

An old friend in our new home

Our first professional concert of the 1996/7 season was given by a musician who needs little introduction to the Club faithful.

Charles Ramirez began his programme with a dignified reading of two beautiful sonatas by Scarlatti. The immaculately controlled pace of the first, in A minor projected thought, reflection and wisdom, while the second added to a perfect discipline of tempo a delicate flamboyance and superb tonal variations.

Then followed an outstanding rendition of the English Suite by John Duarte. The sprightly optimism of the opening Prelude led to the medieval tones of the "Folk Song", then the "Round Dance" full of wild and lively rhythms rounded the suite up on its most joyful chord!

The Sonatina by Torroba, being a large scale work, could easily lose the listeners attention, but never when played by an artist with such taste and powerful imagination as Charles Ramirez. The Sonatina's charming and expansive landscape was painted vividly, and expertly crafted details grew into an impressive and com-



Charles Ramirez

plete picture, leaving nothing to be desired by even the most demanding ear.

The first half concluded with two more miniatures - two caprices by Paganini. Charles Ramirez has arranged several of Paganini's caprices for guitar and the two which were played in this per-

formance showed clearly what a master of the violin Paganini was and what a master of the guitar Charles Ramirez is! The arrangements demonstrated a number of technical innovations which served to highlight the musical idea and to reveal to us a unique spirit of Italian genius.

(Continued on page 2)

A bumper crop of new members

We extend a very warm welcome to those members who have joined us since July - 15 in all! They are:

Stewart Adamson
 Mitch Callow
 Jon Cleford
 William Forrester
 Myra Gay
 Sally Jackson
 Nora Kingbourn
 Michael Lloyd
 Austin Martin and family
 Rev George Pratt
 Bill Prosser
 Simon Puttock and family
 Mrs L J Richardson and Katy
 Trevor Sear
 David Wells

We wish you all a happy and fruitful time as members of the Club. Please make yourselves and your interests known to members of the committee at club events (and/or by writing to Club News)!

Inside This Issue

Off to a flying start with Amanda	page 2
Artists Corner	page 2
All Can Play goes with a swing	page 3
Lists for the Library	page 4
Congratulations to Tim	page 4
Chairman's Letter	page 4



Off to a flying start with Amanda

It was a pleasure to welcome Amanda Cook back to the Club to open our new season with a recital, following the Annual General Meeting on 21st September.

Following a stately Passacaglia by Weiss, she played three delicately turned minuets by Sor, emphasising their poise and precision.

Amanda amply demonstrated her technical accomplishments in an exciting performance of *El Decameron Negro* by Brouwer. In this piece her technical control and freedom of

expression showed off the dramatic contrasts in the music to great effect in a performance that was enthusiastically received by the audience.

Amanda returned to more traditional territory with fine performances of the *Tango* from Op. 165 and *Granada* by Albeniz, and completed the evening with the *Homage a Joaquín Rodrigo* by Eddie Mcguire, written for the 1996 Bath International Guitar Festival.

Altogether this was a delightful recital, very thoroughly prepared and full of musical insight, - a fitting start to our new



Amanda Cook

season.

We wish Amanda well as she commences her

third year of studies at the Royal College of Music.
Richard Prior



"Man with Guitar"

We couldn't resist this picture by Dylan Purvis (age 7)!

(Continued from page 1)

The second half opened with another large scale work - the tremendous sonata by Ponce. In the hands of Charles Ramirez the distant worlds of the first and the second movements combined their forces creating the exciting world of the third.

Then followed a few favourites. *La Maja de Goya* was the best performance I have ever heard of this piece - the enchanting timpani of the opening pizzicato followed by the tribute of one Spanish master to another... brought to us by a third! *En La Alhambra*, full of gentle nostalgia and insistent questions, was played so touchingly. And finally *Asturias*, a piece which has probably been

played more times in guitar recitals than any other - and yet everyone had to hold their breath, so vivid was the picture of this tireless knight stubbornly making his way beyond the horizon, lured for a moment by an oasis of sweet dreams, only to break away again to continue his journey.

To conclude the feast - Tarrega's *Variations on the Jota*. Tarrega was inventive indeed in this show piece but it would not be Charles Ramirez were he not to find a way to enhance this work too with a few delightful sunbeams..

And a final surprise in the encores: a few pieces from.....grade I!

Sasha Levtov

“All Can Play” goes with a swing

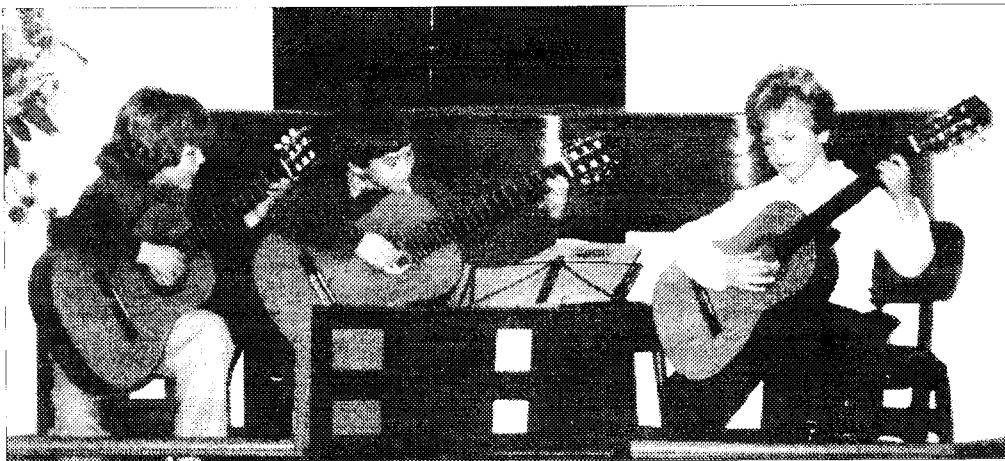
Thanks to all who contributed to our first “All Can Play” evening on 19th October!

