

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 303

NEWSLETTER

Feb. 1983

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

Secretary: M. Barr-Hamilton, 75A Charlton Church Lane, London SE7
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Treasurer: J. Entract, 16 Mandeville Road, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Notices

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 26th February 1983 at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1. The meeting will be from 5.00pm to 5.00pm. There will be a committee meeting before the main meeting, starting at 2.00pm.

Just in case you missed the dates of future meetings, they are:-

26th March,
30th April,
21st May, and
25th June.

All meetings will be at the Conway Hall, address above.

Once again, it is time to put in another reminder for - subscriptions! If you haven't paid yours yet, please do so quickly - we need the money. And it is still only £2.50.

Yet a further reminder, this time for back issues of the Newsletter. If you want copies of back issues, drop a line to Malcolm stating your requirements, and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Overseas members can get away with sending an International Reply Coupon instead of the S.A.E.

I think that is all for the moment, apart from letting you know that the deadline for next Newsletter is Monday 14th March.

News

Only one new member this month. Welcome to:

D.J. Blayney, 1 Barossa Place, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2BT.

John Entract has passed me a letter from Mrs. Upson of Aldingbourne near Chichester- She mentions she is still playing to the local Darby '& Joan Club in her 92nd year. An English concertina if I remember right.

Malcolm Barr-Hamilton writes as follows:-

One of our newer members, Dave Townsend (who plays in the band 'Jumpleads') has a book out which sounds quite interesting: 'A First Collection of English Country Dance Music'. It contains 85 tunes (polkas, jigs, hornpipes, schottisches and others) and includes tunes taken from the playing of the legendary concertina players William Kimber and Scan Tester. It is available at £2.99 from Ferrett Music, 36 Minster Road, Oxford.

I still have-the two Duet tutors from Vic Davies as mentioned in a previous Newsletter.

Malcom also thinks he has changed the sex of a new member - E. Ball of Rochdale. Perhaps this person would write to Malcolm and clear up any confusion.

Annual General Meeting

The following notes give a brief resume of what went on at the A.G.M. Incidentally, I would like to know from members if they would prefer the Minutes of the A.G.M. to be published in the Newsletter as soon as they are available, as was the previous practice; or should they be published later in the year, as was done last year?

First, there is a correction to the Minutes of the 1982 A.G.M. Under 'Election of Auditor', the Minutes should read 'Mr. J. Hutcherson was proposed by Mrs. L. McDougall, and seconded by.....' and not vice versa. This is my fault - my notes on this subject was ambiguous.

There will be a Festival in the autumn. The date suggested was October 22nd, provided this was satisfactory to the church whose hall we

will be using. Further details will be published in the Newsletter as soon as possible, but in the meantime. you can put in some practice on 'Own Choice' pieces.

And in preparation for the Festival, the committee would be grateful if winners of cups from the last Festival would return them in good time.

The membership now stands at 106, 27 of whom have joined in the last year.

Promotional leaflets have now been printed. All that remains is for a stamp to be produced so that they can be stamped with Malcolm's (or any future Secretary's) name, address and telephone number. Watch out for an announcement when they are ready.

In order to increase the Association's publicity, Malcolm would be grateful if anyone can suggest places to advertise.

It was suggested that record and artist reviews be printed in the Newsletter. The only reason why they have not appeared before is that no one has sent me any. I hope now that I will be inundated with reviews.

The committee was re-elected with the addition of John Royds. We welcome him, and look forward to hearing his fresh views and ideas.

It was suggested that regional organisers be found. I am all in favour. having done some of this immediately before getting my present job and having to move 250 miles away. There have been regional groups in the past, but if nobody tells me about them, I cannot publicise them. So, volunteers are requested.

Follow-Up

After the news of Mr. Gardham's death in the last Newsletter, I have received this obituary from a contributor who wishes to remain anonymous:-

WILL GARDHAM joined the I.C.A. in October 1959, having recently retired from a supervisory post in the G.P.O. His biggest contribution to the concertina world was to launch the concertina class at Battersea Institute. He applied to the Principal for tuition and was told to recruit a class, which he did by means of advertisements in the local press and shop windows. In Sept. 1960 the class started with Frank Butler as tutor, and at its best Bill Gardham's class was twenty-six strong. He remained a loyal member to the end. He competed in many festivals, and it would have pleased his rivals no less than himself if he had had more success.

His other interest was bowls, and here he was in the championship class, travelling often to compete in southern resorts. He was an official of his own club.

In spite of deafness he kept up his playing, and our own Bill Blakeman for years joined him in a weekly session. They laughingly referred to themselves as the Two Bills. Will Gardham will remain an affectionate memory to all who knew him.

Editorial Chuntering

Members will have received a copy of the Balance Sheet for last year with this Newsletter. I mention this because there was some discussion at the A.G.M. about raising the subscription. My own personal opinion depends on the fact that donations and profits contributed around £100 to the income. While we appreciate members generosity, we cannot depend on this source to balance our books. So. from the membership? figure quoted above, I think the subscription should be at least £3.50. This is the only sure way to get money to develop the I.C.A., I would like members to give their opinions and debate the matter through these columns

Howard.

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