

# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2006

Held at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts.

### PRESENT:

Andrew Short	Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Alistair Read	Secretary	Dick Pyper	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Sandra Foxall	Committee
Jim Rowley	COS	Helen Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Mary Steele	Committee
Andrew Collis	Chairman SRP WBF	Petrina Lodge	Committee

1 **Apologies for absence:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and particularly Petrina Lodge whose first meeting it was and said apologies had been received from Margaret Shearing; Beryl Craven; Colin Touchin; Evelyn Nallen; Madeline Seviour; and Mary Tyers.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 2 April 2006 were AGREED. Proposed: Dick Pyper; seconded: Sandra Foxall and approved *nem. con.*

3. There were no **Matters arising**

4. **Officers' Reports**—see attached documentation. Unless the officer had anything to add to his/her written report, details are not repeated below.

4.1 *Secretary:* Since writing his report, Alistair Read said Ashley Allerton had resigned as secretary of the Devon Branch. He had been superseded by Mrs Sheilah Elvins, 2 Caynton Court, Mill Street, Torrington EX38 8AL T: 01805 623581 E: devon@srp.org.uk

4.2 *Treasurer:* Ulli Burchette presented audited accounts for 2004–05 which were approved by the Committee, subject to one or two adjustments to column headings and surplus/loss legends. They had been submitted to the Charity Commission just before the deadline of 30 June 2006 and would be presented to Conference 2007 for retrospective approval.

Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2005–06 had been circulated to Committee members. Ulli said that she had not received Festival 2006 accounts before the accounting year end; without this figure the central fund showed a loss of £3,855.88 (compared with £2,171.00 in the year 2004–05). Likewise, the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund showed a loss of £3,073.31 (compared with a surplus of £74.00 in the previous year). The Arthur Ingram Fund showed a surplus of £1,837.84 (compared with £1,984.00 in the previous year).

Conference 2006 had authorised the Committee to appoint an Independent Examiner for the 2006-2007 accounts (Minute 9.2 of 2/4/2006). It was proposed by Moira Usher, seconded by Alistair Read and AGREED that Keith Varney be so appointed.. (Action: Secretary to write).

The vote taken at Conference 2006 for an increase in the subscription rate for 2006–07 is declared null and void under Rule 7.8, the vote of 26 in favour and 16 against not having been a three-quarters majority. In view of the state of SRP finances the proposal would need to be re-submitted to Conference 2007. For 2006-2007 branches could be asked to implement the proposed rise voluntarily. It was AGREED that the Chairman should

write to the branches with that suggestion, also apologising for the mistake, noting the financial background and drawing attention to the implications of recent and impending changes in charity law. (Action: Chairman)

4.3 The Chairman reiterated that the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund should at all times be referred to thus and in no other way.

#### **5. Trustees' Annual Report to the Charity Commissioners**

Item held over, pending receipt of a newly formatted form, not yet received from the Charity Commission.

#### **6. National Youth Recorder Orchestra (NYRO)**

Supporting papers in respect of the sub-committee's work are attached. The need for and the funding of the purchase of great and contra bass instruments for use by NYRO and other orchestras, branches or courses outside NYRO's annual usage was noted. It was AGREED to refer the issue back to the NYRO sub-committee for a full proposal to be developed with costs and proposals for how such instruments would be managed and to discuss it in this Committee in February 2007.

Colin Touchin's paper on a joint festival and International Congress of Recorder Orchestras

Colin Touchin's paper on a joint festival and International Congress of Recorder Orchestras (ICRO) event was received. It was AGREED that for such an event to happen in 2008 a number of branches would need to band together. It was AGREED that the Chairman write to the Midlands group of branches to sound out their views. Moira Usher said she was willing to give administrative support to such a venture. (Action: Chairman to write).

#### **7. SRP Working Party/Gift Aid**

The Working Party's report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these Minutes. Dick Pyper went on to say that Gift Aid forms were beginning to trickle in from the branches and he looked forward to receiving more as soon as possible. He confirmed Gift Aid would only be collected initially on the national portion of the annual subscription. Other possibilities including relief on branch subscriptions will be considered when the system is working smoothly. A further letter would be sent out at the beginning of November.

#### **8. Charity Law**

The Chairman paper on changes in charity law, which had been previously circulated, was considered. The presumption of "public benefit" currently enjoyed by the SRP as an educational charity will soon be removed. It will become necessary, as well as having charitable purposes, to demonstrate that the SRP provides a public benefit. Criteria to be used by the regulators have still to be developed after consultation. At this stage, we just need to watch developments and keep the possible impact of the public benefit test in mind.

It was AGREED that our legal adviser's opinion be sought with regard to professional musicians serving as trustees of the Society.

#### **9. Plymouth Branch**

The Secretary reported that Plymouth Branch had left the Society with effect from 31.08.06. The Treasurer confirmed that accounts and a cheque had been received in respect of their funds up to this date.

#### **10. Festivals**

10.1 The Treasurer said that the Cumbria 2006 festival budget had now been located and that a closing account had been received. She awaited a cheque for the surplus made.

10.2 It was proposed by Moira Usher, seconded by Sandra Foxall and AGREED that the 2006 Scottish festival surplus of £58 be returned in full to Aberdeen Branch. It was AGREED that in the future a review of reimbursement of surpluses would be carried out on a consistent basis by the Committee. It will no longer be practicable to administer a practice whereby small amounts are returned in full, as this inevitably creates borderline anomalies requiring detailed discussion with organisers.

10.3 The Secretary said that he had now heard from Glasgow that they were unable to host the 2008 festival and that Weald of Kent branch were unable to do so in 2009. For 2008 the proposal by Colin Touchin (see Minute 6) will be followed in the first instance. The Committee was now making an urgent appeal for 2009.

**11. Voluntary Aids Network: Licensing Act 2003 Seminar**

Dick Pyper agreed to represent the Society at the above on 1 December. The event will be held at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in central London.

**12. Any other business**

12.1 Web maintenance: Further to Ashley Allerton's paper, it was AGREED that our website should be upgraded. Proposed, Jim Rowley; seconded Sandra Foxall.

12.2 It was AGREED that it would facilitate the Society's cashflow and aid administration if annual subscriptions and branch accounts were to be received by the Membership Secretary and Treasurer respectively by 30 November each year.

12.3 Following a vote, it was proposed by Sandra Foxall, seconded by Andrew Collis and AGREED that Sheila Richards be invited to become a conductor on the Pastoral Visitor List. (Action: Secretary to write.)

12.4 *Musical Advisers* It was AGREED that musical advisers no longer able to serve on the committee be invited to stand down so that they can be replaced with others willing to attend Committee meetings and conferences. (Action: Chairman to write)

**13. Date of future meetings**

13.1 Sunday, 18 February 2007, at Little Benslow Hills, Hitchin (confirmed)

13.2 Festival/Conference, York, 31 March/1 April 2007

13.3 Committee meeting immediately post Conference, 1 April 2007

JAR  
Minutes (final), 22.10.06  
31.10.06