

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

President: Father Kenneth Loveless, M.B.E., V.R.D., F.S.A.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Steve Goodyear
7 Flaxton Walk
Courtlands Estate
Wolverhampton WV6 OT2
(0902) 742937

EVENTS SECRETARY

Post Vacant

No. 375
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TREASURER

John E. Wild
1a Virginia Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 1PB
(0634) 55738

LIBRARIAN

Dave Townsend
109 Corn Street
Witney
Oxon
OX8 7DL
(0993) 705702

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Howard Rosenblum
41 Belloc Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 7EZ
(0903) 724125

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Subscriptions are due on the first of January. New members at 1/12th of the above rates per month to the end of the year.

Editorial Chuntering

Here we are again with another session or sessions of my "ruining" ay eyes, brain, reproductive organs, and various other bits in front of what is alleged to be one of the most dangerous of modern machines - the V.D.U. My information and reason tell me that all the dire warnings are more likely to be wrong than right.

Anyway, this time I am in the happy position of having to decide what to leave out, rather than what is even marginally fit to put in. Thank you to everyone who wrote to me, some people more than once.

However, no body spotted last month's deliberate error (That's my story, and I'm sticking to it) which was the issue number. There were, in fact, two issues numbered 373, but of course the last one should have been 374. There is no error in the month at the top of this Newsletter. It is a delayed February issue because of the A.G.M.

Several people have written to me to say that "chunter" is still a regular part of their speech. Needless to say, they are mostly located in the Northern half of England. (Scotland has it's own variety of dialect words, some more used than others) I feel sorry for those who do not have access to some of the richer varieties of expression that English has produced over the centuries.

But now to business. Steve Goodyear has asked me to remind you to complete and return your questionnaires. So far, he has had rather less than half the membership respond. You were sent two copies, one for yourself and one for a friend who is not a member but plays the instrument. The exceptions are where two members are at the same address, in which case there was no room for spares in the envelope, and overseas members who probably don't have too many concertina players in the neighbourhood.

I must also insert another reminder about paying your subscription. I know that the repeated dirge is very boring, but a number of players who had not renewed found no Newsletter even more boring.

June and I will be looking forward to seeing a good number of you, and non-members too, at Kilve Court.

We will be spending Easter in Glasgow, so only a short time to the next deadline, which is March 20th

Membership News

After the relative drought of the past couple of months, a whole host of membership news has appeared. I'll start with new members in the order in which the relevant pieces of paper come to hand:

Phil Machell, 1 Court Close, Foresters Drive, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9DQ. Phil plays McCann Duet.

John Gilbert Colman, 9 Oudburg B 9000, Ghent, Belgium

Alan Tong, Elm Farm House, Copdock, Ipswich, Suffolk, IPS 3JF. Alan plays English.

May Littleton, 13 Coney Close, Langley Green, Crawley, W. Sussex, RH11 7QA. May does not play, but is interested.

Peter Morley, 7 Gore Terrace, Rayne, near Braintree, Essex.

Next, we have rejoined members:

Christine Corfield, Turnagain, Top Street, Whittington, near Oswestry, SY11 4DR.

Marie Robson, Cornerways Cottage, 10 West End, Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

Now some changes of address:

Steve Turner, STEMS MUSIC, 110 Preston New Road, Blackburn. Lancashire, BB2 6BU.

Steve Simpson, 9/7 Sheriff Park, Edinburgh, EH6 6DY

Brian & Penny Bibby, The Old Stables, New Road, Tadley, Basingstokc, RG26 6AS.

Jean Perree is at the same address, but the Post Office have re-designated the place as Deddington, Banbury, Oxon. OX15 OPT.

And finally, we have received renewals from the following: Raymond Parkinson, Babs Goodyear, Malcolm Clapp, Mr. Hale, J. Scholey, R. Mines, Geoff Thorp, Reuben Shaw, Chris Waring.

If your name does not appear above, do not worry YET. A definitive list of renewals will appear in the next Newsletter.

