

THE INTERNATIONAL COFCERTINA ASSOCIATION
N E W S L E T T E R

No.146

August 1967

NO AUGUST MEETING!

It has been decided not
to hold the usual monthly
meeting as it would take
place on the week-end of
the Bank Holiday.

CONCERTINA CLASSES AT I.L.E.A. INSTITUTES

Battersea Institute	Thursdays
Latchmere Road, S.W.11.	7.15 to 9.15
Holloway Institute	Mondays
Hornsey Road, N.7.	7.00 to 9.00
	Fridays
	8.00 to 10.00

Classes commence 25th September.
Enrolment 18th September.

Fees 30/-d per session - subject to certain
concessions.

HUBERT KENNEDY

The I.C.A, announces with great regret
the death of Hubert Kennedy. A
further notice appears on page 4.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA
ASSOCIATION BY THE SECRETARY, FRANK E. BUTLER 60 MAYFIELD CRESCENT
LONDON N.9., ENGLAND.

REPORT OF THE JULY MEETING

The July meeting was one of those occasions providing an opportunity for all grades of players, on all types of instruments, and right royally they enjoyed it.

A trio by Dvorak opened the proceedings, Pauline How, John Hutcherson and Frank Butler playing. Billy Hartford by special request gave us Puppet on a String and encoed with Faust Waltz.

Blaze Away March was a rousing concerted, followed by Tommy Williams playing Destiny Waltz.

At this point Frank gave a welcome to Mr. Everitt, a new member whom we hope to hear on the Duet in due course. Also to Eileen Jones, in town for the conferment of her A.C.F. degree, on which she was deservedly congratulated. A.G.Chadburn - on leave from Nigeria was introduced, and persuaded to tell of his experiences, which are reported separately.

We resumed with concerted pieces - Ballet Music from Rosamunde and Processional March. It was a pleasure to greet Mrs. Scott, who gave us a Duet solo - The Showman - a worthy repeat of her winning performance in the I.C.A.Festival. John Hutcherson gave us an oboe solo by Marcello, a style of music he performs supremely well on the concertina, and encoed with Beethoven's Adieu. The second piece, in quite different genre, revealed his talent for adapting a full piano score at sight, to the tenor concertina.

Mr. Crook - changing from his usual choice - played "Never on Sunday" and "Trudie". Mr. Mudel of Battersea, breaking at last his self-imposed musical silence, played Trumpet Voluntary and Eriskay Love Lilt, and was rightly applauded.

Billy Hartford, in classical mood - played the Barcarolle from Tales of Hoffman, followed by Stranger on the Shore.

Mac and Vena, fresh from a Scottish holiday - could not be persuaded to play solo or sing, but Mac gave a talk on Touring Scotland by tandem, a precis of which is in the Newsletter.

Back to Tommy Williams with Amereuse and one of his own compositions, then Frank and Pauline played two duets kindly donated by J. Pitman. More concerted items, Coppelia Ballet and Dixieland Selection, and then the surprise item. Mrs. Scott sang Santa Lucia and Jealous Heart, accompanied by Billy Hartford and Tommy Williams, to the very obvious pleasure of all present.

HOMAGE TO HAYDN.

On the afternoon preceding the July Meeting a small group of concertina players met privately to practice String Quartettes. Those taking part were Frank Butler, John Hutcherson, Inga Webb, Pauline How, Olive Linsell and Arthur Hawkes. The pieces played included:

Haydn's "Golden" Quartette
Bruce Campbell's Fugue for Strings
Hugo Wolf's Italian Serenade
Pleyel's Quartette in E flat

It is hoped to hold ether occasional meetings to repeat this opportunity to study the more difficult works.

CONCERTINAS AND
JU-JU

Mr. A.G. Chadburn told us that soon after reaching Nigeria he was impressed to play his concertina for Chapel services to a congregation of three to four hundred worshippers. He had continued to do this for two years, with adverse effect on his instrument. Mr. Crabb had told him that the reeds were nearly eaten away with rust owing to the tropical climate. He was returning with a refurbished concertina fitted with brass reeds, which would not rust. They would however, require more gentle handling.

