

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 311

N E W S L E T T E R

Dec. 1983

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Notices

The next meeting is the Christmass Social, on 10th December at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1. The meeting will commence at the usual time of 3.00pm, and continue until at least 5.00pm. The committee will be having a huddle at 2.00pm.

While I'm going on about the Social, it is the custom for members to bring food, tea, coffee, plates, and cutlery, and a tea break is the excuse for members to tuck into these goodies. Usually, it is the ladies who do all this, but why not all the male members bring something as well - you are the majority of attendees! Anyone who is willing to help, please contact Malcolm, details above.

Another little job you can do at the Social is to pay your subscription. Yes, I'm back on my regular hobby-horse. I'll be reminding you to pay your subscription from now until next April. Don't forget that it has been raised to £4.00. If anyone has any queries, contact John Entract at the above address.

For the future, do not forget that the Annual General Meeting will be on 28th January 1984 at the Conway Hall. I leave you to contemplate the President's comments without adding my own exhortations.

Another thing for next year is a committee. If you think that someone should be on the committee, they have to be nominated. To do this, first check that the person you wish to nominate is willing to serve on the committee if elected. Then, write on a piece of paper that you wish to nominate this person, and sign it (It might help in some cases to print your name and the name of the nominee as well). Then, your paper must be countersigned by a member who is willing to second your nomination. Finally, send the paper to Malcolm, who will be struggling under the avalanche of nominations.

Finally, in this section, the deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday January 16th 1984., That gives you plenty of time to sit down and write a short article while you are digesting your Christmass dinner, or getting over your New Year celebrations.

A Christmas Message From The President

I would wish to begin, this year, not so much with a message, but a comment, and congratulations on the very high standard achieved by the contestants in the recently-held 18th Festival, which was, I believe, the best I have attended - and I have attended all of them! The organisation, by Malcolm and the Committee, was simply splendid, and the playing revealed a very high standard indeed. We owe much to Bob Hayes, and his capital West-Country Group, all of whom made an outstanding contribution. I am convinced that, if we could have more of such groups around the country, our growing membership would be greatly increased. Tim Pearson tried, unfortunately unsuccessfully, in the North. Perhaps he would consider trying again! - and others, in other areas.

Do, please, take great care of the cups you have won. They are the property of the Association, and must be returned before the next Festival is held. I gather that two are still missing and were, therefore, not presented to the winners, as they should have been. That is a pity, and I much hope that those holding them will return them without delay. While writing in this general vein, may I make a plea for a larger attendance at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting? It would be a great encouragement to the Committee, and, after all, it is your meeting, at

which you are able to express your views, and so help the Association on its course - SATURDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1984, at the Conway Hall. I hope to see you!

I would wish, on behalf of the members, to congratulate our hard-working Newsletter-writer, Howard, on his marriage, and to wish him, and his wife, much happiness and every blessing for the future.

These greetings make a suitable introduction to my message of general good wishes to you all at Christmass-time.

We should remember that, not merely saluting Christmass, not regarding it as a visitor once a year, but keeping it as a treasured possession, a source of gladness and goodness for the whole of another, must be our aim.

Let Christmass, therefore, be a perpetual keepsake, just as a church is a witness to the love of God.

Christmass, when we clear it of all the tinsel, and trappings, and commercialism, shows a gate opened between earth and heaven. In a simple picture, the Christmass story sets before us an empire with its census, a province with its ambitions, a little town with its overcrowded inns, a family on its journey, a field with shepherds at their nightly duty, a world of painful fact - and angels in another realm, singing praises to Almighty God. Here is the true perspective of our own existence.

Another world impinges daily upon the world we touch, and see, and Christmass has made us citizens of both.

It was Charles Kingsley who wrote: "All things at Christmas tide are blessed now, but sin: for all things, excepting sin, are redeemed by the life and death of the Son of God. Blessed are wisdom and courage, joy and health and beauty, love and marriage, childhood and manhood, corn and wine, fruit and flowers, for Christ redeemed them by His life." Let us, however, not forget the sick and elderly at this Holy season. I think especially of dear Alf Edwards, that consummate player of the English concertina, so long in his nursing-home. Let us make a special point of sending our love and greetings to him, and to others in our Association who are old or sick, lonely or un-employed, mourning or troubled.