I also anticipate a future member, named Bibby, at the address for Brian & Penny. I hope we will be informed when he/she appears, and in the meantime send our congratulations to the parents.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held as advertised on February 23rd 1991 at the Working Men's Institute, Crowndale Road, London. Father Loveless presided with 14 other members present. We also had apologies for absence from 10 other members. What follows, apart from the Accounts and Balance Sheet, is a precis of the Minutes. The full Minutes will be printed and sent out with a future Newsletter as soon as I can get them done.

We started with a minute of silence in memory of members who had died in the previous year, particularly Doreen Hunt. The Minutes of the previous A.G.M. were taken as read. There were no matters arising. Steve Goodyear, as Membership Secretary, reported membership on 31st December at 164, down from a peak of over 200 in 1987. The existence of the I.C.A. was at risk. Action should be taken by an advertising/recruitment campaign and finding what services are required by players. Hence the questionnaire. About 25% of members had returned questionnaires. Others were being circulated to non-members. There were no questions about the report.

The Treasurer, John Wild, reported that 1990 had been a year of consolidation after several years when expenditure had exceeded income. Significant cost savings had been made in production and distribution of the Newsletter even though more appeared than in 1989. Administration expenses included a wreath from the Association at Doreen Hunt's funeral. The accounts had been audited by Mr. M. Page, Chief Cashier of the British Film Institute. Mr. Page was willing to continue if required. There were no questions about the report.

Reporting as Newsletter Editor, Howard Rosenblum thanked previous editors and correspondents. He was reasonably happy about the production schedule and was confident enough to start developing the content, e.g. the music in the last issue. However, he was not completely satisfied

as yet. Music in each Newsletter would wait until he had speeded up his transcription rate. He would be looking at the stock of articles and thinking about commissioning others. Back issues are available. Howard stressed that he could not see or hear everything, or be everywhere. He would be grateful for contributions from members. Finally, Howard confirmed that he was willing and able to continue for at least the next year. Questions were asked about the short notice for the A.G.M., due to late confirmation; layout of the Newsletter, a result of technical limitations; content not reflecting members' interests, due to lack of contributions reflecting the interests; and content of the diary section, again a result of lack of notification. A suggestion was made to write to professional and semi-professional players for dates. This was being seen to through the questionnaire. A question was asked about the publicity leaflet. A new, up-to-date one is in preparation.

The last report was from the Librarian, Dave Townsend. There had been relatively little use in the past year. Requests of a general nature had been made for items not in the library, and an acquisitions policy should be considered. Dave was hoping to sort out specific concertina music and grade it according to system and technical ability. No further work had been done on the sound archive, and offers of help were welcome. A discussion on the sound archive followed including possible sources of aid of materials, equipment and finance. A "sampler" cassette could be produced for sale and to support grant applications. A budget should be worked out.

As there were no nominations for committee posts, the current committee was re-elected en block.

The date of future A.G.M.s was discussed on a committee proposal. It was agreed that these would be held in the autumn with the next one being on 12th October 1991, with future ones being on the first Saturday in October.

The constitution was the next subject. The committee had been unable to trace a copy, and so proposed to draft a new one to be presented for discussion at the October A.G.M. Vena McDougall thought she might have a copy and would forward it to the committee.

We then came to the Festival. Only fifteen different members had entered the last two festivals, so the current format was difficult to justify. The competition as part of a larger event was proposed if the number entering this year was below 20. A set of proposals from the committee would be presented at the next A.G.M.

Subscriptions could be held at the current level, but would be discussed again at the next A.G.M.

Under Any Other Business, A.G.M. minutes were discussed. A full set would be published in the Newsletter and would be available at the next A.G.M. There would be no contribution to the cost of room hire as this was a business meeting. Accounts would be available also at the next A.G.M.

The President was thanked for chairing the meeting which he then closed.

