

President: .The Rev. Kenneth Loveless, V.R.D., P.S.A., P.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 Saturday, April 29th, at 3-00pm, at Montem School Annexe, Hornsey Road, Holloway, London N.7. Committee meeting at 2.00pm as usual.

The One-Day School will be held on the 13th of May at the above address. It will start at 10.30am, and will continue until 5.00pm. There will be a charge of 15p to help cover expenses. As usual, the morning session will be for less experienced players, and the afternoon for the more experienced, but all will be welcome in the morning.

News

After last month's 'Stop Press', I have had a letter from Reuben Shaw, telling me exactly how the whole thing was set up. He writes:

On the Thursday prior to our appearance, I was surprised to receive a phone call from London asking if we would be on Nationwide the following Tuesday. This was confirmed on the Monday and followed by several more calls emphasising the limited time available.

A taxi was provided from 3.30pm here to Pebble Mill for 5.15. The driver was told to wait until 7.00pm. Even when waiting at the studio we had a further call from London "saying there was little time. We said we would start in the middle and they must fade us out.

The choice of music was not ours. It was suggested by Neil Wayne to the producer and it was not for us to argue. We had only just over a minute with a live broadcast and there was just no time to say anything, but answer the questions and get on with playing. It (was regrettable that time was short. Rest assured that given the opportunity I should have plugged the I.C.A. as much as possible.

Mr. Shaw continues by telling the various times he has been able to bring attention to the concertina and the I.C.A. on local radio, and his proposals for a short TV programme - Open Door perhaps? I will print more of his letter as soon as space allows.

Those of you who can see Soth Today on BBC TV, might also have seen a few days later, a young man playing Duet and singing to promote his new record of Dorset dialect. I'm sorry I did not get details.

Welcome to the following new members;

Mrs. B. Rodmell, 22 Alderney Rd., Slade Green, Erith, Kent.
G.T.Morris, 7 Cavendish Gardens, Trouville Rd., London SW4.
Shay Fogerty, 25 Claude Rd., Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland,
and Jack Burns at the same Dublin address.

I regret to announce the death of Mr. B. Fenton in South Africa. Jim Harvey writes; He must have been a founder member. His joining address was Williston-in-Windall, Cheshire in March 1953. He went to South Africa but returned to England, or rather the Isle of Man. I made a large tape recording for him many years ago. He played treble, baritone & bass. He recentlt. returned to South Africa where he passed away.

Letters

Jim Harvey Kicks off; I would like to add my thanks to Mrs. Ware. She did me a great favour during the Festival, making out the programme and playing chart for the time and classes, got them printed and delivered in time. Thank you, Ruth.

Now for comment on the evening meetings. First from Mr. W. Sowter of Cuffley, Herts: This month's Newsletter asked for comments on the suggestion that the monthly meetings of the I.G.A. might be held on Saturday evenings instead of in the afternoons. The afternoon is much easier me and there is the added problem of getting home at night for those of us who live out in the wilds.

And from Bill Link: As for having I.C.A. meetings in the evening, I must say that it is all right if you live local. I do not come very often but not-because I don't want to. I have a long journey, 6 hours return, at a cost of approx. £3 which includes half fare on the railway. Plus my poor health. If you change to evenings, I will never be able to get there and would resign from the I.C.A. immediately as there would be no point in my remaining, a member.

Bill was also rather scathing about Neil Wayne's appearance on Nationwide. He regrets there was no meeting last month, and cannot get to Montem School, as it is a bit too far. He also extends an invitation to anyone who would like to come to Clacton for a day, and will even give them a cup of tea!

Tommy Williams writes to say that he has had a letter from the BBC asking for more details about his record.

Tony Harper writes to say how much he enjoyed the February meeting, especially as it was the first one that he has attended. He says he learned a lot of useful tips, and reminded him why he wanted to play the English, and gave him inspiration. He also has a few thoughts about the Festivals:

(I) thought it would have been better if the name of the piece to be played and the type of instrument as well as the players name could have been announced before each performance. I know this was all on the sheets given out, but it was hard to keep track of it all.

I recall one Anglo player, who made his instrument sound like a Duet. Amazing. But I would have overlooked this achievement if I hadn't been told by someone else in the audience.

I thought the judge excellent, his comments were so instructive & interesting that one learned a lot about music and interpretation and not just about concertinas.

I think that this is very important and 'minority instrument' players are inclined to go off the musical rails! I used to play the lute One became obsessed with types of strings, instruments & authenticity that one completely forgot one was trying to produce music!

I think that there is the same danger with the concertina. That one can study the instrument rather than music.

The musician aims to interpret the piece as near to the composer's original intentions. This requires a fair background of musical knowledge. The Festival judge kept bringing us back to this point. It was very good.

Also unless concertina players do develop this sense for music, in general, they will grow apart from other musicians & be left in their own backwater - as happened to many lute players.

Finally, two letters from the U.S.A. Leonard Laieski really enjoyed the two LP's by Tommy Williams and Gordon Cutty.

Art Hemenway attended a workshop & concert given by Alistair Anderson on his American tour at the end of last year. He had a marvelous evening after more or less giving up the idea that he would ever meet a really skilled player of the English concertina.

Annual General Meeting

I have received the transcript of proceedings at this year's A.G.M. As it runs to 9 sides of foolscap, I will give you as much as I have space for, and continue it next month,

Minutes of A.G.M. held at Conway Hall, January 1978.

1) Committee present: Rev. K. Loveless, President; J. Harvey, Secretary; J. Hutcherson, Treasurer; N. Crabb, Chairman; H. Rosenblum,

News Editor; and Mr. Blakeman, Committee Member.

