

NORTH WALES INTERNATIONAL BRANCH

Hello again to everybody out there in gramophone-land, and greetings from a distinctly autumnal Snowdonia. Once again it's time to try to think of some superlatives to describe the Malvern weekend which I haven't used before. The weekend was, as usual, brilliantly organised, with everything running smoothly to timetable and amply supported by the staff at the Abbey Hotel, who had even managed to get enough real ale in to last the weekend this time!

Now, for as long as I can remember when anybody has mentioned cylinder players my response has always been along the lines of 'no thanks, new and expensive can of worms, I'll stick to discs'. Unfortunately, the branch acquisitions department wasn't listening to all this and got a bit carried away in the auction on Sunday, so I am now the proud owner of an Edison Standard, which thanks to the kind assistance of Dave Dick (and some more cash) is now fitted out to play two and four minute records and working well. Thanks also, Dave, for transporting the beast for me, as New Street Station was looking a bit daunting with a suitcase in one hand, a phonograph in the other (heavy, aren't they?) and the horn presumably perched on my head.

All this, of course, helps to make an excursion to the next North Wales meeting even more appealing....not only gramophones and sausage rolls, but a phonograph to play with as well, and due to our recent house move, a venue which can be reached without abandoning tarmac! On the subject of house moves, by the way, I felt a bit guilty having bemoaned the problems of moving three-quarters of a mile down the road last issue, only to read John Banks's account of moving a much larger collection to Orkney! Oh well, must try harder. Finally, the date for your diaries (which I know you've all been waiting for). Saturday, 20th of January, 12.00 noon. Hope to see you there.