs. Crabb play-

ing Mazeppa, and Men of Harlech.

Eva then joined Olive Linsell and played an anonymous waltz and Soprani Smile Polka.

There was then an almost unstoppable bout of concerted music with the Folk Dance Rondo by Doe, My Happiness, September Song, In The Shadows, The White Cockade, John Brown's Body, Birth of the Blues, Eton Boating Song, I'm Alone Because I Love You, Homing Waltz, Love Letters in the Sand and To Be A Farmer's Boy.

Mrs. Crabb finished off the evening with Walking Up Town.

Annual General Meeting

Part III of the full account. See the last Newsletter for Part II.

Treasurers Report: (continued) But we can't cope with these things we have got to pay them if we want to keep going and there's nothing we can do about postal charges, we must maintain our link with Members by the Newsletter, so therefore we must pay those prices. Now that's the main theme of my statement, I ask you to give consideration about the increase next year. I am not asking you to make a point of making an increase next year, but you must give the Secretary the authority to make it necessary should the emergency arise. I would like your opinion of that. Thank you.

7) Librarians Report: We still get some regular Members who contact me for music, but not so very many: a chappie in the Isle of Man and one in Jersey. The islanders seem to be attached to the music more than anybody, so there's not been too much activity except to one or two regulars I contact often.

8) Election of Secretary, Treasurer & Committee: The Secretary said that only 8 nomination papers were received from the whole of the Members. They read thus: Secretary 7; Treasurer 4 if he will carry on; Mr. Blake-man 8; Mr. Rosenblum 7; & Mr. N. Crabb 7.

Much discussion took place as no voting had taken place, only nomination of 5 persons of the outgoing committee. Jim said no voting had taken place because in his opinion they were accepted because there was no change, actually they were nominated unopposed. After long discussion, this was accepted with another member being co-opted at one of the meetings.

9) Election of Auditor for 1977: The Treasurer said, 'Again we have had the professional services of Mr. Wallace. We are very grateful to him for it as he's put his official sign on it. A letter has been written which I will read out to you: Dear Mr. Wallace, we send you our thanks again for auditing our books and taking the interest in our affairs. Yours sincerely, & it's signed by Mr. Crabb for the President, the Secretary and myself. Mr. Wallace takes great interest in our affairs are working out or not working out and he takes and he makes some very good suggestions from time to time. We are very indebted to him, he never makes a charge, he refuses all charges, so I would like you to vote him again as your Auditor, unless if anybody else likes to take the job on.'

Chairman: We'll take a vote on that. Any objections? No.

Treasurer: We'll post the letter to him. Are you going to vote him again for next year.

Vena: Yes, if he'll take it.

(Who proposed & seconded? The tape is not clear)

Mr. Wallace was elected.

10) Any Other Business: Mr. Amasanti: Yes, I don't like the idea on the Newsletter the way it ends 'The Dictator' (Some laughter).

Chairman: May we have an explanation?

Editor.: I am using the word 'Dictator' in the original sense, a person appointed to do a job quickly & efficiently. The looseness with which the word has been used in the recent past has changed the meaning. Also, I use it to be consistent with other publications of SoNF Enterprises, and I am dictating to myself alone.

Mr. Amasanti: I understand, but my wife thought it quite unsuitable for the Newsletter.

Editor: In the cause of continuity, it will stay unless the meeting decides otherwise.

Mr. Amasanti: In that case, I think the offending part be eliminated from the Newsletter - the word 'Dictator',

Mr. Butler: I think it's poor quality to interfere with the Newsletter until it has had a fair run. Actually, it is his action on the home work period causes displeasure the Committee will express their wishes. But the Newsletter is usually stamped with the personality of the person compiles it and I think this may continue. I also have in mind that in the folk world, this sort of humourous touch is very much liked, and if it's getting into the hands of the folk world, -they will probably enjoy that, and should the set of the community cultivate that, so the Editor be left to pursue his ways for a much longer period.

Back to the item of sanction to raise the subscription if need be in case of losses on the Festival and increases on all other outgoings. Mr. Butler proposed that both the Secretary & Treasurer be responsible for the increase being shared in passing the necessary increase into action. We have no idea of how much will be needed for the Festival and we can only wait and hope for the best. Mrs. Hutcherson said we could be £130 down and then our account will be extremely low, Mr. Hutcherson replied that this is a Festival year and we will have to wait and see the outcome. On a Festival year we have to spend some of our money, that is what the money is for, if we have to spend only on the Festival, but if we get another blow like we have had, then our capital account will be greatly reduced. That is why I ask permission to put it up again in an emergency. Mr. Butler replied: 'I don't think anything on this, I think the authority should be shared.' The Chairman asked that a vote be taken and the motion was passed unanimously. Tommy Williams said he does not care what he pays, but the out-of-town member only gets a Newsletter, so he will make tapes and cassettes for those who wish them, they will get to hear part of the meeting. Jim said that Tommy's record was played on Folkweave BBC the other evening. The Treasurer said he had the Test pieces for sale.

Mr. Butler: Mr. Chairman, may I say a hearty vote of thanks to our Secretary & Treasurer for the work that they undertake, I will couple our Librarian also the Lady that has for years distributed the Newsletter Then there are those that are laying down their badge of office, to them we owe a vote just the same as they served many years in office. Perhaps it would be right to welcome another member of the Crabb family on to the committee. Is the I.C.A. so forward that it must have a member of the Crabb family on the committee and all other members. I am very delighted to see my old friend Mr. Blakeman on the committee with a large number of votes. So with a general pat on the back for everybody generally recorded and voted on & if you are not careful I shall come up with two more.

(The tape is not clear at this point. Who seconded the motion?)

Now I think the Association should send a letter to Father Loveless to say how we missed him very much. A vacant chair as far as he was concerned and in another year he will be able to resume his place as Chairman for the A.G.M. Your duties were ably carried out by Mr. Crabb.

(Who proposed & seconded that?)

No more business remained, so the Chairman declared the meeting closed. (Apologies for the garbled bits. Corrections welcomed)

All material for the next issue of the Newsletter to be sent to me, Howard Rosenblum, at the address below, by second post on Monday 12 September as there is no August issue.

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