

NO. 21.

FEBRUARY, 1957.

MINUTES of the meeting of the International Concertina Association held at Dinely Studios, W.1. on Saturday 26th January, 1957.

In the Chair. Rev. F. Loveless.

Committee present:- Mr. H. Minting, Mr. H. Crabb, Mr. P. Jones and Mr. A. Austin.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed. The Secretary gave his report and the correspondence from various members which included a letter from Mr. Blatchford regarding the loss of our oldest member Mr. Wentworth. The Treasurer gave his report and read out details of Income and Expenditure for 1956 which showed a balance in hand of £14. 6. 6. Those accounts had apparently not been officially audited, but our Treasurer promised this would be done.

The Chairman then announced that the present committee were due to retire and the Rev. F. Loveless was again requested to preside as President for the ensuing year.

The following Committee were then appointed:-

Secretary. - H. Minting, nominated by Mr. Hartford, seconded by Miss Bird.

Assistant Secretary. - Mr. P. Jones, nominated by Mr. Hartford, seconded by Mr. Crathern.

Treasurer. - Mr. H. Crabb, nominated by Mr. Hardcastle, seconded by Mr. P. Jones.

News Letter Editor. Mr. L. Jones, proposed by Mr. Hardcastle, seconded by Mr. Hartford.

The Secretary then announced the arrangements for the Wembley Music Festival and it appeared from remarks from the members that there would be a 1957 Festival. The place and date was left to the discretion of the Committee.

It was suggested by the Secretary that the members should be issued with membership cards. After a discussion for several minutes, it was decided that these cards should be printed and distributed among our members at a cost of 6d. each.

Mr. Hounsell suggested some reduction in membership fees for family membership.

It was left to the Committee to sort this out.

No articles had yet appeared in recent issues of the World Accordion Review, but the Secretary said he was dealing with this, and hoped to persuade the World Accordion Review to include some Concertina items in future issues.

There being no other business the members enjoyed their usual playing session, and we all went home at 5.30 p.m.

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The I.C.A. Newsletter is distributed by The International Concertina Association, 3, Ives Street., London, S.W.3., to which address all correspondence should be sent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER. 31st. 1956.

The Financial statement for the year ending December, 31st. 1956 shows that we have seen the year through without a loss. As space is short we cannot give an itemised account, but are sure that all will agree that a vote of thanks to all concerned, is well merited.

How easy it is to take things for granted, Oh yes, another News Letter, I now know what Frank Butler has been up to, and am amazed at the time and devotion he has given to his various activities on our behalf. So I extend our thanks to him for all his hard work, and express a hope that he will soon enjoy circumstances which will allow him to get back into "Harness" as I suspect that he has enjoyed every minute of it.

If you read the aims of the Association, and then link. your notions to Wembley Festival, you will I am sure realize that it is the duty of all of us to support the Association by either competing or joining the audience. So remember the date, APRIL, 13th. 1957. Wembley Town Hall.

NEXT MEETING DINELY STUDIOS, SATURDAY MARCH 9th. 2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

For the benefit of any member who has not attended one of these meetings, Dinely Studios are nearby Baker St., and Regents Park stations. You will know from previous News Letters of the convivial atmosphere which prevails at these meetings, and the inevitable "Tune Up", towards the end. So come along and have a pleasant afternoon.

We learn with great pleasure that Mr. Pearce, and Mr. Shaw, of Derby are coming up for the Wembley Festival, we extend to them a sincere welcome and our best wishes for their success. We hope this news will encourage others to make the journey, and are sure that as usual there will be some fine performances, so let us hope for another invasion from Derby and the provinces.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS. Mr. A.C.S. Austin. - Dear-Members, It is a pleasure to report on the Social activities of the Association. We have held one Social a month, some were well attended, others not so, but always a number of staunch supporters who have encouraged me to keep on. Nevertheless, we have had some very good evenings, and I am sure that many of us have received inspiration from the fine players we have heard from time to time, and have gone home determined to practice and improve our own playing. The Socials have also done good by bringing in new members. Any member, good or bad, has never yet refused a request for a solo, and I thank them once more. The Stewards, Messrs. Austin and Grathan, have done a fine job, (Watch these chaps, they will greet you with a smile at the door in Sunshine, snow or storm, and remember they miss quite a lot of the Social whilst waiting in Lobbies, and at entrances. So let us add our thanks to yours Mr. Austin, and forgive the intrusion - EDITOR). The letter continues, Visitors remark on the comradeship and bon accord, that they witness when they come amongst us, so please help us to keep it up and make the attendance at the next Social a record. I must before concluding, mention the great help given by wives of members, and they, knowing how much it is appreciated, will I am sure continue with their assistance. A.C.S. AUSTIN.

