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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 held on Saturday 25th February 1978, at Montem School Annexe, Hornsey Road, London N.7 at 3 pm. Committee meeting at 2 pm as usual. Nearest tube stations are Finsbury Park and Holloway Road.

### Correspondence

First, two items from Frank Butler:

"Dick Cross invites comments on his suggestion that adjudicators at our Festival should be concertina players, and I take up this point with my old friend with pleasure. One very great advantage of employing professional adjudicators, (even though they are not concertina players) is that they are unfamiliar with the small world of the I.C.A. and completely without prejudice, They do understand the comparative difficulty of a piece - I recall a case in which a splendid performance was nevertheless marked down because the grade of the selected piece was below that expected in an advanced class.

Within the ranks of concertina players there are very few competent to adjudicate; the task requires much broader knowledge than only technical ability."

Now the second item;

"Was the Christmas Social an I.C.A. affair, and if so, how does a member qualify for an invitation? A provincial correspondent mentioned it in a letter, but otherwise the report in the January Newsletter was the first I heard of it."

Well, Mr. Butler, yes, the Social was an I.C.A. event. No invitations as such were issued, but it was advertised at the Festival. As a general rule, confirmation of the Social does not reach the Newsletter until after the October Newsletter has been published, because of the I.L.J5.A. system for booking the Montem Annexe. Then, the next Newsletter is not produced until after the Social has occurred. However, I hope we shall have longer notice of this event in this calendar year.

Jim Harvey writes:

"re Mr. Harry Firth - his wife writes to say Harry was entertaining the old folk in his village, playing 'The Holy City' when he died. It's funny that Harry and his brother were playing that tune at one of the I.C.A. Festivals when a member who had just played came down from the rostrum and died as he sat down.

When I saw Harry at the Pontefract gathering, I reminded him of that and said that I still had the tape recording of that incident and that I would send him a copy which I did. He wrote to say that he would return the tape, which I did not want, his wife thanked me very much. Harry wrote and entered the advanced class of the Festival last October, but did not come along. He died on 22nd November 1977\*

I first met Harry when he came to London to compete in our 1st Festival with the Northumberland and Durham Concertina Band. My, what a great crowd of fine players they were. I still have photos of that band, which included Bill States and many of whom I can't remember their names, but one that stands high in my memory is little Norma Manley now Mrs. Norma Hall.

It's sad that all the old members are leaving us one by one. Last Newsletter was Les Watts, Harry was a great player and a sad loss to the Association."

Well, that is all you have sent me. It hardly seems worth while starting another sheet, but I must do so to remind you that I cannot invent items to fill up the Newsletter. It is by you, and for you, and without you, there is no Newsletter. To those who promised to send me something when I met them at the Festival, and haven't got around to doing so, now is the time to redeem your promise. Now you've met me, I hope you have not got the impression that I am a nasty evil creature waiting to reject things because of spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors, because I'm not. If your piece is interesting to other members, it'll get printed and I'll make any corrections necessary. No need to-...- . worry about your handwriting either, after all, I've deciphered our President's writing!

Finally, I must apologise for the lateness of this issue, It is due to a combination of personal and professional committments and (dare I say it) laziness.

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INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 1977

	£	P		£	P
Newsletter, Postage	159.28		Receipts from Subscriptions	266.00	
Accommodation	57.50		Members donations	113.95	
Miscellaneous expenses	90.75		Miscellaneous receipts	44.35	
Increase on year	116.77				
	<u>424.30</u>			<u>424.30</u>	
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FESTIVAL ACCOUNT

Expenditure	80.46		Receipts	37.85	
			Cost of Festival	42.61	
	<u>80.46</u>			<u>80.46</u>	
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BALANCE SHEET 31st DECEMBER 1977

Capital Account			Bank Statement		
31st December 1976	178.22		31st December 1977	265.90	
Increase on Year	116.77		Cash in Hand	29.09	
	<u>294.99</u>			<u>294.99</u>	
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