We listened to most enjoyable music in every possible combination of players. An instant rehearsal bore a programme of three pieces by Handel, Purcell and Anon.

In a short space of time the orchestra achieved a really nice tone and unity, and judging by peoples' comments everyone enjoyed some invaluable sight-reading practice.



Engrossed in Handel



The start of a great trio!?

The children came next, with performances by the new trio of Dylan, Yuli and Aydin, ages 7 to 9; an excellent first appearance by Lindsay Clark with her charming *Hurdy Gurdy Waltz*; a very confident grade piece from Matthew Cocks, followed by two prizewinners from the Arun Young Musicians festival - Alexander Iles and Sam Wilde. Jack Enticott concluded this section with a very promising second movement of a sonata by Albert, and a most mature and sparkling *Study No. 11*

by Villa-Lobos.

Our guests this time were a mandolin and guitar group from Brighton, led by Ian Harris who performed some swinging classics from the thirties. We look forward to a return visit in due course.

We could have listened to our adult performers until midnight, (and nearly did!), but had to leave time to indulge in the excellent buffet to which so many people kindly contributed. As always, playing continued informally during and after the buffet.

Richard and Sasha



Our new friends from Brighton blending the guitar with its younger sister, the mandolin to good effect

Lists for the Library

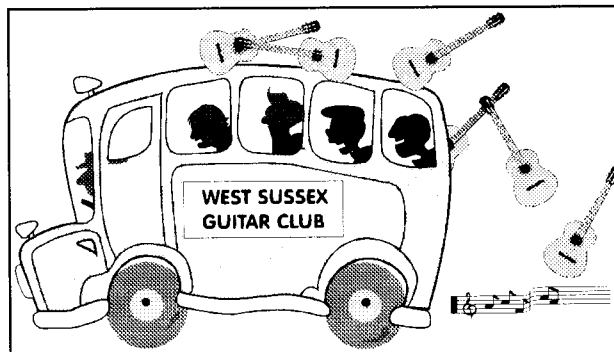
I often receive enquiries regarding specific pieces of guitar music which members wish to play, but have been unable to find in print. It has been suggested that members with collections of music might be willing to provide the Library with lists of their books (contents itemized) and sheet music. This would be a very worthwhile task as it would give the Club a valuable source of information. When there is an enquiry I could consult the lists and, if the piece is found, introduce the two members concerned. Who knows, this might lead to the formation of a new duo! The lists would be available for reference during club evenings.

If you consider this a good idea please don't hesitate but make your list now. Handwritten lists will be reproduced in print for use in the Library so please write clearly.

The Club Album with a record of our 1995-6 events is now complete and available for everyone to view. It was a wonderfully varied and enjoyable year, reflected in the contents of the album.

The latest CD addition to the Library is "Guitar Classics from Latin America Vol II", featuring Marcelo Kayath who plays 19 pieces by Ponce and Barrios Mangoré. (*I've listened to it, it's a super disk!* - Ed.).

Pam Davis



Jump in and join the fun at The West Sussex Guitar Club.
No transport? No problem! Call Helen on 01903 730676 to arrange a lift to club events.

Don't forget!

Nicola Hall

Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm

Congrats to Tim!



Congratulations to Tim Smithen, who won the Arun Young Musician of the Year competition on 12th October, the first guitarist to win the title in the 15 years of the competition. His prize includes a trip to Minorca, with an invitation to play his new guitar whilst there!

A letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first edition of Club News for the new season! We have had a great start with fine recitals by Amanda Cook and Charles Ramirez, helping us settle into our new home at the Regis School of Music.

Reactions to the new premises have been very enthusiastic, with many people commenting on the superb acoustics in the Recital Hall - a feature not lost on our two performers. Our congratulations and thanks go to Sasha and Nina and their intrepid band of helpers for the tremendous amount of

work they have put in to make the School ready for us.

Membership renewals are progressing well, with membership now standing at 97 (plus family members), including fifteen new members since the start of the season, to whom we extend a warm welcome (*see front page*). If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, please do so as soon as possible - you will be helping to keep the Treasurer happy!

I am pleased to announce that the committee has co-opted Helen Bengé to the post

of Events Liaison. Amongst other things Helen will be co-ordinating lifts to club events and catering arrangements, so if you get a telephone call from her, please do what you can to help.

Helen is also co-ordinating the raffle at the Christmas Party, and will be pleased to accept any prizes you can let her have. She can be found at the School on Monday evenings, or at the Nicola Hall concert on 16th November. Failing that, please let her have them on the night.

With best wishes
Richard Prior
(Chairman)