God grant you all His blessing at Christmass, and the happiest of New Years.

Kenneth Loveless

News

First of all, welcome to two more new members:

Mr. Graham J. Coyne, Flat 1, Foundry Court, 131 Burnyreave Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, S3 9DG; and

Mr. H. J. C. Jones, 38 St. Austell Ave., Broken Cross, Maccles-Graham Coyne plays the McCann Duet, mainly for folk music. Mr.

Jones plays an Anglo, and competed at the Festival.

Now another mention of the Halsway Manor weekend being arranged by Bob Hayes. As you know, it will be on 23rd-25th March 1984. Bob has secured the services of Nigel Chippindale of Hobgoblin Music, and a former member of the I.C.A., to organise workshops for Anglo, English and Duet playing. I understand that there are still a few places vacant, so if you are interested, contact Bob at 44 Rothesay Road, Dorchester, DT1 2DX, or 'phone him on Dorchester 66809. I understand that the cost will be about £35 including VAT.

Dave Blayney has sent, via Malcolm, a leaflet about music cassettes produced by Letchworth Morris Men. Two of the three cassettes mentioned feature our own Tom Prince. I think I have mentioned the first, titled simply 'Tom Prince' in an earlier Newsletter. The second is titled 'Tom Prince in concert', and I think the title describes the music - a selection for the concert platform. The cassettes cost £3.00 each plus postage and packing, which is 30p for one cassette, and 10p for each additional cassette. Send your orders to B.R. Holeman, 48 Britten Drive, Malvern, Worcs. Cheques and postal orders should be made out to 'Letchworth Morris Men'.

Festival Report

To coin a phrase, it all went off with a bang! For those of you who were unable to get there, the 18th Festival took place as advertised on Saturday 22nd October at Victoria Methodist Church. We had a total of 56 entries in 15 different classes.

Before I start with a detailed account of the day, there are a couple of things to mention. The first is a special thank you for coming to Goran Rahm from Uppsala, Sweden, and P. Hansen and G. Moellers from West Germany.

Secondly, a note from Malcolm: if any Festival competitor wants a certificate, write to him with an A4 stamped, addressed envelope. A4 is the size of this sheet, and the envelope should be big enough so that the certificate does not need to be folded. Also, anyone who wants a copy of the Festival programme should write to Malcolm, again with a stamped, addressed envelope.

And now to the proceedings. The afternoon started with Class 1: Elementary English, Test Piece. This was won by D.A. Lloyd with 87 marks.

This was followed by Class 2: Intermediate English, Test Piece, won by V.L. Fordham with 85 marks.

The first of the Own Choice class was the Elementary Duet. This was contested by Janet Pearson, playing Handel's "See the Conquering Hero Comes", and Polly Mason on the Jeffries with "Fascination". Miss Mason was the winner with 87 marks.

The only contestant in the Intermediate Duet Own Choice class was 'Pat' Robson, who obtained 85 marks playing an un-named tango of his own composition.

Malcolm Clapp gave to only entry in the Elementary Anglo Own Choice class. He played "Over the Rainbow" and was given 85 marks.

The Advanced English Test Piece class followed. This was won, unsurprisingly, by Tom Prince with 94 marks.

The Ear Players Own Choice was a closely-fought contest, with P. Hansen playing "Planxty Irwin", John Entract playing two 'French' tunes, the second of which was the 'Maigret' theme, which he called 'Plaster of Paris', and H.J.C. Jones playing "Battle of the Somme". Mr. Jones came out on top with 88 marks.

The Folk Dance Playing class was another hard-fought contest. 'Pat' Robson played a Mexican habanera, Italian polka and a tango. J. Glasson played La Russe, the Longborough version of Cuckoo's Nest and Filigo (?) Filigo All the Way. Tim Pearson played the Fieldtown 'Banks of Dee', 'Star of County Down and Ring of Bells'. P. Hansen played German and Swedish tunes followed by 'Bee-Setting'. Malcolm Clapp played The Rose, Rakes of Mallow and Month of May, John Royds played Mummings of Kent, London Lasses, and Templetown. Ethel Hayes played Nonesuch, Cupid's Garden and Redesdale Hornpipe. Vi Fordham played Gathering Peascods, Delia and Jenny Plucked Pears. Polly Mason played Gentle Maiden, Malthouse and Rocky Road to Dublin. H. Jones played Michael Turner's Waltz, Old Molly Oxford, and a quadrille. Finally, G. Moellers played Swallow's Tail Waltz and two other tunes. Five players gained 90 or more marks, but the winner, with 92, was Polly Mason.

