

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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

NO. 171

October 1969.

I.C.A. FESTIVAL OCTOBER 25th 1969 at Whitefield Memorial Hall, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1. (Close to Goodge Street Station. Buses Nos. 1, 14, 18, 27, 29, 30, 134 pass or stop close by.)

REHEARSALS

There will be ample opportunity for members to rehearse. Both halls will be available from 10 a.m. Classes will commence at 2 p.m.

TROPHIES

Would members holding trophies from 19671 please bring them when they come to the Festival, or send them, safely wrapped and sealed to:-

Mr. F. Hutcherson,
45, Valentine Avenue,
Bexley, Kent.

LETTER FROM OUR SECRETARY

Dear Fellow Concertinists,

Only a few days to the Festival now. Your Committee, who most likely belong to one of the three groups, have been encouraging members to enter the classes they are suited for.

We look forward to meeting you, so come in your hundreds and bring your friends, we need all your support. If you can't come, would you like to buy a programme? I would be happy to post you one, price three shillings, but I would rather meet you if possible. Don't forget the date! October 25th, details at top of page.

Kind regards,
JIM HARVEY.

P.S. We are very honoured that our President, Father Loveless, will be at the Festival to judge the Folk Dancing class.

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING (Contributed)

On this occasion members of the I.C.A. met in the North Room at Conway Hall; downstairs in the Small Hall the Anarchists Federation of Great Britain discussed their squatting campaign and assistance to the Hippies Commune. Harmony reigned upstairs - we are less sure about the ground floor.

It was a notable meeting for having a room full, with hardly a non-player. As soon as the Committee had completed its deliberations we plunged into a concerted rendering of the noted Melody from Orpheus, splendidly played and repeated. A Miniature Symphony by J. Andrieeson proved a much tougher nut to crack, necessitating stops for consultation.

MR. CROOK gave a very effective rendering of Handel's Water Music after which some Duets by Gebauer were doubled so as to employ more members, and Messrs. HUTCHERSON, MUDLE, MRS. FORDHAH and MRS. HARRIS*played happily for our entertainment.

FRANK BUTLER made a novel contribution. He said that member MISS DOROTHY TUTT had sent him a parcel of music for disposal. He then played a few lines from each of a number of pieces, each of which was allotted to the first claimant in return for a contribution to the funds. The I.C.A. is glad to know that DOROTHY still thinks of us in spite of her heavy preoccupation with her duties as Secretary of an Archeological Society.

CHARLIE PARSLAY'S solo was Heykins Serenade, splendidly played with nice chord work. We forgot to ask him, but we suspect it was a Henry Stanley arrangement.

Then followed a valiant attempt at an Alf Edward's score, Jan's Reel, which is featured by the Kensington Group. FRED WATTS took the opportunity to try out the Intermediate Test Piece for the coming Festival, and invited criticism, which was not immediately forthcoming. He also played a selection of pieces, all of which had at some time appeared as supplements to the I.C.A. Newsletter.

L. MUDLE was in particularly good form with a Minuet and Trio by Charles Woodhouse. FRED WATTS and JOHN HUTCHERSON joined forces to "Bless this House", and JOHN HUTCHERSON and FRANK BUTLER met occasionally in a duet.

Finally FRANK BUTLER gave a demonstration lesson on the Intermediate Test Piece afore mentioned, which was appreciated by those present, but might be resented by those absent.

There will be a bumper attendance at the next meeting - the Festival on October 25th.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

RUSSELL ENOKSON, Box 251, Greeley,
Colorado, U.S.A., 80631.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to JOHN RYAN, Zelhem, Dromsligo,
Mallow, Co. Cork, S.Ireland.

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Battersea member W.E. GARDHAM continues to enjoy his game of bowls no less than playing his concertina. Latest news is that he has won the London Club Secretaries Cup. We expect him soon to emulate Sir Francis Drake, and say "there is time to finish the game and win the festival too".

Congratulations to MR. A. CROOK for being the first member to enrol in the Holloway Class this term. He shows great enthusiasm as the journey from his home at Watford to Holloway is not an easy one. I don't think that MR. CROOK will mind me saying that he is in his seventies and this makes his devotion to the I.C.A. and to concertina playing, all the more to be admired. Good luck for the Festival!

Met ARTHUR AUSTIN of Westminster at the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Festival at Camden Town Hall on Saturday 11th October. He was delighted to talk about the days when the I.C.A. was formed. He supplied DESMOND HART with names and addresses of people who played the concertina, a meeting was arranged and the I.C.A. was born.

Mr. Austin regrets that he is not able to play the tina these days as he lives in a flat and the neighbours do not seem to appreciate his playing.

Our thanks to Mrs. Austin for helping with the teas at the Festival.

LEONARD L. LACEY of Birmingham regrets that he will not be able to attend the Festival. He is now over seventy-seven years of age and recalls that he first took up the concertina twenty years ago so that he would have a nice hobby when he retired. He still gives musical shows for a number of different organisations, but says that he has very little chance of fraternising with other players as there are not many active ones left in Birmingham.

Mr. Lacey enjoys other hobbies including Yoga, cycling, social work, and he also serves on five different committees.

He ends his letter with the words
"Its being so active wot keeps me yung".

TOM MEEKHAM is having great success with his banjo band and is in great demand with social clubs. There seems to be a need for this sort of swingy entertainment which features 'pops' of the twenties and thirties.

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS continued

PETER JONES of Weybridge writes a very interesting letter. He recently toured Southern Ireland in the company of the Thames Valley Morris Dancers and found a tremendous enthusiasm for the concertina.

One of the people he met was Mr. John Ryan, who has since become a member of the I.C.A. He would like to know if any concertina records are still available. Can anyone help?

Mr. Jones hopes to be able to attend the Festival, and we hope so too, as he has had a long association with I.C.A. He was a founder member.

FRANK BUTLER recently gave a talk to the Ossidge Townswoman's Guild on the history of the concertina, not only describing the development of the three types, but also playing typical concertina music of the successive periods. He also outlined the current activities of leading players and groups.

The audience, of probably two hundred, undoubtedly enjoyed this unusual contribution to their musical programme.

The talk was given to the Federation of Music Festivals some months ago.

TOM JUKES leader of the Kensington Group, recently made one of his rare visits to Durham. After getting packed to leave next day, he suddenly remembered he had promised Jack Young some music two years previously. He contacted Alf Edwards who was frantically getting music ready for the B.B.C. Eventually, Alf had the music ready and Tom set off in his car.

When Tom arrived at Washington D.C., he was net by Jack Young who informed him that the Group had gone on holiday. What a disappointment! Tom had gone all that way to have a good practice. Still, he had kept his promise and delivered the music.

NOTE FROM EDITOR

I look forward to meeting at the Festival, members and friends, who, at the moment, are just names. Please do come and talk to me if you get the chance.

I shall be delighted to hear snippets of information, for after all, its you who put the 'news' into the 'newsletter'.

This Newsletter is edited and produced for the I.C.A. by Mrs. Ruth Ware, 65, Byron Road, Wealdstore, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 7SY.