

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 304 NEWSLETTER Mar. 1983

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Notices

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 26th March 1983 between 3.00pm and 5.00pm at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1. The committee will be meeting at 2.00pm as usual.

I make no apologies for reminding you of future meetings. The dates booked are: 30th April; 21st May; and 25th June. With that amount of prior notice, I will not accept excuses that you couldn't fit a meeting in with your plans!

I also make no apologies for reminding you that if you haven't already paid your SUBSCRIPTION, now is the time to do so. You are rapidly running out of your period of grace!

I am pleased to announce that the long-promised leaflets are now available. Just write to Malcolm stating the number you require, and enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, at least A5 size (This newsletter folded in half) if you want more than a very few.

News

First of all, a welcome to new members:-

Ben Fellingham, 7 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 5DE

Malcolm N. Gee, 146 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10  
2SL (Malcolm is Chairman of Club Accord' - an accordion association)

Olga Shotton, 28 Alexandra Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 6QD.

Jack Sleeman, 34 Highbury Park, Warminster, Worcs.

Gladys Thorp, 24c Star Hill, Rochester, Kent.

(Gladys is a lapsed member re-joining)

And that, I am informed, brings the membership to 114!

It has also come to my ears that lapsed member Iris Bishop gave birth to a child about the middle of February.

I was wandering through the streets of Littlehampton one Saturday when the strains of a concertina reached my ears. Naturally, I investigated, and I met Paul Davies of Worthing. Paul was busking on his Anglo and a flute. He told me that he had been to one or two of our Festivals. Some of you may therefore know him, and to those people he sends regards. I hope that Paul will soon join our ranks.

Bob Hayes writes to inform me that the next meeting in the southwest will be on Saturday 23rd April from 11.00am to 5.00pm. It will be held at the Wesley Church Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome, Somerset once again. Bob says that refreshments will be available, and he hopes that attendees will spend as much time as possible with their instruments. I expect that in view of the date, there will be a patriotic theme to the meeting. An account of the last meeting appears below.

Finally, Dorothy Tutt mentions that she has had a plaster on her hand after a fall. The damage is two broken fingers on her left hand as the result of a fall. I'm sure we all wish her a speedy recovery.

For Sale & Wanted

J

Malcolm Clapp has the following instruments for sale:

48 key ebony-ended treble Lachenal Edeophone with metal buttons and 5-fold all-leather bellows, described as 'in more or less mint condition'.

56 key ebony-ended extended treble Lachenal, with raised ends and glass buttons, also with all-leather bellows. It is described as playing extremely well with a fast action.

Malcolm is looking for a Crane Triumph concertina with 62 or more keys. He says the condition, within reason, is immaterial.

If any member wants to contact Malcolm in connection with any of these instruments, he is at 40 Holcombe Green, Weston, Bath BA1 4HU.

Paul Davies is looking for an Anglo in B flat and F, high pitch, which has never been re-tuned, to match his existing instrument. If any member has such a concertina that they wish to sell, contact Paul at 15 Upper High Street, Worthing, West Sussex.

#### The February Meeting

This took place at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, on Saturday 26th February. Just to let you know how much we need more support I think the numbers, attending reached double figures for a change. Now, get out of your easy chairs as the weather gets warmer!

The meeting opened with the usual concerted music. The pieces were three Irish melodies arranged by Woodhouse, being The Londonderry Air, The Last Rose of Summer and The Minstrel Boy? and three Welsh melodies arranged by Frank Butler, being All Through the Night, 'The Ash Grove, and Land of My Fathers.

Mr. Blakeman was the first soloist, playing Orange and Blue, and Scotland the Brave.

Mr. Jevons was the next to take the floor, changing the mood with Schon Rosmarin by Kreisler.

We reverted to concerted music to play A Memory by Schumann, the memory on this occasion being that of the late Mr. Gardham.

Mr. Robson continued the solo playing with The Cuckoo in The Wood from White Horse Inn. - -

The next player was Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, providing another change of tempo with None So Pretty.

Marian Janes then gave us one of her rare solos, changing the tempo again with the Playford tunes Hole in The Wall, Hunsdon House and Hare's Maggot.

It was then time to go back to concerted music, rendering the Gavotte from Mignon by Thomas, arranged by Woodhouse.

There was another 'solo' from Vena MacDougall, who continued her custom of accompanying herself on the piano by means of a pre-recorded tape. The piece she played was Chanson de Matin by Elgar.

We returned to concerted music, this time with three Swedish Folk Dances by Mehler, orchestrated by Perry.

Mr. Hutcherson decided it was his turn for a solo, and gave us Flower Song by Lange.

Back to concerted music. This time we played melodies from Faust by Gounod, arranged by Woodhouse.

John Royds took us back to folk music playing two jigs which were not named.

Mr. Robson returned to the solo spot with a Waltz of his own composition.

The consort came together again. By popular request, we played the Irish and Welsh melodies again.

It was now time for Malcolm Barr-Hamilton to return, and gave us Truckles.

Mr. Blakeman also took a second turn with Fiddlers Joy.

John Royds was the final soloist, with Temple House.

The meeting was closed with concerted music, another piece by Frank Butler: Rachael - a Folk Rondo for concertinas.

#### South West Meeting

Malcolm Barr-Hamilton has sent me the following account of the recent gathering in Frome which you might have seen advertised in the Newsletter:-

I went down to Frome along with Steve Green on the 19th February to the meeting of West Country Concertina Players organised by I.C.A. members Violet Fordham and Bob and Ethel Hayes. This was a most Successful occasion attended by about thirty players mostly from the west coun-

try but with one or two from further afield.

