

NEWS SHEET

April, 1956

The Monthly Journal of the Society for International Folk Dancing

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BETTER - BUT STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Some 37 members attended the Extraordinary General Meeting held on March 8th last to complete consideration of the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association. Mr. A. Graf attended the meeting to advise on legal points. Since all members will receive a copy of the amended drafts in time for the normal mid-yearly General Meeting no details of the discussion will be given here.

The second item of business concerned the forthcoming Albert Hall show. The Chairman reported on the Committee's decision to hold a show this year on Saturday, December 1st next and to stage two (2) performance i.e. an additional matinee performance. He also gave some detail of the planning to date. The Meeting gave general approval and support to both the date and the principle of two shows. The remainder of the evening was spent in a discussion of various points relating to production, programming, music etc.

"SEE HOW THEY DANCE" 1956

Assured of the support of the membership the Albert Hall sub-committee have now begun detailed planning of the year's big event. Details of the Society's part in the programme will be announced as soon as they become available. It is indeed gratifying to report that there is general confidence that the Royal Albert Hall can be filled twice in one day. We believe that this can be done but an extra effort will be required from every member and not only from the members of the Committee and sub-committee.

APOLOGY and WARNING

Due to an editorial oversight the masthead of News Sheet was inadvertently omitted from last month's issue. We apologise for this oversight and in the same breath as it were warn members to expect a somewhat revamped front page in the May and succeeding issues.

OX-DANS AT Y.M.C.A.

There will be a demonstration of Swedish dancing by the SIFD team under Dr. Cyriax at the Polish YMCA on Saturday, April 7th next at 8 pm. The demonstration will be followed by general folk and ballroom dancing. A cordial invitation is extended to members of the SIFD.

ITALY - 1957?

Members may be interested to learn of the formation of a small international company of folk dancers (amateur of course) for the purpose of staging a brief tour of Italy in the summer of 1957. The group has first to satisfy its sponsors of its quality and to that end will "audition" somewhere around the end of June next. At the moment the group consists of some thirty dancers and musicians from six countries: the actual composition being as follows :- SIFD, 18; Polish YMCA 6; Estonian Group, 4; other groups 4. This team hopes to perform some 20 odd dances from 15 countries. Membership of the group has been by invitation and the organisers had to consider not only dancing ability but youth, looks, availability and amiability.

CORRESPONDENCE

"Bare Facts"

Sir,

I have introduced two young ladies to folk dancing at Drury Lane, and one of them still continues to attend. Is this a record?

Yours etc.,

Ron Coultrup.

(We wouldn't know - but Correspondent Coultrup's letter must be a record for brevity. LD.)

Sir,

Being a broad-minded young lady I am not particularly worried like Mr. McIntosh as to what goes on or comes off in the changing rooms at Sunday dances. I would however like to back him up on what he says about the Society's unfriendly attitude.

Some readers may remember that I wrote in a similar strain over a year ago and I cannot say since then that I have noticed any improvement whatever. Every Sunday regularly there are new female members who, unless they are particularly glamorous are completely ignored by the so-called "gentlemen" of Chelsea, with the exception of Mr. McIntosh whom I have noticed goes out of his way to welcome newcomers.

For myself it would be more convenient to go to Chelsea for classes rather than to Harrow Green but I chose the latter when I realised how friendly and jolly they were compared to those frigid experts of Hortensia Road! I am fully aware that God's gift to me was not the talent for dancing gracefully and because of this I must thank him that Harrow Green is usually represented by the male species at Sunday dances because otherwise I should be another of those unfortunates decorating the wall, who would eventually not bother to come anymore.

Yours etc.,

Marilyn Paine.

(The Correspondence concerning the dressing-room situation at Drury Lane is now closed. LD)

"Hospital Demonstrations"

Sir,

I would like to congratulate the Committee and the members of the Hospital Demonstration Group on their fine effort. I imagine this venture must entail a great deal of extra work, and as it is in a good cause all the team pay their own expenses. This is the spirit which will attract new members and enable the Society to expand in size and stature. These informal demonstrations will help to bridge the gap between the privacy of classes and the somewhat forbidding larger "demos". If, as seems very possible, we shall have an Albert Hall show this year, the Society will have more trained team dancers available than ever before. Perhaps we shall be able to sell lots of tickets to nurses and ex-patients?

I am glad to see that future normal demonstrations will now be announced in the News Sheet. This will enable new members who wish to go to the public demonstrations and see how the dances should be done.

Lastly, may I appeal to the Editor to close certain correspondence which has occupied a good deal of space recently? Two friends, unconnected with the Society, who saw the letters have received a most peculiar picture of our dances.

