

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 313

N E W S L E T T E R

Feb. 1984

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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 on Saturday 25th February, 1984, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London WC1. The meeting will be from around 3.00pm to 5.00pm. I am sure the committee will have plenty to discuss arising from the A.G.M., and they will meet around 2.00pm.

Now the painful bit - money! Have you paid your subscription yet? This is the time when it is due, so how about sending £4.00 to John Entract, our Treasurer, at his address given above. He did remark that compared to last year, the subscriptions were not arriving quite so fast, and we need the money. I suggest you look at the balance sheet printed below. Not to mention that a lapsed membership would undo all the good work done by other members in the last year or so!

News

To start with, I have to carry out one of the less pleasant duties of a Newsletter editor by recording the deaths of two long-standing members:

Eric Russell, Brigadier Russell of the Salvation Army, died on Jan 30th, or, as he would have put it, was promoted to glory. His funeral was on Feb. 3rd. Thanks to Arthur Mills for sending a cutting of the notice from the local paper.

Charlie Jeffrey passed away on Sunday 5th Feb. His funeral is on Monday 13th Feb., as I write these words, Tom Jukes wrote to pass the information on to Malcolm, our Secretary. Malcolm writes: "Charlie was a very friendly character and, to my mind, a very accomplished and sensitive player. You may remember that we last saw him at the Festival when he competed in the Advanced English Own Choice class."

Both these players had characteristics in common. I recall both being English players of advanced ability, but in differing styles, where I think Charlie was somewhat the superior. Both were, as far as I can recall, always in good humour, and friendly. I have lost count of the number of times Mr. Russell cracked the same jokes, but you still felt they were as fresh as the first time. And finally, of course, both these players will be sadly missed by everyone who knew them.

To counterbalance the item above. welcome to a new member:

Richard G. Mellish, 15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middlesex,
HA2 7NN.

There is also a change of address for Art Hemenway:

2019 Fairview E., 'D', Seattle, Washington 98102, U.S.A.

Art writes that his new home is a houseboat - that is the significance of the 'D' in his address. He also goes on that the people of Seattle do a dance called the "Seattle Polka" to the tune of the "Clarinet Polka" printed in the last issue, which is Scandanavian in origin. Art also sent me the music for a Bulgarian dance, but he does not recommend printing it because it would probably sound a little strange to most ears. He does promise to send a romanian song for publication some time.

I've had two letters from Eileen Jones. The first mostly contained her thoughts about future meetings and music for presentation to the appropriate quarters, which has been and will be done. However, she does report that Neil Wayne was on "Midlands 6.50pm" (BBC1 ?) on January 23rd. He had some of his collection of concertinas, and played a snatch of a folk tune on the Anglo.

The second letter contained the following announcement:

A Midlands I.C.A. Section

I have provisionally booked a room at the Iris Lees Day Club, 14/15 Chapel Street, Warwick, (in the town centre) for a meeting of I.C.A. Midlands members (though members from any other areas would be more than welcome) for Sunday, 8th April, 1984, from 12 noon onwards. The length of the meeting will depend upon the number of people, attending (at about £1 per head) to help pay for the room. We can have the room until 6pm if we wish (or less even if numbers require it) at £2.50 per hour, plus a small charge for the use of kitchen for making tea or coffee. It would help me to confirm the booking, and to get further details into the March Newsletter, if members would contact me before 6th March if they hope to attend, so that I can know if numbers interested would be adequate to make a gathering viable.

Eileen Jones, 46 Mercia Way, Warwick. Tel. (Warwick) 0926-493545

Good Luck, Eileen, with your venture. I'm sure you'll get a lot of support from the rest of the membership.

Annual General Meeting Report

The A.G.M. was held on Saturday 28th January at the Conway Hall. By the end of the meeting, we had a grand total of 15 members (7 from the committee!) and one visitor. At least I believe it was an improvement on the numbers at last year's meeting, but it is not enough for the committee to get a representative selection of your views on the way the I.C.A. is run.