Annual Accounts: Year Ended 31st December 1990

Income

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
Subscriptions	£817.39	£1021.77
Donations	63.00	82.48
	-----	-----
	£880.39	£1104.25
	-----	-----

Expenditure

Newsletter	£429.50	£964.48
Events	79.95	193.88
Festival	NIL	78.50
Administration, publicity & misc.	86.75	74.88
	-----	-----
	£596.20	£1311.74

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
<u>Operating Surplus for the Year</u>		
(Deficit 1989)	£284.19	£ (207.49)
<u>Add: Interest Received</u>	59.53	32.21
	-----	-----
<u>Net Surplus for Year</u>	£343.72	£ (175.28)
(Deficit 1989)	=====	=====

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1990

Cash at Bank - Current Account	95.69	115.04
- Deposit Account	974.16	550.49
	-----	-----
	£1069.85	£665.53
Cash in Hand	33.11	3.71
	-----	-----
	£1102.96	£669.24
Less: Provision for 1990 expenses (120.00)		(30.00)
to be paid in 1991		
	-----	-----
	£982.96	£639.24
	=====	=====
<u>Members Funds at 01.01.90</u>	£639.24	£814.52
<u>Add; Surplus for Year</u>	343.72	(175.28)
(Deficit 1989)	-----	-----
<u>Members Funds at 31.12.90</u>	£982.96	£639.24
	=====	=====

Prepared by J.E. Wild 16th February 1991
Audited & verified by M.F. Page 22nd February 1991

An Alternative To The A.G.M.

Arthur Clements writes: While you were all actively engaged in the Annual General Meeting, in Northampton I welcomed a visit from Reuben Shaw of Nottingham, and Phil Hopkinson of Wirksworth.

It is quite a while since I had the pleasure of entertaining 2 other concertinas, and we had 6 1/2 hours of talking, and playing concertinas, with a break for sustenance.

I feel we all felt the benefit, and for ISOLATED players to have the opportunity to meet other players was a wonderful experience, and I think it is worth every consideration. So, if you have a car, and you can collect a friend, why not visit some of the isolated players, because there is such a lot to discuss, and find out about this wonderful instrument. The more we meet, so our playing potential will increase.

Phil drove 200 miles, 12 hours time, but what pleasure he gave.

Second Probus Weekend

Chris Waring writes; A word about the second concertina weekend at Glebe House, Probus, Cornwall. This turned out to be just as good as the first and I think it's fair to say that all those able to attend were stretched well beyond the normal in one way or another. Thirteen people attended on the Saturday and all but two were resident. Unfortunately, three others were prevented from getting there by the weather conditions and the resulting chaos on roads and railways. Alistair Anderson, as usual, was full of energy and enthusiasm which he managed to inject into the rest of us. (Isn't it strange how one's fingers cease to obey one's

brain simply because he comes into the room?) We all went away happy and feeling that we had profited from the experience. I can't leave this subject without mentioning the superb welcome and hospitality from Pauline and Dave Smart at Glebe House. Sunday morning produced a power cut which was still not rectified when we left at 3.30pm, but hot food and drinks were still provided on time and as before the home cooking went down very well indeed.

The Tenth Commandment

It is nice to record that I have had several entries in the competition to produce a tenth commandment suitable for concertina players to go with the other nine in the last issue. That tube of Smarties prize must be very tempting.

So, the entries are:

Join the I.C.A. if you haven't already done so, and keep up your subs. From John Hutcherson.

Thou shalt love thy concertina and covet not thy neighbour's instrument, but cast out all feelings that his soundeth better, cherishing thine own through despair and despondency, till thou art both drawn up into heavenly union. From Alan Tong.

Thou shalt remember thy teachers all the days of thy playing and give thanks for the joy they have given unto you. From Jean Perree.

Thou shalt, above all, strive to make thy playing a pleasure to thyself and to any other poor soul in the immediate vicinity. From Chris Waring.

Alan Tong would like the publicity restricted, and will submit to no more than a 30 minute TV feature. Well, Alan, I'm sorry, but you may be subjected to a host of Hollywood offers in the event of your winning.