Yours etc.,

George Sweetland

DEMONSTRATION NOTES

We were invited to demonstrate the Swedish Weaving Dance to illustrate a lecture on Weaving Dances given by Miss Melusine Wood at Cecil Sharp House on February 18th. Miss Wood also asked us if we would learn a fifteenth century Italian Court Dance, "Tesara", which she wanted to use to help make certain points in the lecture. We rehearsed at her house and she loaned us some lovely period costumes which she altered to fit us. The men looked very gay and dashing in coloured tights and tunics and the women had to get used to trains. We didn't, after all that, do justice to the dance as it required far more space than we had allowed. It was certainly designed for spacious halls. Vava Vadmal went well and the small audience were enthusiastic. It was an interesting evening and I, for one, learned quite a bit about the connection between sword and weaving dances.

Steve took the same team for a return visit to U.N.A. Malden Branch on February 20th where they were much appreciated once more and did a full evening of demonstration and teaching. On February 23rd we went to Woodberry Down School, Wood Green, for a teaching and demonstration evening. This is one of the new Comprehensive Schools with over 1000 pupils. We had a selected audience but even so we had to take them in groups, and it was quite a performance getting the right number for the space allowed. The children were all so enthusiastic that they piled on to the floor each time. There seems to be the material here for a good folk dance group.

I went with Marie LeFort for a second visit to Manningtree Grammar School, Essex, on February 15th and again it was snowing and a very cold day. This is an afternoon teaching session, and the children and the staff are very keen and very friendly and we thoroughly enjoy our visits. They have booked the date of our Albert Hall festival and will send a party to the matinée.

Ken Ward and Bob Symes took over a teaching session for me on March 3rd at Eastbourne. This was another C.C.P.R. dance party where we shared the afternoon with English and Scottish dancing, and all went very well indeed. On the same afternoon I spent two hours teaching at the L.C.C. Physical Training Club, Paddington Street, W.1.. I was rather horrified to find that it was all female and the prevailing costume was a brief tunic and the dancers were bare-footed. It was difficult to get any style in the dancing under such circumstances, but they were all very keen on the dances and bought over £2 worth of music.

On March 19th Dr Cyriax took a Swedish team to the Perivale Community centre where a Swedish evening was being held. We shared the honours with members of the Swedish Church who did the singing and provided the Swedish food. Our usual Swedish dances were interspersed with song dances in which the audience joined, and very strenuous it was too, but everyone seemed to have a good time.

We concluded our present series of demonstrations for the C.C.P.R. with visits to Croydon and Wimbledon on March 23rd and 24th. At Croydon we had a last minute swop round as Ken hurt his knee and couldn't dance. He played for us and Mourie joined the dancers. The audience were very critical, having quite a smattering of Ling enthusiasts among them, and one criticism we overheard was that Dalldans wasn't correct. We should have had Dr Cyriax with us! At Wimbledon the atmosphere was much more cosy, due I think to the fact that the hall was smaller and the audience so much nearer. Anyway, whatever the cause, it inspired us to dance better.

Well, that is the end of a very busy month for the demonstration teams. My apologies for the over-working and my sincere thanks to all who helped me out.

Future demonstrations:

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| April 5 | Chenil Galleries, Chelsea. | Charity Show for displaced persons |
| " 7 | Polish Y.M.C.A. Kensington Gardens Sq. | Swedish demonstration |
| " 21 | Toe H Guild, Brixton | |
| " 22 | Surrey County Council, Physical Education Department | Teaching afternoon |
| " 28 | Polish Y.M.C.A. Kensington Gardens Sq., | Balkan Demonstration |
| " 27 | C.C.P.R. Tunbridge Wells. | Teaching evening. Return Visit. |
| May 5 | Wallington Grammar School. | Teaching afternoon. |

APRIL PROGRAMME

Classes and Dances at Carlyle School, Hortensia Road, Chelsea, S.W.10.

	Time 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Music: Mme Barbara Duleba
<u>Tuesdays</u>	April 24	Balkan Class Phillip Thornton
<u>Wednesdays</u>	April 18	Social Dance M.C. John Hughes
	April 25	Scottish Class Marie LeFort " Simon Guest
<u>Fridays</u>	April 20	Spanish Class Steve and Margaret
	April 27	Spanish Class Steve and Margaret

Classes in Scottish Dancing given by Marie LeFort, Churchill Gardens Estate, Pimlico, S.W.1.

Sundays 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Dances at Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane, W.C.2.

	Time 6.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Music Mourie Pfeffer
<u>Sundays</u>	April 8	M.C. Simon Guest
	April 15	M.C. Ron Coultrop
	April 22	M.C. Roland Minton

Dances at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, N.W.1.

	Time: 6.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Music: Mourie Pfeffer
<u>Sunday</u>	April 29	M.C. Mourie Pfeffer

Folk Dance

On Saturday, April 28th, Harrow Green are holding an International Folk Dance at Trumpington Road School, E.7., from 7.00 to 10.30 p.m.. Admission at door 2/-. The hall is a 2½ bus ride from Leyton Central Line Station. Further information from Ron Coultrop, 126, Ramsay Road, Forest Gate, E.7., who guarantees a warm and friendly dance.