

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 26 April 2009

Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough TS14 6BU

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Caroline Jones	Committee
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Jane Sellek	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Pam Smith	Committee
Margaret Shearing	Membership Secretary	Mary Steele	Committee
Jim Rowley	COS Secretary	Eileen Silcocks	Musical Adviser
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Sandra Foxall	Committee		

Branches

Bath	Heather Minnion	Leicester	Sylvia Davidson
Beds & N Herts	Glynne Parry	Lincolnshire	Diana Knight
Bristol	Mary Neave	Mid-Herts	Graham Danbury
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Newcastle	Sheila Ryan
Cornwall	Sue Eades	Norfolk	Ann Cardew
(Observer	Zoe Eades)	Northampton	Sheila Marlowe
Country/Overseas	Jim Rowley	Nottingham	Tessa Rolph
Cumbria	David Beare	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
Devon	Sue Watson	Roxburgh	Maureen Richardson
Durham	David Rollason	Sheffield	Jane Ellin
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	Somerset	Felicity Kimpton
Essex	Janet Holt	South London	nil
Glasgow	Antje Somerville	(Observer Sheila Richards)	
(Observer William McCormack)		Suffolk	Mark Usher
Guildford	Anne Martin	Warwick	Greg Wells
Ireland	Frances Tuffery	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
(Observer Genevieve Mullins)		Wessex	nil
Isle of Man	Wensley Higgins	(Observer Mary Steele)	
(Observer Marilyn Cullen)		West Riding	Caroline Payne
Kent	Berenice Styles	York Guildhall	Matthew Taylor

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.05 a.m.

1.1 Welcome. He welcomed the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated Cleveland Branch on the success of the Festival. The Chairman also thanked the departing Membership Secretary, Margaret Shearing, and the departing Country & Overseas

Secretary, Jim Rowley, for their efforts on behalf of the Society. He thanked Evelyn Nallen, whose term as Musical Adviser to the Committee was ending. Finally, he thanked one particular Branch member, Chris Eyre of Sheffield, who had retired as Treasurer of that Branch after serving for over 20 years.

1.2 In Memoriam. The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since last Conference: Judy Bailey – Cambridge; Elizabeth Beauchamp – Lincolnshire; Dorothy Brown - Cheltenham & Gloucester; Maurice Cunnington – Suffolk; Reg Evans – Peterborough; Peter Hammersley – Norfolk; Anita Honeyman – Devon; Arthur Humphrey – Cheltenham & Gloucester; Judy Hyde – Birmingham; Margaret Long – Sheffield (former Branch Secretary); Olga McCann - West Riding (a member since 1978); Fred Mitchell – Isle of Man; Flora Pitt – Durham Secretary; Ernie Price – Birmingham; Audrey Reed – S Staffordshire; Rita Roberts – Mid Herts; Irene Smith – South London; Ella Washington – Kent.

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from Committee/MAs; Andrew Collis, Madeline Seviour, Petrina Lodge, Colin Touchin, Evelyn Nallen; and Branches: Aberdeen, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Dorset, London, Nuneaton, Peterborough, S London, Wessex, W Dorset.

2. Minutes of Conference 2008

The Minutes of Conference 2008 were accepted and signed by the Chairman after the addition of Peterborough Branch to the list of apologies for absence.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

The reports are mentioned below only if additional information was provided at Conference. The full reports are attached to these Minutes.

The Chairman said that he had decided on a cut-off date of the end of May 2009 for the submission of Gift Aid forms from Branches. Although he only required the name of a contact for each Branch some Branches had not yet replied.

4.1 Treasurer's report. Pam Smith queried why NYRO had made a loss of £3226. Andrew Short replied that there had been an deficit of £1072 because it was very hard to decide on the fees for the Summer School before the final arrangements had been made. £1504 of the remaining deficit had been spent on new instruments from Germany to top up the donation made by the Society to buy four instruments. There had been an unexpected price increase because of the relative strength of the Euro against the pound. He added that he expected there would be a deficit in the current year too and this would be borne by not employing an Assistant Tutor and by charging for some extras. He concluded by warning that next year (2009-2010) more radical measures would be needed and that NYRO could not continue if it was unsustainable.