Miss Mason could not rest on her laurels however. She was the only entrant in the Advanced Duet Own Choice, this time using a Triumph system instrument. She selected a piece by Handel, and was awarded 85 marks.

It was time for a much-needed tea break, when everyone was able to discuss the standard of competition, and exchange news. I'm sure everyone also wishes to thank those volunteers who assisted with the catering, making a large number of sandwiches and an uncounted number of cups of tea.

The competition resumed with the classes involving groups, so that those who lived long distances away could catch trains back that evening. The first of these was for Five or More Concertinas, The Odd Bods had one person missing, but still managed a concerto by Vivaldi. The opposition came from the West Country Concertina Players performing 'The Entertainer'. The prize went to the West Country Players with 85 marks.

The West Country Concertina Players were the only competitors in the Three or Four Concertinas class. This time they played 'Simple Samba' and were awarded 88 marks.

It was then time for the Two Concertinas class. Tim and Janet Pearson played Look For Signs that Summer's Done and Journey of Life. Bob Senior and Harry Dunn played the Pilgrims' Chorus from Tannhauser by Wagner. P. Hansen and G. Moellers played a German(?) tune whose title was beyond Malcolm's ability to pronounce! Vi Fordham and Ethel Hayes played a minuet. Douglas Rogers and Polly Mason played two movements from a Sonata by Telemann. The winners were P. Hansen and G. Moellers with 92 marks.

We now came, with much anticipation, to the Advanced English Own Choice class. John Hutcherson played Meditation by Massenet. Douglas Rogers played Home Sweet Home. Harry Dunn played a piece by Regondi and another tune. Tom Jukes played The President by Scott Skinner. Tom Prince played a set of variations on a theme by Rossini. Charlie Jeffrey played Liebesfreud by Kreisler. Tom Prince was the winner, one might almost say 'As usual', with 92 marks.

The penultimate class was the Intermediate English Own Choice. Vi Fordham played a minuet. G. Moellers played a sonata by Handel. The result was a tie on 90 marks.

Finally, we finished with the Advanced Anglo Own Choice class. In this, Tim Pearson played Jockey to the Fair and Step Back. P. Hansen played the minuet from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart. H. Jones played A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. The class was won by Tim Pearson with 88 marks.

After much calculation, and checking of the rules, the Wheatstone Trophy for the highest aggregate of marks in any three classes by one competitor was won by G. Moellers.

The Charles Parslay Trophy for the best performance of the day was given to Tom Prince.

I think it only remains to thank Mrs. Hutcherson for undertaking the task of Adjudicator's Secretary, to thank Miss Kantrovitch for doing the adjudicating, and Malcolm for doing the hulk of the organisation.

And one final thanks - to all those who took part in the Festival. Without you, it would not be a Festival at all.

Editorial Chuntering

First, I'd like to put in a bit of late news. Mr. Eric Russell is now living at Glebelands, 1 Grove Hill Road, London SE5.

Secondly, I wish to apologise for the reproduction of the music in the last issue of the Newsletter. I am not used to printing music stencils, and the standard was not what I would have wished.

While I am on the subject of music in the Newsletter, what did all of you think? I would be pleased to hear from you.

Can anybody help Peter Kleinschmidt of Schalksbornstr. 17, 6 Frankfurt 60, West Germany? He is after copies of 'Free Reed'.

I am still waiting for essays connected with concertinas from those who didn't think we would get to another Festivals Or do you all have such confidence in the I.C.A. and the committee to keep going? Why not come to the Annual General Meeting to make sure that the committee are doing all that you want to keep the I.C.A. on the proper lines. Last year, if I remember rightly, there were only 13 members present. We really must have a more representative meeting this year. Pay heed to our President's plea, and come to the A.G.M.

It only remains for me to wish all of you a Merry Christmass and a Happy, Healthy and Wealthy New Year.

Howard

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