

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

No. 152.

MARCH 1968

The next meeting is

THE LONDON MUSICAL COMPETITION FESTIVAL

6th April 1968

at Whitefield Hall, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

For times of classes see "STOP PRESS" on last page, but visitors can be assured of worthwhile performances if they are able to attend other sessions.

Subscriptions

In general, the response has been prompt and generous, and the Committee express the thanks of the I.C.A. to members for their ready acceptance of the increased subscription of fifteen shillings a year. Reminders will be sent where necessary in the near future, and the April and subsequent issues of the Newsletter withheld from lapsed members, in accordance with the usual practice.

IT IS HOPED

that members will attend part of the London Music Festivals sessions earlier in the day, for instruments other than concertinas. The high standard of playing at this Festival, and the adjudicators comments combine to provide an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Tea is available at 4.30 making an opportunity for re-union.

This Newsletter is issued for the I.C.A. by the Secretary, Frank E Butler, 60 Mayfield Crescent, London, N.9. England.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

W.E. Hardcastle, just coming up to 87, sends special wishes to the "Originals", and suspects that he is now the senior. Good wishes in particular to any that he used "to make a noise with".

J. De Pellett hopes both the Secretary and The I.C.A. will keep going strong.

Christopher Ingram sends good wishes from the frozen north. Please add AB/OPJ to *the end of his Shetland address at the request of the Post-master General.

W.H. Atkins of Ryde (formerly of Harrow Weald-) has passed his larger Duet concertina to his son W.L. Watkins of 5 Third Avenue, Lancing, Sussex, so we shall hope to hear in due course of a new star arising.

Mr. Watkins junior, remembers hearing his father taking lessons from John Gibson, so he must know what good playing sounds like.

Arthur Tye has got his desired Crane Duet, and in doing so, has heard from several members to whom he has now replied. Another example- of the value of our modest Newsletter.

An enquiry from G. Penrith, of 12 Yew Tree Road, Walton, Liverpool 9, who is Bandmaster of a Concertina Band, and whom we hope to enrol.

We announce with regret that Mr. S. Ward of Derby, died last year at the age of 92. His daughter tells us that he played the concertina to within a month or two of his passing, and always took great interest in the Newsletter.

E. Charlesworth of 46 Clough Avenue, Woodheys, Sales, Cheshire, says that his father bought a Crabb concertina in 1912, and took it with him all during the first World War. How he managed to keep it in playing order when covered in mud in the trenches in those days, seems to be a miracle.

"He bought another, the one I have now, a 41 key Jeffries of Praed St. Paddington, and taught me to play it when I was 14, and I have recollections of belonging to a 'mixed band' mainly composed of concertinas. This band was based at Homerton. Unfortunately, since I was sent to Manchester by my firm Clarnico, to sell their products, little or no* time has been spent playing this instrument.

It must be remembered that, at least in our trade, as much time is spent in the evenings with writing, as during the day time soliciting orders, and the concertina remains in isolation in a corner. After 51 years with this one firm, I retire this year and will then have to start from scratch, the hard way. If I lived in London, the best thing would be attend at one of the evening classes, and see how I could disrupt the more musical. I would appreciate anyone knowing of this instrument, advising me of a possible easier fingering of another make."

Tom Prince of Consett was out with the carol singers at Christmas, visiting neighbouring farms, an unusual venue for us Londoners who get our carols in the main railway stations, when homeward bound. Tom plays three nights a week for folk dancing, and in August will go to Belgium with an F.D. group.

Welcome renewals have been received from Mr. Hilding Bergquist of Minneapolis, and Boris Matusewitch of New York.

J.H. Mellor, of Ashton under Lyne, now in his 81st year, and 71st of concertina playing, plays his concertina every day, enjoys the monthly Newsletter and has contributed a welcome ten shillings to the General Fund.

I remember another Christmas custom. Parties of men, in womens dress, and with blackened faces, would take their concertinas to play outside the houses, and it used to sound lovely. I can still see The nickel ends glinting in the dark. Four or five selections were played at each house, and the reward was 6d. or 1/- between the party. Chapel people were not very good to call on, they did not believe in it. But sometime a the party would be invited in for wine and cake, and often the host brought out his concertina, and this way we got to know more good players.

Now -there is scarcely a German concertina to be seen. Of course, the English and the Duet are wonderful instruments, and you can play any class of music on them, but the prices are too high. No wonder the concertina trade is going down. But I suppose such a complicated instrument must be expensive.

Mr. Collings concludes with a well deserved tribute to Tommy Williams, whom he says must live to help others, and not to help himself.

MORE VIEWS ON FOLK MUSIC

P.A.L.Ham tells us that at his last "Anglo" session at Cecil Sharp House, he had about eighteen players. Few had experience of playing for Morris Dancing. He tries to give encouragement and inspiration as these occasional meetings are not an opportunity for tuition.

He goes on to say that it is not realised what a wide variety of Folk Music is available, many tunes existing as both songs said dances. Country Gardens has many forms, including The Vicar of Bray and The Lincolnshire Poacher.

The Playford Dances have been recorded PR-EP317 at 16/-, using various instruments in almost a 3 minute suite of high class musicianship. They should in his opinion, appeal to yet another class of recruit, less likely be attracted by "pop".

Mr. Ham also has a suggestion for the next Festival, that the Folk Dance Class be restricted to English music.

Mr. Jackson of Barnsley who offered "three concertinas for sale last summer has now sold them, and is glad to have parted with them to people who will use than.

Held Over

We have interesting letters from Mrs. Mercer and others which deserve copious quoting, and these we are glad to save for the next Newsletter.

LONDON MUSICAL COMPETITION FESTIVAL - Saturday April 6th 1968. Whitefield Memorial Hall, Tottenham Ct. Rd., London, W.1. (Nr.Goodge Street Underground Stn.)

CONCERTINA CLASSES - Time Table - Adjudicator - Leonard Smith FTCL, LTCL

Class No.				No of entries
94	English Concertina -	Elementary	5.15 p.m.	2
95	" "	Intermediate	5.30 p.m.	7
96	" "	Advanced	6.10	4
98	" "	Duet-Advanced	6.35	3
99	" "	Intermediate,		
		Own choice	6.50	6
100	" "	Advanced		
		Own choice	7.25	5
101	" "	Two Concertinas	7.55	7
102	" "	3 or 4 Concertinas	8.25	1
103A	Groups of 5 or more	Concertinas	8.35	2
103B	" " " "	" " " "	8.55	4

There will be a ten minute break for refreshments during the evening.