Continuing his reminiscences, he said he was not very successful with folk dances, possibly because he lacked time for practice. However he had evolved a simple system of harmony, based on tonic, dominant and sub-dominant, which served well for the hymns, and of which he gave us an example.

Mr. Chadburn explained that he was an agricultural engineer, trained at the Essex Institute of Agriculture. He was stationed in mid-Western Nigeria, 400 miles north of the Equator, where the soil temperature was 80°. Tools were primitive. Farmers cleared their ground for two years crops, and then let it lie fallow for seven years, by which time it had returned to forest. Ju-Ju was prevalent in the area, and one always had a feeling of combatting with evil.

The Eastern Nigeria Nigerians were the best educated, and hence were found throughout Nigeria in managerial positions.

TOURING SCOTLAND BY TANDEM

The Tandem was propelled by Mac and Vena. Circumstances prevented them going in September, which they considered to be the best time, and they had to go in June. This is a great month for flowers, but a "putrid" one for weather. They had rain and high winds, with snow on the hills, and only had two fine days, in 373 miles of cycling.

The hospitality was splendid. Dunoon was the first main stop, and they thought it a very nice place, but the cold weather had emptied the promenades. It seemed strange to see U.S.A. boats in British Waters.

Fishing was good, and they ate fish from Holy Loch. Inverary was voted marvellous and Glasgow trippers mistook Mac for the Duke of Argyll. Oban was reached after a shocking ride, but they stayed with kindly people for three days. He visited the Chief of Clan MacDougall and was royally received although the castle was closed to the public. Perth was also voted a beautiful city and proved worth three days visit.

Crossing the new Forth Bridge was nerve-racking as it takes 20 minutes and there is notable vibration.

But Edinburgh thrilled them as ever, and true to form Mac made the acquaintance of a fellow musician, with whom they had a splendid evening.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

W.E. Realf of Bognor, in a pleasant letter in mid-July, spoke of his playing at O.A.P. clubs, and particularly of one highlight, a visit from Billy Hartford in June.

A welcome to new member, Leil Wayne, of 83, Rowdale Road, Great Barr, Birmingham. He has ten concertinas, mostly Anglos, but includes a Duet and an English. He is a keen folk dance musician, anxious to repair instruments, and to collect material for a history of the concertina.

The Daily Telegraph of July 24th, reporting the appearance at Cecil Sharp House of David Arthur and his wife Toni, was full of praise for their singing, and for Toni's "charming concertina interlude".

COMING SHORTLY. We hope, commencing with the September Meeting, to persuade members to give us in person, a brief life story, illustrated by examples of their concertina playing at various periods. Billy Hartford has nobly consented to be the first.

HUBERT KENNEDY

It is with deep and sincere regret that I record the passing of this well-loved member. He died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Saturday 19th August, after an illness which came to light in the spring. He was last with the I.C.A. in June.

Hubert was a man of considerable literary and artistic ability, who had travelled widely. He was also a keen yachtsman. He was a founder member of the I.C.A. I met him at the first meeting I attended, at Dinely's Studios in the Marylebone Road, where like all other members, I came under the spell of his friendly, humorous personality. He joined the early Kensington Concertina Orchestra under Alf Edwards, benefited largely from Harry Minting's School of Concertina Playing, and was for probably ten years a member of the Holloway Institute Class. He rarely missed a meeting, and we all looked to Hubert for good support from his splendid baritone concertina.

He was ever diffident about his ability, but he had practised to complete in this year's two Festivals, and sickness robbed him of what could very well have been success.

He has been a most generous supporter of the I.C.A., how generous I may not disclose, but few members of the Association have had its welfare so closely to heart.

To his wife and family, kindly talented people like Hubert himself, we all extend our sympathy.

F.E. Butler.