

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Secretary: Mr. J. Harvey, 42, St. Barnabas Street,
London, S.W.1.

NO.166

MAY 1969,

The next meeting will be on
Saturday 31st May, at
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,
W.C.1, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
(Committee meeting at 5 p.m.)

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

Hullo Fellow Members,

Four months have passed since the change over of Officers. Several of my Northern friends have written saying what a joy it is to read the newsletter these days. Thanks are due to Mrs. Ware and her helpers, also to Mrs. McDougall who for years has addressed the envelopes, licked the stamps, then trudged in all weathers to post them to you.

Our entries this year to the London Music Festival were slightly fewer, but this was offset by the very high standard of playing as you will read in the report, The Kensington Group were invited to play at the All Winners Concert.

Very soon we shall be sending the data for our own festival which this year is October 25th. We are looking forward to a bumper entry of all classes.

By the time you read this, almost half the year will have passed and I feel sad because twenty-eight of our members have so far failed to rejoin.

Many of you, like myself, are founder members. We have been friends for many years.

PLEASE DON'T LET ME DOWN!
I need all your support to make my first year as your Secretary, successful.

Yours sincerely,

JIM HARVEY.

REPORT OF THE LONDON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Leonard Smith was again the adjudicator for concertinas, kindly, smiling, and knowledgable as ever. He welcomed the competitors, saying "it does not matter who wins, we are here for a jolly good evening's music". Later, he was to say repeatedly "You have set me an impossible task. I ought to award equal marks, but I must make someone top". Hence the results that are only one mark apart.

We all enjoyed the guitars which preceded the concertinas. Following the pattern of such events, of course the guitarists did not wait to hear the concertinas. The piano in the small hall was execrable, and quite out of pitch, which was very hard on Doris Webb, and Eva Tyson, the first two soloists. Thereafter, we had all the non-accompanied classes, by which time the main hall was free, and we could move down to it, and have the use of a good grand piano for accompaniment.

The whole standard of playing was very high, and reflects great credit on the I.C.A. policy of encouraging this type of playing. Charles Parslay unwittingly chose the piece which has been selected for the forthcoming I.C.A. Festival; he gave a nigh perfect performance, quite an object lesson to those who will compete with it in the autumn, and well deserved his first place.

W.B. Thornett was a newcomer among the duet competitors, and yielded first place to Maurice Harvey by a very narrow margin. Albert Crook played his own arrangements; highly creditable for a man getting on in years. It was good also to see W.E.Gardham taking first place in the Intermediate Class, and nice to see Ann Foster partnering him in a duet.

Two more credits should finish the tale. Mrs. McDougall, as well as playing beautifully, had also given much patient effort to coach others. Lastly, we must pay tribute to the Organising Secretary, Kenneth S. Ranger, who retires from that position after twenty-five years in office. Many, many musicians must be grateful to him for the encouragement of this famous festival, and we of the I.C.A. thank him for his unwavering support of the concertina classes. He resigns because of pressure of work and professional committments, not to rest on his endeavours. We wish him happiness whatever walk of life his feet may tread.

FRANK BUTLER.

LONDON MUSIC FESTIVAL -

ENGLISH CONCERTINAS

Adjudicator - Leonard Smith, FTCL, LTCL.

Class 92. Elementary. Own Choice.

EVA TYSON. Lullaby. Cyril Scott
Some nice phrasing and quite a
bit of contrast. The crescendos
and diminuendos came through very
nicely. The pace was good and
the feeling right. 82 marks.

DORIS WEBB. Evensong.
Some nice playing in the last
section and the phrases managed
quite well. 81 marks.

Class 93. Intermediate. Own Choice.

W.E.GARDHAM Canzonetta. Bocherini
Quite a nice pace and some shaping 83 marks.

A. CROOK. Abide With Me. Arr. A.Crook.
An interesting arrangement.
Quite well played. 80 marks.

Class 94. Advanced. Own Choice.

C. PARSLAY. Capriccio. Haydn.
Some good playing here. A nice
pace with quite a lot of attention
to detail. The phrases well
shaped and some nice contrast in
tone colour. Very well played. 87 marks.

L. McDOUGALL. Melodie. Gluck.
Very nicely played. Intense
musical feeling with some very
good phrasing. A nice sustained
tone, with some very good dynamics
and attention to detail. 86 marks.

A CROOK. 0 Rest in the Lord
Mendelssohn.
The melodic line came through
quite well on the whole. 79 marks

Class 96. Duet Advanced. Own Choice.

M. HARVEY. Intermezzo. Mascagni.
Some good sustained tone with
a good singing melodic line.
A most musical performance. 88 marks,

W.B.THORNETT. Liebeslied. Kreisler
A very nice tilt to this with
some good phrase shape. Some
good dynamic contrasts. Well
. played. 87 marks.