MR. H.J. CRABB, writes: The North London Concertina School have now some twenty-four members attending Isledon School, Hornsey Road, N. 5. These classes are held on Friday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Another is to begin shortly and will comprise of beginners. All are invited to join either of these classes, and anyone who possesses a concertina, English, Anglo or Duet, is welcome, so come and join us at either class, and have besides tuition, a most pleasant evening. The N.L.C.O. puts on its first Public Performance at the British Legion Hackney Branch, March 18th, 1957. Yours truly, H.J. Crabb, Treasurer I.C.A., and N.L.C.S.

We hope that the above Performance will be a success, and hope to see all the players at the March 16th Social, (announced in these pages), where we may congratulate them in person and also hear some of their selections.

MINUTES of the Meeting of the International Concertina Association held at Dinely Studios, W.1. on Saturday, 10th November, 1956.

In the Chair. Mr. H. Minting (Secretary)

Committee present: Mr. Minting, Mr. Crabb, Mr. Jones, and Mr. A. Austin.

Apologies for absence were read from Mr. Bacon, Rev. Father Loveless, and Mr. Edwards.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

Correspondence was read which included a letter from Mr. Williams regarding the B.B.C, and the Possibilities of Radio and Television performances by players. Much discussion followed, but no action decided on.

Mr. A. Austin made suggestions regarding the Steward at our Festivals, and it was agreed that the Steward's duties should be better organised in future.

The Secretary gave notice that Mr. Edney of Birmingham was willing to start a branch locally, and that we were awaiting news on the matter.

Mr. Cowlin told us about his classes for teaching at Isledon School, Hornsey Road, N.7. and invited our members to attend.

Mr. Butler Proposed, and Mr. Austin seconded, that in view of the Durham Band declining our offer of £10.0.0. towards their 1956 Festival expenses, that we should send £5.0.0. as a donation to the Band Funds.

Little time was left for playing, but we did try one of Mr. Austin's arrangements, and all left happily at 5.30 p.m.

Thanks to the continued support of Mr. A.C. Austin, the Social events are still a popular item, as the last one to be held at Peckham on January 12th has proved. The members teamed up with the British Legion "Talent", and an impromptu band was formed. After dances and choruses, solos were rendered. Mr. A.H. Austin, - Rachmaninov's "Prelude". Played in good style. A banjo and Accordeon duet by Messrs. Hartford & Pitman. Popular airs by C. Jeffrey, (Dagenham). Lazy Pete was played by Mr. A.C. Austin, who however is far from lazy, and promises us another Social in the near future.

KNOW YOUR MEMBERS NO. 8

Donald H. Pullen was always fascinated by the Anglo concertina which his grandfather played, and when the old gentleman died, he was given the instrument. Donald at this time was sixteen years of age, and he soon taught himself to play it. Later he tried the piano accordion, but became dissatisfied with the bass, which he thought too automatic to be musical. A few years later he met J. Hartford whose father used to play professionally under the name of Jack Clevoner. Mr. Hartford, soon convinced Donald that the Duet concertina was a better instrument, and sold him a secondhand 84 key Lachenal, which he taught himself to play, using pianoforte music. He now has two other concertinas, a 58 key and 84 key Wheatstone. He has fitted a Selmer accordion mike into the Lachenal, surely the first amplified concertina. It is a big success at local dances and other engagements. Donald Pullan is now 26 years of age, and has been playing duet concertinas for just over three years. Members recalling his performance of Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary at the 1956 Festival will agree that he has done very well. He works in the family timber business, but still manages to get in about 1½ hours practice daily, his favourite solos being Handel's Largo, Tritsch-Tratsh Polka, Blue Danube Waltz, and the Trumpet Voluntary already mentioned.

LEN JONES AND THE TINA GO TO PARK LANE.

As your new Editor I would like to introduce myself to you. At the risk of blowing my own trumpet, but at the same time carrying out a wish of Mr. Butler, I submit for your interest my recent experiences with the concertina in London's Park Lane.

