

The Radiophile

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Brief Report on the Radiophile Auction with Stalls, 24th. June, 2018

I am pleased to be able to report that in spite of a lower than usual turnout, this sale realised well in excess of £2,500. We have experienced this sort of circumstance before, for instance, last January although snow on the roads prevented many potential buyers from attending a very satisfactory result was obtained; the obvious inference to be drawn is that those persons who do come along are there for the definite purpose of purchasing. I would like to thank them all on behalf of the vendors, who include widows and other dependents.

That having been said, I am afraid that I may have been a little previous in my upbeat comments in the catalogue regarding help with the auctions having removed the trepidation factor, because it has unfortunately returned with a vengeance. On the Saturday before the auction we had just four very gallant souls turn up to help and they coped very well in the circumstances, so we all owe a debt of thanks to Alan, Mike, Philip and Sam; setting up the sale would have been totally impossible without them. However, as it fell to me to oversee the setting up process, whilst simultaneously trying to set up a new p.a. system, in addition to which I was supposed to be organising a replacement for the opted-out refreshment team (which in the event time did not permit) it was towards ten p.m. when Jo and I locked the hall doors and one a.m. before I got into bed and nearer two a.m. when Jo retired. We rose at six o'clock the following morning to commence another sixteen hour day and this must not happen again. I have explained in the catalogue how vital our auctions are to the support of the magazine but there are limits as to how much one can stand.

On the day of the auction I displayed notices in the hall carrying the above comments and mentioning that it would be appreciated if anyone other than our faithful friends mentioned earlier who was able definitely to promise to assist at the next sale on 22nd. July would let us know there and then. I added that if there were sufficient volunteers I would proceed with the auction, but otherwise I should cancel it and hold a two-day Teaching Workshop in its place. I am sorry to say that we did not receive a single response to the appeal and thus the replacement of the auction by a Workshop will go ahead. This will take place on Saturday, 21st. July and Sunday 22nd. July, with a 0900 starting time on both days, and the fee will be £30 for either day or £50 for the two. Early booking would be appreciated. N.B.: the size of the Gnosall Hall also will provide an unrivalled opportunity to test the performance of home-made amplifiers and to assist in the process we shall bring along the mighty 1948 Vitavox loudspeaker and the extraordinary *Practical Wireless* folded horn enclosure from 1956.

The Auctions with Stalls scheduled for later in the year at Cowbit and Gnoall will go ahead only if sufficient voluntary assistance can be assured. Presupposing that this will be available, would prospective vendors please let us have list of their entries well in advance, which means three weeks prior to an event. Most of the established clients already do this but, to put it bluntly, we are sick and tired of having our weekends spoilt by last-minute entries forcing us to spend them on producing last-minute catalogues which inevitably go out later than we would wish and which infuriates potential purchasers.

Please help us to help you!