Class 97* Two Concertinas. Own Choice.

T. JUKES and M. HARVEY
Anitras Dance. Grieg.
The balance between the players
was good and there was a sympathy
between them musically. A good
performance with a lot of attention
to musical detail. 87 marks.

L. McDOUGALL and A. CROOK
Benedictus. J.J.Poole.
Some good expressive playing with
a good sense of phrase and attention
to dynamic detail. 83 marks,

W.E.GARDHAM and A.FOSTER
Andante. Haydn.
Minuet in D. Perrin.
Played quite nicely with some
good phrase shape. 83 marks,

D. WEBB and E. TYSON.
Allegro Moderate. Dancla.
Some nice melodic playing. Some
good tonal contrast in places. 81 marks,

Class 98. Groups.

KENSINGTON GROUP. Larghetto. Handel.
A nice pace with some good sustained
tone. Well played. 86 marks.

HOLLOWAY INSTITUTE
Old French Song
Organ Grinders Song.
The group generally play well
together and there is quite a
feeling for the music. 85 marks.

REPORT OF THE SALVATION ARMY MEETING

Contributed.

Captain and Mrs. Burns staged a highly successful Concertina Festival at West Norwood Salvation Army Citadel, on Saturday 26th April. The programme was built round a visit by the West Plymouth Concertina Band, an all-ladies ensemble of fourteen fine players, under the leadership of Miss Tucker, whose L.R.A.M. was evident in the soundness of her direction of the capable group.

The I.C.A. collaborated, and in the afternoon a programme of varied styles was compered by our old friend and member, Brigadier Eric Russell.

The Plymouth Band opened with a highly competent rendering of the march "Victors Acclaim".

Lt. Col. Thornett, (also I.C.A.) was the first soloist, in a Kreizler arrangement of a Viennese Waltz played on a "Triumph Duet, with piano accompaniment.

The Kensington Group (I.C.A.) provided a quartette in the lively march "Amperita Roca". Col. Lockyer (S.A.) prefaced his solo with a lively talk on his activities, and his development as a concertina player, through a variety of instruments and methods. He now uses a 64 Key baritone treble, and for his solo played "The Lost Cord" employing the full resources of his magnificent instrument. Since some of his chords consisted of eleven notes, it is to be hoped he does not lose any of them.

Duets on "Duets". Mrs. Crabb and Mrs. Scott played a Barn Dance on two duets, most pleasingly. These two ladies have gained immensely in execution and confidence. They were followed by Tom Jukes and Maurice Harvey on English and Duet, a quite different style of performance, restrained and indicative of fine musicianship.

Frank Butler rarely appears as a soloist, but on this occasion played, and chose an unaccompanied solo (written for violin) to demonstrate his ideal of concertina playing. Brigadier Russell commented "quite different, quite lovely".

Harry Crabb's North London Concertina Band brought us back to orthodox playing with "Estudiantina Waltz", followed by "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", to give Brigadier Russell an opportunity to introduce his miniature, and then "Sussex by the Sea".

Tommy Williams contributed two of his own waltzes with customary aplomb.

Perhaps it was a pity to take encores when time was short, and there were so many good things to come, and other players performance omitted.

The E.B.A. Trio (Messrs. Russell, Lockyer and Thornett) gave us some typical full-blooded playing, all from memory.

A Mr. Southgate had only a sharp pitch instrument and made a pleasing surprise contribution because he would not be able to join in the concerted playing later.

Eric Russell assembled his panel of experts, Messrs. Crabb, Lockyer, Thornett and Butler, which dealt speedily with questions from the audience, and finally we scrambled for places in the long awaited "Jam Session".

Probably fifty players took part, roughly grouped as firsts, seconds, thirds, basses and duets. There was only time for one piece, the well known "Pomp and Circumstance March", but even so, Frank Butler, who conducted, insisted on observance of musical grammar and stood no nonsense. It was great fun and an exciting experience and a pity that time could not be spared for more. The members of the Plymouth Band and the various expert players are to be commended for their good nature in joining the massive effort.

An appreciative audience stayed to the end, forty-five minutes late. Capt. and Mrs. Burn must have felt rewarded for their initiative and hard work.

In the evening a complete and varied programme was given by the Plymouth Band. A packed hall applauded the items, which included marches and selections by the Band, songs, a recitation, hand-bell ringing, organ bell solos, and timbrellists. The only guest "artist" was the Kensington Group, which played a selection from the Messiah, under the leadership of Tom Jukes. (Frank Butler appeared with the group as a deputy on both occasions).

OWING TO THE LACK OF SPACE, IT IS REGRETTED
THAT A GREAT MANY ITEMS HAVE HAD TO BE HELD OVER FOR INCLUSION
IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER.

This Newsletter is edited and produced for the I.C.A. by Mrs. Ruth Ware, 65, Byron Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, England.