

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 283

NEWSLETTER

Feb. 1981

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

Secretary: S.F. Green, 141 Howarth Road, London SE1 0UW.

Treasurer: F.J. Hutcherson, 45 Valentine Avenue, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3HF

Notices

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 28th February at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London, between the hours of 3.00 pm and 5.00pm. There will be a committee meeting at 2.00pm as usual.

Have you paid your subscription yet? If not, why not? It is still only £2.00 a year, and there are very few other societies which have such a low subscription!

While you are paying your sub, how about getting someone else to pay one? Do you know any other concertina players in your area who are not members? Chances are, they've never heard of the I.C.A. Tell them about us, and get them to join. The more the merrier. And, if you find a lapsed member, persuade him to rejoin, or, if he won't, find out why and let the committee know. It could be something as simple as the post going astray, or forgetting to notify us of a change of address, or something more serious which we may need to put right.

Sir Charles Wheatstone F.R.S., 1802-1875

Scientist and Inventor

Members of the International Concertina Association are cordially invited to the dedication of a Greater London Council plaque commemorating the residence, c.1860-1875, of Sir Charles Wheatstone at No. 19 (now part of No. 20) Park Crescent, on the south side of Regent's Park.

The ceremony will take place at 2 o'clock on Thursday 19th March, 1981, and the address will be given by the Rev. Kenneth Loveless, V.R.D., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot., Hon. R.N.R.

Annual General Meeting

This was held, as scheduled, on Saturday 31st January, 1981, in the Club Room of the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Only 20-30 members attended. I had hoped that more would turn up, as I have been telling you about the A.G.M. since the October Newsletter.

Full minutes of the meeting will, of course, be published in early issues of the Newsletter, but the main points were as follows:

John Entract was asked to report on progress of erecting (?) a commemorative plaque to Sir Charles Wheatstone. It was decided, after his report, that we could not afford an unveiling ceremony, but a dedication was within our means. You can see the outcome above.

The committee was re-elected en bloc with one exception, as you can see above. Jim Harvey is still ill, and not able to carry out his duties as Secretary as well as I am sure he would like. The meeting reluctantly decided to remove this source of worry from him, and, as a small mark of appreciation for his service to the I.C.A., elected Jim to an Honourary Life Membership. Stephen Green is now our Secretary, and appropriate alterations are being made.

The I.C.A. is in a reasonable financial condition, but John Hutcherson again obtained authority from the meeting to raise the subscription by 50p next year, if necessary. John also gave us advance warning that he would be retiring from the trasurership next year. Approaches will be made to various people to replace him. There is no need for volunteers just yet.

However, there is a need for volunteers to serve as ordinary committee members. There were no nominations for the committee as a result of all my exhortations. I know it is difficult to know everyone, when we are spread out all over the U.K. and overseas, but please make the effort.

The final matter to be decided at the meeting was the timing of the next Festival. In view of all the work that needs to be done, we would delay the Festival until Spring 1982. Offers of help from the floor were gratefully received.

That concludes the main business of the meeting. As I said above, the full Minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be published in future Newsletters.

After the meeting, there was a little playing. Father Ken honoured us by playing two Morris jigs.

John Hutcherson played as well, while the other members socialised.

News

First of all, welcome to two new members:

Malcom (sic) Bar-Hamilton, 38 Greenwich Park Street, London SE10.

Wendy Oakes, 74A Moorside South, Senham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Less happily, Mr. Gardham suffered a fall in snow, and is now convalescing at home after a spell in hospital. I'm sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Alexander Prince - A First-Hand Report

Following Frank Butler's piece about the Alexander Prince record he bought, I have received the following letter from Harry Hatton of Haydock. He writes:

Regarding Frank Butler's remarks about "Alexander Prince" in the December Newsletter, Frank seems to think from the old record he bought that it was an English playing of 'The Lost Chord'. Well, I am quite surprised as all my life I have classed him as a Duet player. I heard him on the stage at Wigan during the First World War. I was very interested in the 'tina in them days, although I wasn't a judge of the 'tina as I am today, after listening to them for seventy years. I could swear it was a Duet he played that night at Wigan. I also heard Percy Honri, and the Musical Eleths (I think that is right - HAR) and a chap from Australia called the Australia Sundowner, and Betty Aukland and her dad, Sam. Their stage name was Sam and Betty. I have several records of Prince and other professionals - Frank Ollomo, Walter Dale, Ernest Rutherford and the Premier English Concertina Band, I was a fanatic for the concertina, and still am today, although I am not a good player. I admire all you people who go to the monthly meetings, and am proud to be a member of the I.C.A.. And what few times I have been down there to socials and music Festivals, I have thoroughly enjoyed it all.....Regarding Prince and that record Frank Butler bought, could it be that Prince played the English as well as the Duet? I wouldn't doubt Frank's judgement, as he is an expert on all all aspects of the concertina and a thoroughly good musician, but it could be that he plays both systems as a few people do, but on all my records, he plays the Duet, I wonder what others think?

Well, what do you think? If you have any relevant comments, I will be pleased to publish them in the Newsletter. That's what it is here for!

Miscellany

I have been given a photocopy of an article which appeared in a newspaper, probably the New Standard or another, more local, London paper, in August 1980, concerning member Mr. Albert Peters, and what he gets up to with his concertina at 7.45 am! The article is accompanied by a photo which is very clear, even in the photocopy, showing Mr. Peters and his Aeola. It also mentions that Mr. Peters has three adult pupils. Come to the monthly meeting, and bring them with you, Mr. P.

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