Helen Hooker said she had experienced similar problems with courses for young musicians and wondered whether the recession was causing a drop in the number of participants.

The Treasurer pointed out that NYRO had been helped to buy instruments with funds from the Arthur Ingram Fund; the Society's central funds and subscriptions were not involved. The Chairman noted that this expenditure was in line with the Society's remit to carry out charitable activities.

A motion to adopt the Accounts of the Society was proposed by Sue Eades and seconded by Tessa Rolph. It was carried *nem. com.*

A motion to increase the annual subscription to the Society, as recommended by the Treasurer in her report, was proposed by Moira Usher and seconded by Margaret Shearing. The proposed subscriptions were £18.50 (full member), £28.50 (household membership) and £14.00 (student). The motion was carried *nem. con.*

It was agreed that the subscription for Corporate Members, currently £60, would not increase. It was confirmed that personal and household subscriptions for Country and Overseas members would be the same as for full members and that Affiliated Orchestras would continue to pay a subscription that was twice that of a full member.

4.2 *NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman's report.* Andrew Short reported that the NYRO web site had been greatly improved. He said that NYRO's 2008 concert in Birmingham had been very good and that the 'big instruments' had made a significant difference. He thanked Colin Touchin, Eileen Silcocks, Helen Hooker, Ross Winters and all the others involved for their support. He urged members to support the 2009 concert to be held in the West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge on 1 August at 2.30 p.m.

4.3 *Moeck Competition Sub-Committee Chairman's report.* In the absence of the Sub-Committee Chairman, the Chairman noted that ten entries had been received for the November 2009 competition and that the cash prizes had been re-assessed. The post-concert reception, which he had attended, had worked very well and would be repeated in future.

The Reports were approved and adopted by Conference.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and others

The Chairman said that two nominations had been received for Membership Secretary and three nominations for the two vacant places on the Committee.

5.1 *Membership Secretary election.* The nominations were,

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed and Seconded by</i>
Mary Steele (Wessex)	Lorraine Curtis (Wessex Branch), Helen Hooker (Country & Overseas Branch)
Mike Wilkinson (Weald of Kent)	Berenice Styles (Kent Branch), James May (Weald of Kent Branch)

In the ensuing election by secret ballot Mike Wilkinson was ELECTED as Membership Secretary.

5.2 *Country & Overseas Secretary election.*

Sandra Foxall (Cleveland Branch) was proposed by Geoff Walker and seconded by Shelagh Campbell (Cleveland Branch). There being no other nomination, Sandra Foxall was elected.

5.3 *Committee elections.* Mary Steele (Wessex Branch) and Petrina Lodge (Cambridge Branch) were due to retire from the Committee. The following nominations had been received to fill two posts for a three-year term.

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed and Seconded by</i>
Evelyn Nallen (Cambridge)	Chris Burgess (Country & Overseas Branch), Mary Steele (Wessex)
Tessa Rolph (Nottingham)	Terry Gill (Nottinghamshire Branch), Dick Pyper (Guildford Branch)

Matthew Taylor (York Guildhall)	Sandra Foxall (Cleveland Branch), Jane Sellek (West Riding Branch)
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In the ensuing election by secret ballot, Evelyn Nallen and Matthew Taylor were ELECTED to serve on the Committee for three years until the end of Conference 2012.

The Chairman put it to Conference that, there being no other nominations, the current Committee and Auditor with the above changes should be elected *en bloc*.

The Motion was proposed by Mark Usher and seconded by Graham Danbury. The Committee was ELECTED *nem. con.* by Conference for a term lasting until the end of Conference 2010.

The Chairman thanked the retiring Committee members, Mary Steele and Petrina Lodge, for their work on the Committee and congratulated and welcomed the new members.

5.4 Musical Advisers. The Chairman reported that the two current Musical Advisers to the Committee (Alyson Lewin and Eileen Silcocks) had agreed to continue on the Committee. Under the Society's amended Rule 5.8, Andrew Collis succeeded Evelyn Nallen as Musical Adviser to the Committee until the end of Conference 2012.