Mrs. Statton Ferrier, a concertina enthusiast, read the Evening Standard report of our St. Mary's Hoxton Carol Service. In brief she phoned our Chairman, the Rev. K. Loveless who in turn referred her to our Secretary Mr. Minting. As a consequence, I found myself on the way to Park Lane, January, 29th armed with two concertinas, and a huge stack of music, prepared to play incidental music for a period of two hours with intervals. When the time came to perform it was discovered that Danny Kaye was then on the Television, and it was my job to tactfully woo them away, as the Television was situated in the Lounge in which I was to play. The incidental music to the "Merchant of Venice" caused a few curious glances from the Television viewers, and gradually my own audience increased until every seat was taken, and ladies in elegant evening attire were seated on the carpeted floor, and the audience grew until they were seated on the staircase. We then moved into a larger lounge in "Pied Piper Fashion" where the audience grew until the room filled to capacity. Old and modern songs and sea shanties were sung with great effect. Then songs of various nationalities were introduced, and a beaming face here and there showed that a continental guest had recognised a "National Air". During a lull, the following remarks were heard, quote: "Wiped Danny Kaye off the Screen", "Music at the finger Tips", "The concertina made the evening". Many requested to examine the instruments, among them Mr. John Statton Ferrier, who is very enthusiastic about the capabilities of the concertina, and from this performance of mine, both he and his Mother expressed to wish with great determination to hear I.C.A. Orchestra in the very near future, and I trust our Musical Director Mr. Alf Edwards will be able to extend an invitation to them both with a view to this end. So "The concertina made the evening", ringing in my ears, I left the function assured that there were at least another hundred convertees to the concertina.

A. Clements of Walsall. (Mr. Clements came 1st. in the class for "English" players at the 1956 Festival) wishes you all a belated Happy New Year, and Best Wishes to the London Orchestra, (he has not been in London since the Festival) and we trust that his wish to see us all soon, means he is coming to the Wembley Festival.

LETS HAVE A LAUGH.

I dreamt I departed from this earth of care,
 And stood at the Golden Gates way up there,
 Where I saw St. Peter who with look of alarm,
 Spotted the tina tucked under mv arm.
 Said he "Theres one thing that you must get clear,
 We are not having any tina playing up here,
 But with your knowledge of music a harp you'll soon play,
 And in very short tine you'll be on full play
 But from previous accounts I've had of you fellows,
 You surely should go where theres need of your bellows",
 I stood aside saying with a look of dismay,
 "It could not be heaven with no tina to play,
 Could I not keep it just for a while,
 Say for a few weeks to give it a trial".
 Said he "If you promise you'll not touch a note,
 I'll see if tomorrow we can put it to vote,
 And then you will be called to play a selection,
 On which will depend your chance of election".
 Beethoven, Mozart and Handel called in to say,
 "We've written a test piece for you to play",
 The accompaniment written for ten thousand harps,
 In a nice bright key of 25 sharps,
 And as we are high pitch you can put it aright,
 And get into step by transposing at sight".

Said I, not wishing my performance to mar,
"But couldn't you have written it in Tonic sofa",
When they departed I looked at the score,
And saw that the metre was simple three four,
I picked up my tina and started to play,
Remembering what my old Tutor would say,
"Attack" he would tell me "Its best to attack",
Then the wife said "You are bruising my back",
"And the way that you talk in your sleep is a scandle,
For goodness sake pack up calling me Handel".

H. Topping. of Wigan.

It makes good reading to learn of all the doings of all you people in and around London during the past few months. The progress made is very good indeed. The Rev. K. Loveless in his letter to you seems to deplore the fact that he could only offer his sincere thanks to those who took part in the Carol Service. Well, - what more would any genuine concertinist want for a service of that description? I think that by introducing the concertina to Church Services, Father Loveless is rendering great services to the movement.

My friends and I - all duet players - read with pleasure of the fine playing of young Maurice Harvey. He must be exceptionally good because he will be under the handicap of as yet finding difficulty in reaching all the keys, as his hands are not yet fully developed.

It is not likely that there will be a contingent from Wigan to compete at Wembley, but I sincerely hope there will be a good number at this very important event, and I look forward with interest to it.

Mr. Topping also writes on the B.B.C, and I.T.V. neglect of the concertina. We must assure him that H.Q. do send details of all suitable events to the appropriate quarters.

WHY? HOW? WHEN? WHO? & WHERE?.

Who invented the English Concertina? Who first performed in public? What was the first instrument called? Who pulled a tina in halves? Who had two sets of Concertinas presented to him for full orchestra? What were they? and who gave them? Which type of concertina did "Dutch Daly" play?

DICKENS AND DINELY'S.