Correspondence

The discussion about McCann Duets continues with the following from Bernard Edwards of Aberdeen:

"I have heard from Reuben Shaw of Newthorpe, Notts. who has been more than kind in letting me have recordings of Tommy Williams and of Alexander Prince both playing the McCann Duet. Both of them are far superior to me in playing as you might expect. Alexander Prince's playing particularly was excellent. I just cannot understand how he can achieve such a standard without any breathy overtones which I find difficult to avoid. Still it gives me something to aim at. Reuben Shaw also sent me recordings of his own playing on the duet along with a friend on the English concertina. This too was a revelation and shows me how far I have to go - which, of course, was behind my desire to hear recordings of experienced players. I am most grateful. I have not heard from anyone else, nor have I had a fruitful response to my query regarding an 81-key instrument. (Phil Machell brought one to the A.G.M. HAR) "

And from the aforementioned Reuben Shaw:

"Following a request from Bernard Edwards of Aberdeen in a recent Newsletter for any recordings of the McCann Duet, I sent him a cassette of Tommy Williams' record. Yes, he did play a 72-key McCann. I met Tommy at the London meetings quite a number of times in the old days.

"I completed the cassette with some recordings of myself on 67-key McCann and my late friend Wilfred Pearce on Tenor-Treble English. I have since sent Bernard a further cassette of Alexander Prince taken from two 5 inch reel tapes issued by Neovox Records some years ago.

"I also have one cassette of A. Prince also issued by Neovox. Mr. Edwards has been most appreciative of my efforts to help him and I mention this as I would be pleased to assist anyone who would like similar copies put on to cassette.

"There seems to be very little in the way of Duet recordings available and I myself would be delighted to learn of anyone who has such material. The quality of the recording or of the ability of the player would be immaterial."

A bit of doubt from John Beckett of Hedge End, Southampton:

"I believe Alexander Prince played a Crane Duet and, as a player* myself, would be interested in purchasing any tape available.

"Tommy Williams may have played a McCann but I bought my Crane Duet off him in the late 1960's and he played "Springtime in Battersea" on a Crane while I was at his home (in Battersea). Presumably the record you mentioned also is of a Crane Duet and not a McCann as you stated."

Whilst from Les Branchett, I believe a Salvation Army member:

"In 1951, the "International Accordion World" published a "Concertina World" section, and there is a picture of Alexander Prince clearly with a McCann. The script, written by none other than Mr. Chidley, states "two outstanding players are Percy Honri and the late Alexander Prince, both magnificent performers."

Mr. Branchett includes a photocopy of the item. I don't know of Mr. Chidley, but as the cutting states it is published by Wheatstones, I presume he was a member of their management.

Small Ads

Wanted - Scrap English concertina. Steve Simpson, Tel: 031-555 2477

Concertina teacher wanted - to teach a nine year old girl how to play Anglo concertina. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Godsell, Beaconsfield (0494) 678020.

John Entract recommends a concertina & accordion repairer: Mr. Danniker, 33 Birkbeck Road, Enfield, Middx. Tel: 081-366 8568.

Final Chunter

Some important things to mention. First, letters in this Newsletter mention taping records, and a member has also written offering to tape a record for members. I believe that this is breaking copyright, which is ILLEGAL. Some members derive part of their income from copyrights on records. Do you really want to rob fellow members?

Second, I am working on the next piece of music, which I believe is by Tommy Williams. It is called "Impudence", and my score is a faint copy from my days with the North London Concertina Band.

Finally, please let me know about upcoming events for the diary. It was only by looking through Radio Times that I saw the series by John Kirkpatrick on Radio 2 called "Squeezing Round The World". How about letting me reprint the factsheet in the Newsletter, John, as some sort of recompense.

Diary

APRIL 17th-MAY 16th: North London Festival of Music & Drama. Includes solo concertina competition for the Arthur Clements Cup. Syllabus from Mrs. M.D. MacGillivray, (Hon. Sec.), 18 Chandos Avenue, London N20 9DX. Tel.: 081-445 6385.

SEPTEMBER 28th-29th: Concertinas at Witney, The Corn Exchange, Witney, Oxon. Information from Jenny Cox, 26 Hill Grove, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4RJ. Tel.: (0272) 629931.

OCTOBER 12th Annual General Meeting of the I.C.A. Venue to be announced.

North East Concertina Players meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Gosforth Park Racecourse, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Details from Ian Munro, 17 Almond Place, Kilmarnock. Tel.: (0563) 27573.

Scottish Concertina Group meets on 3rd Sunday of the month. Details from Ian Munro, above.

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