After apologies for absence, the Minutes of the 1983 meeting, and matters arising, the Secretary gave his report. There were a total of 151 members, but that includes those who may be allowing their membership to lapse. Thanks were distributed for the work by various people on the Festival.

The Treasurer reported a deficit on the year. As he was unable to get the accounts audited by the time of the meeting, the following is the audited financial statement:

Receipts and Payments Account 1983

Subscriptions	£330.45	Newsletter: postage, duplic-	
Donations	£126.28	ating, etc.	£273.06
Miscellaneous Profit	£73.37	Accommodation	£167.50
Loss on year	£195.63	Cost of Festival	£127.26
	£725.73	Miscellaneous Expenses	£157.93
			£725.73

Balance Sheet 31st December 1983

Capital Account on		Bank Statement	
1st January 1983	£495.49	31st December 1983	£290.48
Loss on year	£195.63	Cash in hand	£9.18
	£299.66		£299.66

Auditor: F.J. Hutcherson, 45 Valentine Ave, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3HF.

Mr. Hutcherson was re-elected Auditor for the coming year.

The Newsletter Editor reported on a calm year, but one which held a couple of experiments in producing the Newsletter. He also pointed out that he had now produced the Newsletter for 7 years, and would like a sabbatical if an alternative editor comes forward.

The 1983 committee was re-elected to serve in 1984, with the additions of Douglas Rogers and Marian Janes.

A discussion was held on the future of monthly meetings, and relevant comments from members letters read out. The committee will look at this further.

It was decided that another Festival would be held in the spring of

1985, and 20th April was selected as a suitable date.

After a few words from Howard Rosenblum concerning the formation of a magazine library, and Any Other Business, the meeting closed.

Before everyone departed, John Entract was buried in a ruck of members renewing their subscriptions. We need the money!

Late News

A letter from Bob Hayes arrived just in time for inclusion. He writes:

"We met on Sunday 12th Feb., not at Freshford as planned because a tree had fallen and damaged the hall. but at Bradford-on-Avon in the Mount Pleasant Centre. There were 28 present, including 19 I.C.A. members, which, considering the emergency arrangements, was excellent. Surprisingly there were 7 or 8 Duet players amongst us.

"Our next venture is the week-end at Halsway Manor on March 23-25. We have 50 booked for a very full programme under Nigel Chippindale. Whilst it is unlikely that we shall be able to accommodate any more. players are welcome to come as day visitors. There is a house charge of £1.75 for the day and meals can be obtained if ordered in advance. Lunch £3.55 and dinner £4.00. On Saturday evening there is also a ceilidh arranged which is open to the public, with Wickwar Ceilidh Band and Brian Salway calling. Entrance for non-weekenders is £1.50 (EFDSS members £1.25).

"Our next meeting is at Butleigh Court Towers, Butleigh, Glastonbury, on Sunday 13th Mat, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Senior. This is our Annual General Meeting and commences at 11.00am. Refreshments as usual will be available and we expect to play until about 6.00pm. It will be necessary to adopt a Constitution and to affirm our relationship to the I.C.A. In planning our forward programme we have in mind, and already under discussion, a Concertina presence at the Taunton Musical Festival which is held in November each year. We sincerely hope to negotiate some classes with appropriate trophies and hope to attract a very wide entry.

"The next meeting on our list is Sunday 1st July which will be held at Freshford assuming that the hall is repaired by then."

Help Wanted

John Hutcherson has received a letter from Andrew Grant of Warwick, Queensland, Australia, who is anxious to know the age of his concertina.

Andrew describes the instrument as a Wheatstone English Treble. 8-sided (Aeola. HAR) 48 keys, gold-plated. Amboyna wood ends. 6-fold bellows. Serial number 31352. The address label is 'West Street, Charing Cross Road, London'.