People gathered at about 11 o'clock at the Wesley Church Hall and most stayed till about 5 o'clock allowing plenty of time for solo and concerted playing as well as informal discussion. Excellent refreshments were provided.

The organisers very kindly allowed me to give the I.C.A. a plug which resulted in several new members. The next meeting will be at the same venue on April 23rd. How about some other parts of the country following this excellent example.

Correspondance.

In answer to the request for views on various topics mentioned in the last Newsletter, I have had a measly two replies which appear below. My thanks to these two interested members. Now, How about the rest of you?

I shall intersperse my replies to points raised in these letters in the appropriate places in brackets, and with my initials at the end.

The first letter is from Arthur Clements of Northampton:

The February Newsletter arrived, and only a brief report of the A.G.M. which should be the life, and to country members our only contact. Yes, a complete report as soon as possible. (I appreciate your point that the Newsletter is the only contact some members have. It is a point I try to stress at committee meetings. I am still awaiting a copy of the Minutes of the A.G.M. from Malcolm, and unless other members think I should wait, I will print them as soon as I can, HAR)

I note the long-awaited Festival is possible on Oct. 22nd if the Church Hall is available. Surely this should have been booked as a positive action because the Festival had been put back 1 year to give the new Committee time. (A deposit was put on the hall before the upheaval in the Association. The Church has kindly allowed this deposit to stand, and the only reason the date is tentative is that the Church might want to use the hall on that day themselves. HAR)

It is to be hoped all the Cups are returned, because it has been reported that a winner at the last Festival has not received the trophy they won. (I heartily concur with that sentiment. I never received a cup I won at a Festival in about 1976. HAR)

Regarding increase of subscriptions, I cannot see where you expect O.A.P.'s to pay increase especially when to many their only contact is the Newsletter (My suggestion of a subscription of £3.50 works out at 35p per. Newsletter. Don't forget we have to pay 12½p for postage out of that. If any pensioner cannot afford 35p ten times a year, then perhaps he needs to claim one of the extra benefits he has paid for during his working life. But, as I said in the last Newsletter, we only balance our books because of donations. That means in effect that we are running at a loss if donations stopped tomorrow, and the I.C.A. would not last very long afterwards. And £3.50 is a ridiculously cheap subscription for an international society in this day and age. HAR)

Is a charge made against members who are able to attend the meetings at the Conway Hall? (Not formally. Attenders are expected to make a donation towards the cost of hiring the hall, but I cannot remember seeing the box used for this purpose for some time. I will make sure this is discussed in committee. HAR)

The Midland Branch of the Association - no membership contribution, just subscriptions, have quite a few get-togethers and their twice a year newsletter is far superior to the one produced for us, and contains very interesting articles. (What midland 'branch'? I hear nothing of this. Don't forget that this Newsletter comes out ten times a year, not twice, because I am very aware that, as you have said, it is the only contact some people get. I could do much better if the money spread over 10 Newsletters was concentrated on only two! HAR)

I have been a member since the early days in the 50s and remember the first Festival held at the Quaker Hall opposite Euston Station, when the Festivals were more regular, Newsletters more interesting, other meetings arranged, like week-ends. Always a welcome at the Kensington

Group Monday evenings, or at one of the schools running evening classes, carrying out the motto of the I.C.A. to REVIVE, ESTABLISH and MAINTAIN interest in the concertina, and there has been little of that over the last few years. (Yes, I'm sure that all members want to live up to that motto, but recently there has not been the money to do so, and the people active in the '50s, those who are still with us. are suffering from Anno Domini. The result is a period of re-establishment of the I.C.A. I suggest you think what you could buy for your subscription in the '50s, then see how much those goods cost today, and compare that with the present I.C.A. subscription. It all boils down to 'we would do it if we had the money. HAR)

Not very complimentary, but worth bringing to the notice of members. (Fair enough. I hope I have not offended you with my comments. HAR)

The other letter is from Harry Hatton of Haydock:

I see as usual you are asking for views and suggestions, of course that's what is wanted to fill the sheets of the Newsletter. Well, here's one suggestion - what about taping the meetings with all the soloists and groups playing, etc. Members would send their own cassettes down, or the IC.A. could buy cassettes and charge for them, say the price of the cassette and 50p or £1 for the music on it. I feel sure you would get quite a lot of members wanting them.

It used to be done many years ago by my good friend Mr. Jim Harvey, and I have a large number of tapes from him with some excellent playing.

I have always wished I could have been down there at all your meetings from the very first day I joined the I.C.A. And I still wish it, I feel I would have been a player far better than I am today after 60 years of trying.

(As I see it, this scheme needs a member who attends meetings regularly who has a high quality cassette recorder, and another one at home. If there are any volunteers, let the committee know. However, there might be some legal problems with copyright. HAR)

#### Editorial Chuntering

Well, I think I have got most of the bees out of my bonnet in my replies to Mr. Clements, so this should only be a short piece.

I see that one thing I have not mentioned as yet is the DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS MONDAY 18th APRIL.

Now an apology - in the last Newsletter I said that nobody has sent me any reviews. One body has - our indefatigable secretary, Malcolm. Sorry, Malcolm. They will appear when they are needed.

And the last item is a plea to anyone who took a tape recording of the AGM. I certainly didn't notice anyone doing so, but I don't wear specs for nothing. Frank Butler would like a record of words spoken by Father Loveless about his late wife Doris for obvious reasons. Can anyone help?

And that is this months Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. The pile of items waiting to be used has grown slightly, but don't let that stop you putting pen to paper. I like to think of that pile as for emergency use only!

Howard

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Produced for and on behalf of the International Concertina Association by SoNF Enterprises, Publications Division; H. Rosenblum, Dictator; from 55 New Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5AU.