

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 284

N E W S L E T T E R

Mar. 1981

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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 SE2 OUW.

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

Notices

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 28th March at Montem School Annexe, Hornsey Road, London N.7 from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Nearest Underground stations are Holloway Road and Finsbury Park. There will be a committee meeting at 2.00pm as usual.

Have you got your diaries handy? If so, you can put in that the April meeting will be on Saturday 25th at the Conway Hall.

A final reminder: if you haven't paid your subscription, your period of grace runs out with this issue of the Newsletter. It's only £2.00 - less than 4p a week, and ridiculously cheap for these days!

News

All I have this month are a couple of items from the media. Firstly, for those of you who watched the serial 'Sons and Lovers' by D.H. Lawrence on BBC TV, you might be interested to know that the concertina music was played by John Tams.

Secondly, from the 'Ariadne' column of the 'New Scientist' for March 5th: 'I have an old edition of Grove's Dictionary of Music and, in moments of idleness, fearful that Satan will find work for my hands to do, I open it up and have a bit of a read. You never know when the definition of the Dorian mode might come in useful.

'This time I was startled to see the name of Sir Charles Wheatstone, of bridge fame (actually devised by one S. H. Christie), staring at me. I had no idea that he was connected with music, so I was riveted to find that he had invented the concertina.

'It conjures up a rollicking picture or two of Sir Charles concert-inaing (sic - HAR) away in the intervals of perfecting the bridge or the telegraph with Sir William Cooke.

'On the other hand, I withdraw the phrase "connected with music". A concertina is a wheezy sort of instrument. We are in no danger, I hope, of concertina recitals.'

By the time you read this, a suitable letter will be on its way to the 'New Scientist'. I hope we can change Ariadne's opinion.

Overnight, some late news has arrived from Vena: Change of address - R. Hutchison is now at 77 Dresden Road, London N.19. and welcome to new member Mr. Goran Rahm, Savesvag 13, 75263 Uppsala, Sweden. This gentleman honoured us with a visit to our February meeting.

Concertina successes at Burnley Festival: Dorothy Nicoll playing Danse Espagnole by Strogonff superbly won the Solo Instrument competition and Arthur Clements gallantly making the journey from Northampton in spite of coming out of hospital the previous day, gained 3rd prize. Vena McDougall was 4th, also against strong competition. Vena and Dorothy, playing in a duet for the first time, won 3rd prize.

I am told that Crabbs recently had a visit from two Chinese who wanted a Triumph Duet putting into playing order, so that they could learn the instrument. Nothing too remarkable in that, I hear you say, except that they found the instrument in China, and had come all that way to get it repaired, and apparently they could hardly speak English. That seems to me to be real dedication.

### The February Meeting

This was held on Saturday 28th February in the Club Room of the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Only fourteen people attended, but this number included Goran Rahm from Uppsala, as I mentioned above.

The playing started with concerted music: A Stately Measure by Woodhouse, followed by Heart's Ease by MacBeth.

Mr. Robson was the first soloist. He entertained us with a tango whose title translates as English Saturday.

Vena McDougall was next to play. She demonstrated the piece she intended to play at Burnley, a Romance by Svendsen.

Mr. Blakeman followed with Orange and Blue.

We then had some more concerted music, with The Curtsy by Perry.

Iris Bishop continued the solos with the Pussyfoot March by Alexander Prince.

Mr. Hutcherson treated us to two pieces from The Mikado by Sullivan (Gilbert wrote the words, so he doesn't get a credit unless there was singing, and there wasn't). They were Behold The Lord High Executioner and Three Little Maids From School.

More concerted music came next. We played two Waltzes by Mozart, and Melodies by Haydn.

John Royds then gave us Four Little Blackberries.

We now had a second solo from Iris Bishop, with A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square.

Charlie Jeffrey was the next soloist, it being a condition of Iris's second solo that he play next. Charlie played a medley which included Stardust.

Mr. Robson also gave a second solo, called Dreams of Youth.

The meeting finished with a busking session led by Harry Crabb and Charlie Jeffrey. The tunes included Chinatown, Limehouse Blues, Lonely Nights, Pasadena, Top Hat White Tie And Tails, and Love Is The Sweetest Thing.

### Annual General Meeting

This is the first part of the Minutes of the 1981 A.G.M. The rest of the minutes will be published in future issues of the Newsletter. We must thank Stephen Green, our ne Secretary, for producing these minutes without the aid of a tape-recorder. Finally, for those with short memories, the meeting was held on Saturday 31st January, 1981 at the Conway Hall.

#### 1) Apologies for Absence

Ruth Hutcherson and Jim Harvey.

Mr. Green said he had telephoned Jim two weeks before and he did not think he would be able to attend the A.G.M., as he was still feeling unwell.

#### 2) Adoption of Minutes for 1980

The President said that as the Minutes had been copied and circulated, could the meeting take the minutes as read? Everyone present agreed.

I know that is only a short part of the Minutes, but the next item will take up more space than I have available. Don't miss next month's exciting installment! (Now pick up your concertina and play the last movement of the William Tell Overture, by Rossini. It can be done on a miniature, so don't say it is impossible!)

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