My own researches tie this down to the 1920's. Is there anyone who could pin this down any further? I would certainly like to know, and John would, no doubt, like the information to pass back to Mr. Grant.

Just in time, I received the following from member John O'Mahony:

CALLING ALL PLAYERS OF THE McCANN SYSTEM DUET CONCERTINA:

I am presently compiling a directory of players. I hope this will help to facilitate contact between McCann players, enabling us to learn or develop our playing skills, share our music, make and share recordings, and generally keep us abreast of any new ideas/activities as they affect us. If you play the McCann system, and would like to be included, please send me as many of the following details as possible: Your name, address, age, telephone number, plus,

some background information about how you came to play the McCann, technical details of your McCann(s), details of the types/periods of music you play/like, your favourite pieces, relevant club memberships (such as the I.C.A.), whether you play in public, in a band, and any other information you think may be of interest.

Make your letters as brief, or as long as you like. I will acknowledge them all within two weeks of receipt, and I will, of course, respect any

requests for non-publication of specific details (e.g. please publish name and town only), so that, if desired, any enquiries to you are channelled through me.

A directory will be distributed free to all who participate.

Finally, may I ask that you send me your postcards/letters within the next couple of weeks, as I will have some free time then.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John O'Mahony

14 Leighton, Orton Malborne, Peterborough, PE2 0QB. Tel: (0733) 234601.

In case you are wondering, Mr. O'Mahony has/had an Arts Council grant to study McCann Duets, and I imagine that this directory has some bearing on his project. He has already had assistance of various kinds, according to my archive information, from Arthur Clements and Frank Butler. I leave any further action to you.

Editorial Chuntering

I haven't yet mentioned a deadline for the next Newsletter. This is because I don't know when the next meeting will be. However, looking at my year planner, I see that the last Saturday in March is the 31st. I doubt if the meeting will be arranged for the previous week, and that is the Halsway Manor week-end. and a clash of dates would leave the London meeting looking very bare. So, I will make a tentative deadline of Monday 19th March for all items for the next Newsletter, Incidentally, I will be looking forward to meeting and playing with all those members going to Halsway.

While I'm on the subject of future Newsletters, I'd like to make a few points about my thoughts of a sabbatical. The first is that I am not going to stop doing the Newsletter immediately. Secondly, all anyone who wishes to take over will need is a typewriter that will cut stencils. If necessary, I am prepared to continue duplicating the Newsletter and distributing it. Thirdly, this seems a good time, with all the new members coming into the I.C.A., to find out if there is anybody who thinks I am an idiot and he or she could do better. Here is the opportunity to prove it:

Yes, I hear you asking, but why do you want to give up? Well, I find it takes a little longer, as time goes on, to get my thoughts in order and onto paper. Also, my stock of enthusiasm is running low, and I need to replenish it. Furthermore, with a house and a wife to look after, not necessarily in that order, I find that to get everything done I need a 30 hour day and a 10 day week.

I will be ready to take over again in an emergency, or after a year or so away, if the editor of the day cannot continue for whatever reason.

So, I think that is all about why, and I move on to how. If there is someone who wants to know about how I go about editing, I will be pleased to answer any questions. Also, there are arrangements to be made for the duplicating of the Newsletter. It might also be possible to arrange a trial issue or two to see the problems that might crop up. And of course it should go without saying that people with experience of editing a publication have a definite advantage.

I'll be looking forward to a deluge of letters on the subject of editing, and I hope that the new editor will not have to keep appealing for items to fill his pages in the way that I always seem to be doing. The latest reminder on this topic is that the Newsletter is the way in which the I.C.A. keeps together. Any new editor should keep that well in his thoughts. Without snippets of news from the membership, and a reasonable supply of longer items, the Newsletter would become a very boring single side of notices from the committee. It is up to you, not the editor, to see that it doesn't. And that's all for now.

Howard.

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