

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

Secretary: J. Harvey, 44 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 28th July, 1979, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London, at 3.00 pm. There will be a committee meeting at 2.00pm as usual.

Please note that there will be no meeting in August, and the next following meeting will be on 22nd September, again at the Conway Hall.

News

First of all, the new members:

Gary N. Coover, 1930 Portsmouth 7, Houston, Texas 77098, U.S.A.

Mr. E. Jevons, 48 Aberford Rd., Boreham Wood, Herts. WD6 1PL.

Change of address:

Tony Harper, 'Putnoe', Bedford, MK41 9DA.

The Post Office seem to think that this is an inadequate address, but as the postcode is there, they should be able to find the house. I think it is more laziness than anything.

For those of you in the Thames Television area, they will be showing the 'Monty's London' edition featuring Crabb Concertinas, mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, on Tuesday 31st July at 6.05pm.

The North London Music Festival Prizewinners Concert was held at a new concert hall at Cuffley on Saturday 9th June. The concertina was represented by Vena McDougall who played 'Seconde Romance' by Berthold Tours. It was well received by a packed audience and was congratulated by Diane Jidejian (concert pianist) who said how much she liked it. The prizes were presented by the famous violinist Alfredo Campoli who congratulated 'Mac' on winning the Festival Trophy for solo singing which he had won against soprano, contralto, tenor and. bass singers after winning his class.

The Battersea class is not quite as dead as I have been lead to believe. If enough people show an interest in the class, and pay their fees, it could start again with the new academic year in September

We have had a letter from the South Place Ethical Society, who own and run the Conway Hall, thanking us for the donation .towards the cost of their court case, the result of which will not be known for about a year.

The June Meeting

This was held on Saturday 30th June, in the Club Room of the Conway Hall, Lond.on. I counted 18 people present during the afternoon.

We started with the usual concerted pieces. This time they were 'A Morning Song' by Woodhouse, and the 'Folk Dance Rondo' by Doe, arr. Parry.

Mr. Jevons, now a member, opened the solo playing with the 'Punch and Judy Polka' by N. Munro, and Czardas by Monti.

Mr. Blakeman followed by a Minuet and Trio by Mozart.

We then had a new friend, Mr. Hobson, on an Einheitsz (I hope I spelled that correctly) concertina. For those who didn't see this instrument, it looks, like a cross between an Anglo and a Bandoneon. Mr. Hobson actually played a couple of tangos, composed and published in South America.

Iris Bishop was the next soloist, with two jigs she uses for practice pieces.

Charlie Jeffrey gave us one of his usual medleys, consisting of Chicago, Blue Skids, Good-Bye Blues, Delilah, and one other tune.

Dr. Russell also gave a medley, consisting of All Through The Night,

Scotland The Brave, Lead Kindly Light (I think), and There'll Always Be An England.

Vena was the next soloist. She played If Only My Songs Were Only Winged by Halm.

Mr. Mills performed next, playing the Liverpool Hornpipe, Alexander's Favourite, and the Belfast Hornpipe.

Marian Janes refused to play solo, but did play a duet with Vena. They played Chanson Anglaise by Vallet, and Bouree by Schenk.

Mrs. Crabb was prevailed upon to give one of her rare solos. She chose to play. Alle Furlane by Rumiz, with a little assistance from Eva Tyson.

Mr. Crabb also had his arm twisted to play for us, and gave us Under Freedom's Flag and Beautiful Ohio.

We then had another duet, this time from Mr. Hutcherson and Eva Tyson. They played The River Bank.

Mr. Hutcherson then played a solo, and really a demonstration. We heard Riguadon, the advanced test piece for this year's Festival, asked for by Vena.

It was time for concerted music, and it was Heart's-Ease by MacBeth.

Finally, Howard Rosenblum played. He had forgotten his instrument, but Mr. Hutcherson fiendishly got Eva to lend hers. Howard then tried to find the opening notes of the piece he wanted to play, failed miserably, and fell back on Sir Sidney Smith's March, The Golden Eagle and The Sunshine. After a trick like that, John Hutcherson is well fitted to be a Treasurer.

- The meeting closed at 5.00pm.

#### The Life of the Concertina

This is a letter from Mr. F.J. Collings of Redruth:

I have had experience of the German concertina since 1900. It was very popular in those days, especially in Cornwall. Many houses in the country had one and there were many good players. We would go to a pub on a Saturday night and have step dancing on a farm wagon for prizes. Then, at Xmas, we would go around to the houses, dressed mostly as ladies, with black faces, and sing a song. We were asked indoors to have a bit of Xmas cake and a glass of cider or a glass of port. Then some would have dances in the kitchen. They were good old days. And after the dance we had to take each lady home some miles in the country. Of course we used to get a nice midnight kiss. We found some good players and they would join us with their 'tinas. Then some would demand a song or no money. I was the singer. Then, at Xmas time the young people would be invited to a party when we would dance to the early hours of the morning. Then, if there was a wedding, the couple would leave the church for home and have the wedding breakfast in the kitchen and dance after till the morning.

My father was a great 'tina player and he would play for our parties, but we had to be very loving to him 'to get him to' play for us. Then one would give a step dance. My father was a good player for the step dancing. There were more 'tina players in the olden days. You could buy one for about 4/- but they didn't last long. Many would buy one just to have a bit of fun for Xmas. I have now bought a lovely 20-key German with 90 steel reeds and one how got 3 voices. It is well made, handsome nickel plated corners to the bellows and flowered lovely. Of course 'tinas now are into some hundreds of pounds in English make, which I am satisfied with a German as they never go wrong. It's a pity the young people don't take up more music. I used to play in a dance band for some time and enjoyed it, of course, with the English Duet.

(I have had to edit this letter greatly to fit it in - HAR)

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