2) Apologies for absences Mr. & Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Ruth Ware, Tom Amasanti, Mrs. Hutcherson. & Mr. H. McDougall.

3) The President said he was sorry to be absent from the 1977 meeting and remarked it was the first time, then read out the minutes which were adopted and signed, on his reading. All were in favour.

4) Matters arising: there was a suggestion that the subscriptions were to be raised. The Treasurer remarked that it does not apply. There were no other matters arising.

Mr. Rosenblum proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Harvey for carrying out the thankless task of transcribing the minutes from tape.

5) Secretary's Report's Mr. Harvey reported that the year was a good one and the Festival was a success apart from being sadly patronised by the public. He was getting along nicely, and so was the Association.

There were no questions. The President said that with another year of work performed for us all, we adopt the Secretary's report. It was adopted by acclamation, with applause.

6) Treasurer's Report. Balance sheets were distributed. The Treasurer said: You will be pleased from the report that the increase in subs last year has put us back in the clear, and a favourable financial position. Not forgetting the very many donations large and small which I have received from the membership. We are very grateful for these. The membership has kept up very well. We were 3 down on the last year, but we have gained new ones which helps to balance up so the membership have supported me very well with the increase of doubling the subs and it has paid its way.

We can expect ever rising costs in our everyday life. We can expect the cost of accommodation, probably postage and stationary and everything else we touch to go up. It's been creeping up for months now and there seems to be no end to it. So at least we are in a favourable position to go forward and I shall not have to ask you for that increase which was an emergency measure and mentioned by Father Loveless just now in the Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting,

I think that is the main point. Thank you.

The President thanked the Treasurer and asked for questions: On the balance - Oh the Festival. You haven't seen the book have you? That's the balance sheet for the Festival and it works out that it cost us £42.51 altogether. In all we spent £80.46 on the Festival and we got £37.85 back, so it cost us £42.51 for the Festival. This is the greatest amount we have paid out for a Festival because we' did not get many people there.

Father Loveless: We would like to discuss that one when we have done the official busines. Thank you John. I would like, on your behalf, as your President, to thank John for the tremendous amount of work he does. This goes on and on, year after year, and that you'll all agree with me that we want to pass on a vote of thanks yet again for another good year. There was hearty applause.

Librarian's Report: Nothing very much to report. People still appeal to me for music, but it's dropped rather low. We don't get a great lot interested in music. Most of it's rather old and somewhat out dated, not called for now, but there is some useful stuff in there. I don't get many calls for it. There are still a couple of regulars on the islands. They still write to me, but we have lost our member in the Isle of Man. He is very elderly and has moved out to his son in Africa. I still have contact with him but not to borrow music.

Question: Do you add new music to the Library?

Very rarely. Not really new music, but I have started to accumulate music which we buy for community playing. I don't regard that as ordinary library music as such, but you can't go into a music shop and ask for so and so arranged for the concertina. Consequently, you have to adapt music for violins, woodwind and piano to suit yourself.

Vena: Could you look out music for future Festivals that could be used?

I'll see what I can do at some future time.

Father Loveless: You have such a lot of music to be kept in your home and we are very grateful for your kindness.

7) Father Loveless: An extra item - I want to hear from Howard who edits our Newsletter, if you are so kind. That's rather throwing you in the deep end, but you might like to say something.

Editor: The Newsletter seems to be developing the way I like to see it develop - that is getting discussion going on various subjects, apart from thatgrouping of when the next meeting is going to be, I hope its development is going to continue, and perhaps will attract more members. I print a few extra copies to give out to concertina players in folk clubs. The penny or two that it costs, I think it is a worthwhile investment.

Father Loveless : Good, thank you very much indeed Howard. I think we ought to thank Howard. It's very, well done, beautiful high standard and everything in order and we do thank you. It's an arduous task, you took it on, you stuck to it and we are very grateful. I'm sure we all are, and also to Vena, writing out envelopes. That must be a most tedious job.

Mr. Hutcherson: Yes, I found her a thousand envelopes yesterday, and when you come to think of it all those envelopes have been addressed by hand. I certainly think she deserves a vote of thanks.

Father Loveless: She certainly does. I think that without the Newsletter we would come to a stop and cease to exist, and with this Leeds Concertina Group springing up in the North and so on, you had something to do-with it, I seem to remember.

Editor: I started it

Father Loveless: It's all come about through circulation so I think that Howard and Vena a very special vote of thanks and you are going to continue it?

J. Harvey: They are holding another convention in April.

Father Loveless: Yes, the Leeds people. So that was the News Editors Report. I am glad I have that in.

8) Election of the Committee

Nominations for three members only were received. These were for Mr. Blakeman, Mr. N. Crabb, and Mr. Rosenblum. Mr. Harvey nominated Mr. H. Crabb at the meeting, and he was asked if he wished to stand as he had just retired from the Committee. Mr. Crabb accepted. As no further names were put forward, those nominated were considered elected. This was proposed by Mrs. McDougall and seconded by Mr. Cross, and carried nem con.

Father Loveless said that it was the duty of all members to take an interest in proposing new members for the committee. The News Editor was asked to bring the matter of the A.G.M. to the members notice in the Newsletter at a much earlier time in the year.

9) Vote of Thanks to the Honourary Auditor

Father Loveless: Again we have to thank Mr. Wallace for his admirable efforts in preparing our balance sheets again free of charge.

Treasurer: Yes, indeed. I have a comment to make - for nearly 10 years Mr. Wallace has given his services as the Auditor for our accounts. He is always interested in our affairs and how we are getting on, and he never makes a charge. I think it would be rather a nice gesture if we sent a bunch of flowers to his wife. He won't accept any money from, me, but I know his wife and I think it would be a nice gesture in the right direction so if anybody has any objections?

(to be continued)

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