

The next meeting of the I.C.A. will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 24th February at The North Room, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (nearest station : Holborn Underground) from 2.30 to 5.0 p.m. (Committee at 2.0 p.m.)

Special Item : Mrs. Fordham (engagements permitting) will describe her "Concertina Life and Times."

Subscriptions

are now due, and should be sent as soon as possible. The revised rate is 15/-d, or 20/-d for joint membership of two from one family. New membership cards are now being issued.

THE LONDON MUSICAL COMPETITION FESTIVAL

6th April, 1968

This is a most important festival, held in the same hall as the bi-annual I.C.A. Festival, under similar conditions. The I.C.A. has given it support, but it needs your entry to ensure the success of the concertina section.

Syllabus of concertina classes from F.E. Butler
All entries to K.S. Ranger, 52 Mayfair Avenue,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE I.C.A.

1968 provided a lively meeting. The usual preliminaries brought us to the reports of the officials, with the Treasurer leading for a change. She reported a loss of nearly £13 on the year, mainly on account of the Festival, which is always a heavy expense to the Association. ^

Mrs. McDougall reported that little use had been made of the Library, and as she had now had it for eight years, she would like to be relieved of both the music and the post of Honorary Librarian. In accepting her resignation, tribute was paid to her for assistance in many other ways which she proposed to continue.

The Secretary spoke at length, saying the I.C.A. was in a healthy state, but could be even better. He regretted his own shortcomings owing to pressure of business. He mentioned tasks to be done, and said that his impending retirement should be taken as a signal that a younger Secretary elect should be sought. He must also warn that costs would rise when he lost privileges accorded by his employer, and it was partly in anticipation of this that the subscription had been raised.

He also thought there should be no illusions as to the precarious state of the supply and repair position.

Animated discussion followed. Both Messrs. Wrathall and Billy Hartford thought that the I.C.A. directorate should give more time to popular music, and Mrs. Fordham asked for a stronger Folk Dance appeal. Supporting this, Tom Jukes suggested Folk Dance supplements should appear in the Newsletter.

Neil Wayne found tremendous interest, but said concertinas were becoming hard to find, and most were in poor condition.

W. Wrathall entered a strong protest against the increased subscription, which he thought was an imposition on pensioners. He championed a minority view, but his adverse vote was minuted.

F. Watts was anxious for the Secretary to be relieved of part of his duties, which action might also serve as a training ground for a successor.. The three fields of activity suggested were Public Relations, Membership Secretary, and the Newsletter. The Committee would examine the problem, and were much encouraged to have offers of help in the second task from Mrs. Fordham, and Mrs. McDougall.

The Festival came under fire from Billy Hartford, who thought it a boring way of losing £.50. This led to very lively exchanges, but as the I.C.A. is for the benefit of all classes of players, perhaps we had better record the point as "honours even".

We must record however, that Billy Hartford thought the concertina would only return to popularity if we played "pop" music. Herbert Lome (Mac) said of course classical music limited the following, but he also made it clear where his sympathies lay. Mac regretted that other manufacturers did not give the support that Mr. Crabb did.

Mrs. Fordham asked if winter meetings could be in the afternoon and summer meetings in the evening (At least we should know the season by the time of the meeting)

Mr. Crabb came up with the best suggestion of the meeting. Would all players undertake to teach at least one beginner? The greatest problem was the lack of tuition and this was something that nearly all members could do to some extent, and would be a widespread effort.

MUSIC AT THE A.G.M.

Our President, Father Loveless took the Chair with his usual expert competence. He also commenced the musical session by playing folk dances on William Kimber's own concertina, as taught him by that legendary Morris player* His welcome contribution included a jig, and Country Gardens, and he enjoyed it as much as we all did.

There was no shortage of volunteer soloists, and we can do little more than catalogue the items:

L. Mudel played Che Faro - a popular choice; A.Crook used a baritone to good effect in Schubert's Traumerei; Neil Wayne played folk dances on an Anglo; Billy Hartford's "pop" item was Puppet on a String - obviously much enjoyed; Tom Smellie - increasing in energy and years played Bells of St. Mary's; an emergency quartette played items by Mazas. Tommy Williams started with Londonderry Air, and concluded with musical comedy items which we think were from Maid of the Mountains, Rose Marie and Desert Song.

Charles Parsley played Menuett and Trio by Mozart. Harry Crabb gave us his B.B.C. version of Beautiful Ohio, which was very good indeed, and F. Watts contributed Two Continental Airs

Frank Butler formed another emergency quartette for some Pleyel, and the only concerted of the day - Processional March - closed the meeting.

Eight classical and five popular.

HAVE YOU ENTERED FOR THE LONDON MUSICAL FESTIVAL?

Would you like a Doodlesack ?

"London Electricity" the magazine of the L.E.Board had in the October 1967 issue an interesting article on making bagpipes, and it mentions the doodlesack, a junior version useful for practice.

The second part of the same article describes the business of Harry Crabb and says much that is familiar to us all. But it does mention that Harry has orders to last him four years, in which case we can only be grateful that he does repair work at all. It is interesting to note that his reeds are all made in the Liverpool Road premises from special spring steel imported from Sweden in sheet form, also that to avoid distortion all wood has to have twenty years for seasoning.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

This popular feature of the Newsletter has suffered a mishap. Your Secretary while on business in Clayton-le-Moors, Lanes., wrote 36 replies to members letters in one evening, and also compiled "News of the Members". He posted the letters, and subsequently could not find "N.O.T.M." manuscript. If any correspondent has received it in error, please return it.

In the meantime we are left with the following -

Our Alice (Mrs. Killick) flourishes - sends good wishes to all I.C.A. friends including "the lively President", and says that she with Ron and Louise will be willing to undertake the catering at the next I.C.A. Festival. It's 1969 Alice - but we shall remember the offer.

A short note from Harry Minting promising a long telephone call. Harry must know the Secretary has a bedside telephone.

Cyril Jackson has been somewhat out of touch, but he had 8 months engagement at EXPO 67 in Montreal, a nice fat plum for any artiste. Then on to the Royal Court Theatre until mid-January. Congratulations and good wishes for 1968.

IT IS REGRETTED THAT OWING TO SHORTAGE
OF TIME MANY ITEMS ARE HELD BACK.