No. 1 Devonshire Terrace is best known to members of the I.C.A, as Dinely's Studio, the scene of nearly every General Meeting of the Association, and on Monday's the home of Minting's Concertina School. On several occasions recently, the meetings have been held in the Dickens Room, which prompts us to give readers the following facts. Dickens lived at No. 1 Devonshire Terrace from 1839 to 1851. He had a great regard for this house, and used as his library the room with bay windows, and stops lending directly down into the garden. This room had an extra baize door fitted to keep out all sounds and noise. What would he have thought of the present noise from the Marylebone Road, then called the New Road, and shut off from his garden by a high brick wall? In this room Dickens wrote Barnaby Rudge, The Old Curiosity Shop, Martin Chuzzlewit, A Christmas Carol, Dombey and Son, and David Copperfield. Journeys abroad and trips to the coast meant that some parts of the stories were written elsewhere, but it was in the library of No. 1 that most of these, his greatest literary productions, took shape. In 1846, Dickens became the first editor of the Daily News, (now absorbed into the News Chronicle). He must have done much of the work connected with the founding of the paper from Devonshire Terrace. From his letters it appears that the brightest and best period of Dicken's life was spent in the house in which the I.C.A. now gather.

Mr. Butler is anxious to do all he can to help in promoting entries for the concertina classes in the Wembley Music Festival. He will provide the music and arrange rehearsals. The music should be available by the end of February, and eventually rehearsals are to be held late March / early April at Dinely's Studios.

It was intended to give here, the answers to the Quiz. On second thoughts however, we have decided to make it more interesting by giving a box of chocolates to the sender of the first correct, or nearest one opened, and while you are writing do not forget to include anything you consider would interest your fellow readers. Send your efforts to:-

The International Concertina Association,
H. Minting, Esq., (Secretary)
I.C.A., C/o. Wheatstones Ltd.,
3, Ives Street,
London, S.W.3.

It's hard to imagine The Makers giving away concertinas !
Who gave away concertinas? See next issue.

Regarding the above, it is no use hoping that the Manufacturers will ever do that again. It would be a surprise to know how long, with the scarcity of skilled craftsmen in the industry, how long such an order would take to fulfill, and we must also mention that repairs which are a sore point with all of us at times, must also be held up by the shortage of workmen. One maker told me that he had notices at all the Labour Exchanges, but no one turns up for the job.

LAFBURY

Can any member give us information of Mr. Lafbury, late of Manor Park. The Lafburys were well known performers in the 1920, and the "Lafbury Twins" must be still quite young (as we concertina players go). So if this should roach their eyes, or some one remembers them, Lets see if we can get them to join us.

Mr. H.J. Crabb also writes, Our friend, A. Austin of Paddington, has sent me 5/- towards a fund to buy some small presents for the young players who compete in the Wembley Festival, Any others wishing to donate, please send to me, H. Crabb & Son, 158, Liverpool Road, London, N.1.
Mr. Crabb adds that at the time of writing 48 members have paid their "Subs" for 1957, and begs those who have overlooked the matter to do so as soon as possible in order that we may book them for future News Letters.
Cash to Treasurer, I.C.A., H.J. Crabb, address as above.

THE CONCERTINA GOES TO SINGAPORE.

Brigadier E. Russell, writes. One of our young lady members (Miss Muriel Cross of Blackpool) , leaves this country (by boat from Liverpool) bound for Singapore. She is to marry a Service man now stationed there in the Air Force. She will be taking her concertina with her.
When I visit Willenhall, April 6th & 7th, the Chairman will be the first prize winner of last year's Festival. Mr. Clements, if I remember the name correctly.

THESE AUSTINS MUST BE STREAMLINED MODELS.

Now comes A.H. Austin, also with a donation towards prizes at the Wembley Festival. (So he must be the other Austin, I must find out who is which. Ed.) He adds as an item of interest that he has just come across a receipt for a concertina made by the late Mr. H. Crabb, in 1923. The instrument is still in good condition states Mr. Austin, But just a minute, 1923! that's 34 years ago, so now we know which Austin, it is the elder of the two.

My word, these concertina players wear well. If you want a surprise, ask Mr. Hardcastle his age. Yes, if we have put years on our neighbours at times, (I know that I have) we concertina players certainly keep young maybe in the knowledge that it is an instrument on which one has never done learning. So poste haste to Isledon School, Tues. & Fri.. 7.30 - 9.30.

THE NEXT SOCIAL. 16th MARCH. 1957. KENSINGTON HOTEL.