6. Adoption of revised set of Rules

The Chairman introduced the revised set of Rules and noted that they had already been considered and approved, after some amendments, by the Committee. Andrew Short noted that some tidying up of the Rules had been required for a while but that the new Rules would need a 75% vote to be approved by Conference and eventually would have to be agreed by the Charity Commissioners.

6.1 Proposed rule 5.10. There was discussion of the sentence 'Retiring members of the Committee, having served a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms, shall not be eligible for re-election as Committee members for a period of one year thereafter although they may be elected to any vacant office of the Society in accordance with rule 5.7.' There was concern that the rule might be interpreted to mean that a Committee member could be required to serve for two terms; it was made clear that this interpretation was incorrect. Moira Usher pointed out that the Committee had discussed the rule at length and had been in favour of the amended terms because they believed it took several meetings before a new Committee member was 'up to speed' with the Committee's work..

It was proposed by Graham Danbury and seconded by Sandra Foxall that the Rule 5.10 be adopted as proposed. Conference voted For: 39, Against: 2, Abstentions, 0. The motion was carried.

6.2 Proposed rule 6.1. It was pointed out that the statement that 'All sums of cash belonging to or paid to the Society shall be paid forthwith into the appropriate account.' was impractical because cash floats were sometimes required. The Secretary undertook to revise the wording accordingly [Action Secretary].

Tessa Rolph remarked that the phrase 'Society's current account' should refer to accounts in the plural. It was proposed by Graham Danbury and seconded by Mike Wilkinson that the proposed Rule 6.1 be adopted with the amended words 'Society's current accounts'. The motion was carried *nem. con.*

It was proposed by Helen Hooker and seconded by Eileen Silcocks that the Rules other than Appendix 1 be adopted with the agreed amendments. The motion was carried *nem. con.*

6.3 Appendix 1. Proposed Rule 2.1.4 and Rule 2.5. Anne Martin noted that the proposed rules did not allow that some Branches had no Musical Director and the text should be changed accordingly [Action Secretary].

Proposed Rule 4.2. Glynne Parry noted that the text of Appendix 1, Rule 4.2 should match that of proposed Rule 6.1 as amended [**Action Secretary**]. Tessa Rolph proposed, seconded by Jim Rowley, that 'forthwith' be replaced by 'without undue delay'. The motion was carried *nem. con.*

It was agreed that the Committee should review and amend the proposed Branch rules in Appendix 1 before the revised Rules were circulated to Branches.

6.4 Conclusion. Finally, Andrew Short proposed, seconded by Greg Wells, that Conference approve all the revised Rules as amended and that any further tidying up be done at Conference 2010. The motion was carried *nem. con.*

7. Resolutions to Conference

The Secretary reported that he had not received any resolutions.

8. Electronic banking

Two papers on electronic banking had been tabled by Andrew Short and the Chairman. Andrew Short accepted that the revised Rules now paved the way for the adoption of electronic banking by the NYRO Sub-Committee subject only to the approval by the Society's Committee of the practical arrangements. The Chairman's paper explained how at least one bank, CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) Bank, allowed for electronic banking with two independent electronic 'signatories'.

9. New Branches

The Secretary said he was very pleased to ask Conference to approve the establishment of two new Branches in the Cotswold area. One, South Cotswold, was based in Lechlade and met monthly on Saturdays, and the other, Hullavington, lay close to the M4 and met weekly on Tuesday evenings. Conference approved the establishment of both Branches *nem. con.*

10. Future Festivals

The following arrangements were noted:

- 2010 Suffolk Branch to host the Festival in Felixstowe, 8-9 May.
- 2011 Somerset and Devon Branches, 16-17 April. Venue to be confirmed, possibly Weston-super-Mer.
- 2012 Guildford Branch, verbal agreement reached on the venue.

11. Any other Business

There being no other business the Chairman warmly thanked Sandra Foxall and her team from Cleveland Branch, particularly Shelagh Campbell and David Rose, for all their work to make the Festival such a success.

He also thanked all the departing Committee members and the Tellers (Jill Pyper and Maya Whitmarsh).

Finally, to acclamation, Jim Rowley thanked the Society's Officers for their work during the past year.

Conference closed at 11.40 a.m.