



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Wolverhampton Grammar School, Crompton Road,  
Wolverhampton WV3 9RB

### PRESENT:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Anthony Hall	Web Editor
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Ciara Flanagan	Committee
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Vic Morris	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Evelyn Nallen	Committee
April Munday	Training Co-ordinator	Frances Tuffery	Committee
Emily Bannister	Publicity Officer		

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.45am by welcoming all present, especially Ciara Flanagan (newly elected Committee member), Pamela Flanagan (re-elected Committee member) and Evelyn Nallen (still a Musical Adviser, but now elected as a Committee member). The Chairman also welcomed Josée Beeson (newly elected Committee member) and Ross Winters (starting his first term as Musical Adviser on Committee) though they were unable to attend the present meeting. Other apologies for absence had been received from Sarah Langdon (Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator), Madeline Seviour (News Editor) and Eileen Silcocks (Musical Adviser on Committee).

### 2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

2.1 The minutes of the previous Committee meeting were approved. There were no matters arising from that meeting or from Conference earlier that day that were not already on the present Agenda.

### 3. Application from NYRO for a grant for 2015/16

3.1 The Committee recalled that at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 it had refused an application from NYRO for a grant of £6,600 for 2015/16. This was primarily because the application contained little or no information on (a) NYRO's use of reserves, (b) its plans for raising money from sources in addition to the SRP, and (c) any strategy for cutting costs if that proved necessary. However, NYRO had been invited to submit a revised application and had done so, seeking the same sum but with additional information on these three issues.

3.2 In considering NYRO's revised application, as with the original one, the Committee's key concerns were to satisfy itself that any funds awarded were (i) for purposes consistent with the Society's objectives and (ii) would be applied efficiently and effectively, and with reasonable value for money, towards achieving those purposes. Given the nature of NYRO's work, there was no issue with (i). In considering (ii) however, there was concern over the use of SRP funds towards a project that, on the basis of the information provided, had serious issues with its viability.

3.3 There was significant concern and disappointment that very little progress appeared to have been made in obtaining outside funding, either in the form of grants or by means of donations from non-SRP members. Further, NYRO appeared not yet to have registered for Gift Aid purposes. However, it was still relying on such outside funding, alongside potential funding from the SRP, being available in order to fulfil its current and future plans. Given its current budgeted expenditure, including the cost of a part-time administrator, NYRO would appear not to be viable beyond 2015/16 without those outside funds, even with the funding requested from the SRP.

3.4 It was recognised that NYRO had only been operating independently since September 2014, and that there were few if any other organisations currently able to deliver comparable support for young players. However, notice had been given of the change following the Committee's meeting in October 2012, allowing time for forward planning by NYRO management and the obtaining of outside funding.

3.5 In the light of the comments from those Committee members who were also SRP Trustees, it was clear that a majority would not support NYRO's application for a grant of £6,600 for 2015/16. However, acknowledging NYRO's relatively early stage as an independent charity, it was accepted that it would be appropriate for the SRP to support NYRO with a smaller sum for 2015/16 and give it a final chance to show that it could access outside funding and would not be almost totally reliant on SRP funds for its future success.

3.6 After further discussion on what sum might meet with Trustees' approval, there was a suggestion that the Society award a grant of £4,000 for 2015/16. This was then formally proposed by April Munday, seconded by Frances Tuffery, and agreed by a majority of those entitled to vote.

#### 4. Other business

4.1 Farewell to Stromness: The Chairman reported that Mirjam Morat, on behalf of Birmingham Branch and the Society as a whole, had secured permission from Boosey & Hawkes, the copyright holders, to create and make available for the sole use of the Society of Recorder Players an arrangement for recorders of *Farewell to Stromness* (Op.39, No.1) by the Society's President, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. This was originally a composition for solo piano and had its first performance at Stromness in Orkney in June 1980. The Committee welcomed this rare contact with the President (or his agents), asked that its thanks be passed to Mirjam for her initiative, and agreed to refund the £60 fee she had paid. The Secretary would circulate Mirjam's arrangement to Branches and affiliated orchestras with a caveat about it being solely for use by the Society. It was suggested that the decision by Conference earlier that day to allow even small Branches an annual subsidised visit by a member of the Panel of Conductors might stimulate renewed interest in the formation of an Orkney Branch.

Action: SECRETARY

4.2 Honorary membership: The Committee had nominated and Conference had just agreed the appointment of Barbara Law and Bob Whitmarsh as Honorary Life Members of the Society. Several members of the Committee thought that Layton Ring, whose involvement with the Society and its Newcastle Branch dated from at least the 1950s and who was stepping down from the Panel of Visiting Conductor after many years, was also overdue for such an appointment. The Committee therefore agreed that Layton Ring should be awarded Honorary Life membership of the Society and, exceptionally, to presume the agreement of Conference in 2016 by informing him and including his name in the list of Honorary Life Members in the next issue of the *Recorder Magazine*.

Action: SECRETARY

4.3 Concerto Fund: As noted by Conference, an option to make a donation to the Concerto Fund set up by Barbara Law and Evelyn Nallen to fund the composition of a concerto for recorder and orchestra would be included, alongside options for donating to the Walter Bergmann Fund and NYRO, on the Society's membership application form for 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Secretary would inform Branches of this and update the standard application form. The Web Editor reported that he was due to discuss with Evelyn Nallen the possibility of taking donations through the website.

Action: SECRETARY, WEB EDITOR

4.4 Adopt a Composer: The Chairman reported that, following the success of Caroline Jones and her Arden Recorder Orchestra, an orchestra affiliated to the Society, in being chosen to take part in Making Music's Adopt a Composer scheme and being paired with composer Kirsty Deveney, the first performance of *[as if on a pivot]* would be at St Catherine's Academy, Bolton BL2 4HU at 3pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, with Charlotte Barbour-Condini as soloist. The performance would be recorded by BBC Radio 3. Caroline understood that all organisations hiring stands at the Greenwich Early Music Festival were entitled to present a recital during the Festival, and she was therefore hoping to arrange a concert including this new piece at the 2015 Festival in November. The Committee welcomed this initiative, linked to the Society's hiring of a stand, and agreed to award up to £100 towards the additional venue costs of the recital.

**Future meetings:** The next Committee meeting will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Benslow.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm.

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