How to get there. Buses from Sheperds Bush or Kensington High Street Underground, 49 Route. The Kensington Hotel is situated in Russell Street, off Holland Road, a short bus ride from these two stations and close by the bus stops. The Concert Room is reached through a side door, and is entirely reserved for the I.C.A. So remember it is your own "DO", and come along for a very jolly evening where the only complaint ever heard is that it is time to go home. Admission is free, but a collection is made to cover expenses, and a suggestion has been made by a member that visitors might bring any small article which they could spare. He suggested, respectfully I am sure, a bar of soap, although I would prefer chocolate. The idea is left entirely to the discretion of the members, it did occur to me that if one of our kind lady members made a cake, it would be very acceptable as a prize, which by the way, is the object of the gifts, and even if it snacks of scrounging, I Your Editor is not going to let that stop us from pressing on. Only last month I was able to read such appeals and remark "Blinking-check", but now (as our good friend Mr. J. Gibson put it to me) "You are on the other side of the fence now". So I must do all possible in word or deed to make a success of every venture of the Association. So if you like the idea, bring something along but whatever you do, come along yourself, and let the "Keynote" of the evening be "IT'S YOUR DO".

THE NORTH LONDON CONCERTINA SCHOOL.

It is a pleasure to know that this School is making such progress, but we shall be more so pleased when we learn how many of you have taken advantage of this latest offer of theirs. Tuition for all, any age, any type of instrument. This may be just what you have been waiting for. How often have you heard the expression, "I wish I could read the Dots" Please do not think you are too old to learn, but go to it with the idea that you also are going to join the Orchestra, and if as I suspect Mr. Cowlin is associated with the teaching, I know this experienced musician will soon discount any doubts you may have and welcome you. So do not hesitate, you will find the address elsewhere in this issue.

THE CONCERTINA GOES TO SINGAPORE

It has always been that whenever the Salvation Army is mentioned, one's mind goes straight to concertinas. Most of us have seen the Army Bands on Saturday evenings playing at a street corner, whatever the weather was like they would be there. Always full of enthusiasm, and if one face was more radiant than another, it would be the Concertinist's. One such bandsman I would listen to at Canning Town, East London. This would be 50 years ago. I shall always remember this very fine performer, and must repeat the remark of one bystander, "He would not care where he was so long as he had his concertina with him". So that brings us to Miss Muriel Cross of the Salvation Amy. As you have already read, she is on her way to Singapore to marry. I have yet to meet a "Tina" player who was not of a happy disposition, so in wishing her "Bon Voyage" and a happy married life, we know it will be enhanced by the fact that she is taking her "Tina" with her. (Editor). The Len Jones in me keeps asking, but docs the Bridegroom know what's coning to him. Well, on the basis of "Love me, love my dog", I am certain he will be delighted to meet both Miss Muriel Cross and her concertina, and were it myself, I should insist that she played it all the way from the quay to the Hotel. (You ask Frank Butler) But lest my Jest should cause me to be misunderstood, I end by saying in all sincerity, Miss cross has her "Faith" and a concertina, and now her forthcoming marriage, which should crown her happiness.

THE CONCERTINA GOES ON THE FILMS.

This article was the outcome of a conversation with our Musical Director, Mr. Alf. Edwards. He, I must say at once, had no idea that I was seeking news for this letter, Mr. Edwards has taken his concertina to the Film Studios again, and this time to play in Robert Farnum's Orchestra. The film, "True as a Turtle", calls for a boy to "mime" with a concertina, and it was decided to try and engage a boy who had some idea of rhythm in order to use the bellows in a convincing manner. Mr. Edwards interviewed the applicants and was fortunate in finding one who had played the violin. After many scenes were shot the boy became ill, so the search began again and this time a boy turned up who had a natural aptitude for the "Tina", and although he had scarcely seen one before, used it most convincingly. You realize of course, that he was using a phoney instrument, and that the music was to be "dubbed" afterwards. The film is now released, and if you saw Mr. Edwards in "Moby Dick", you can if you wish hear him in this, but he warns us that he has had to make the Tina sound in proportion to who is supposedly playing it. Coming to the more orthodox, we can also "get" Mr. Edwards on Decca records, the latest of which is "The Story of Tina", when he is playing with Robert Farnum's Orchestra. "Halfpenny Breeze" is another recording, this time with Philip Green's Orchestra. Records are made with sale prospects in mind, so we can rest assured that the sounds of our favourite instrument is reaching more ears than for many years past.

The North London Concertina Orchestra. A late item to hand from Mr. H. Crabb, informs us that the above Orchestra gave a successful performance at the Unionist Club, Kentish Town. The show was supported by Herbert Lorne., Maurice Harvey., A. Austin., J. Pitman., W. Hartford., S. Grathern, and others. Teddy Stream compared. They were very well received, and at once requested for a return date. This should not be confused with their other date as reported in this issue.
