



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY 9 MAY 2010

Orwell High School, Felixstowe, Suffolk

### PRESENT:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Evelyn Nallen	Committee/Mus Adv
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Tessa Rolph	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Country/Overseas Sec	Pam Smith	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Matthew Taylor	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Membership Secretary	Joyce Rudall	Festival 2011
Madeline Seviour	News Editor	Felicity Kempton	Festival 2011
Andrew Collis	Musical Adviser		

**1. Apologies for absence** The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.30 a.m. Apologies for absence were received from David Powell and April Munday.

**2. Welcome new members** The Chairman welcomed new Committee member Tessa Rolph, and Joyce Rudall and Felicity Kempton, from Somerset Branch, who were representing Festival 2011.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Actions and Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Review progress of discussions about a new recorder web site**

The Chairman noted that unfortunately Caroline Jones, who had volunteered to lead a Working Group on the Society's web site at the February 2010 meeting, was sick and she had not submitted a written report. However Caroline had told him that all the feedback about the web site that she had received from members was very positive. The Chairman noted that ERTA (international) was in the process of building a 'portal' to recorder information which would serve the eight ERTA Branches in Spain, France, UK and elsewhere.

Andrew Short responded that the idea of reviewing the Society's web site had been prompted by NYRO's concern to improve their own site and to include on-line payments. The NYRO Sub-Committee had obtained a quote which he considered was not high considering the increase in content that was planned. Since receiving the quote NYRO's plans had expanded to include on-line payments. Andrew continued that NYRO would be concerned at any delay in developing its own site, for instance while the Society considered what to do, because the recruitment cycle for 2011 would begin shortly. NYRO felt that a more user-friendly web site would help to increase the number of applications and thereby improve NYRO's financial situation.

Tessa Rolph asked what children would find if they searched for recorders on Google. The Chairman responded that a lot of people, including Piers Adams, were unaware of the Society's web site and

what it offered. Mike Wilkinson said that he thought that word of mouth was a more effective way of attracting new members.

The Chairman concluded that he could see the advantage for NYRO in having an on-line payment facility but he was not convinced that the Society needed it.

Andrew Short reiterated that NYRO needed a decision to be made about its web site. In particular NYRO wanted not only to be able to receive payments for courses but also to sell items such as sweatshirts and CDs. He confirmed that once the site had been redesigned and re-launched NYRO would maintain the site itself.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee should authorise NYRO to spend up to £5000 on the re-design and that the Society should underwrite the cost. Helen Hooker suggested that NYRO should first obtain more quotes. Other members voiced their unhappiness at spending such a large sum without the new site becoming a multi-purpose ('overarching') site that would include the Society, ERTA and other recorder related activities as well.

Finally a small group consisting of Moira Usher, Evelyn Nallen and Matt Taylor offered to find a way forward [Action: Moira Usher, Evelyn Nallen and Matt Taylor].

## **6. Consider dates and locations of future Festivals**

The Chairman started the discussion by noting that the basic problem with choosing the Festival dates was that Easter moved from year to year. He added that there were different regional influences as well such as the weather and dates of school holidays. Sandra Foxall thought that the Society should accept whatever offers were made. Mike Wilkinson pointed out that typically a Festival took two years to plan, largely because the venue and organisers changed each time, whereas the Northern Recorder Course and the Ascot Course, having fixed bases, could operate on a shorter planning cycle.

*6.1 2011.* Joyce Rudall stated that plans for Festival 2011 were in good shape and well advanced. The next stage was to investigate the available accommodation.

*6.2 2013.* The offer from Ireland Branch to hold the Festival in Dublin in 2013 was briefly discussed. It was pointed out that there might be problems or costs involved in flying great basses and contrabasses to Ireland although the ferry presented an alternative route. The Secretary pointed out that Dublin offered the potential advantage of being more or less equidistant from many UK Branches. Alison Lewin added that a Festival in Dublin would attract players from Northern Ireland too and might even, eventually, encourage the creation of a new Branch there.

## **7. Any other business**

*7.1 Child Protection Policy.* The Chairman said that he and the Secretary had attempted to address the two different extant versions of a Child Protection Policy produced, respectively, by the Committee and the NYRO Committee by recognising that they addressed different needs. The shorter NYRO version was more suited for circulation to the young players and their parents and guardians whereas the longer, more comprehensive, version would better serve the needs of NYRO staff and helpers (and eventually the Society as a whole).

Andrew Short proposed to take the two versions back to the NYRO Sub-Committee [Action: Andrew Short to forward comments to Chairman]. The Secretary circulated copies to all those present who were asked to send him comments [Action: All].

*7.2 Insurance.* The Chairman announced that he was in touch with the Society's instruments insurers about supporting the Moeck Competition. He was also in discussion with them about providing a discount to Society members when insuring their musical instruments (not only recorders) but to do this they would need a way to identify members. This could be achieved by providing them with a Membership List, however he emphasised that this would be strictly contrary to the rules of the

Society and asked for suggestions as to how this problem could be overcome. Mike Wilkinson responded that he was happy, as Membership Secretary, to act as the point of contact with the insurers such that he would confirm on a case by case basis that a named person was a *bona fide* paid-up member of the Society. He said that, for data protection purposes, it would be important to ensure that members applying for insurance knew, perhaps from a statement to this effect on the insurance application form, that their Society membership might be verified in the way.

*7.3 Commissioned music for 2011 and 2012.* Evelyn Nallen said she would continue to seek out composers, even those who had not previously composed for the recorder. Helen Hooker obtained confirmation that the Society was looking to composers only from the UK. It was accepted that the best and most obvious composers were busy for years ahead. Evelyn Nallen asked the Committee to provide her with the names of possible composers [Action: All].

Joyce Rudall confirmed that Steve Marshall had agreed to compose a piece for Festival 2011.

*7.4 Walter Bergmann Fund Sub-Committee.* Andrew Collis confirmed that Evelyn Nallen had agreed to replace Sheila Richards the Walter Bergmann Fund Sub-Committee.

*7.5 Woodhouse Recorder Course.* The Chairman said that he had informed the Woodhouse Recorder Course (Annabel Knight) that the Society could no longer give it financial support.

*7.6 Membership numbers.* The Secretary referred to the useful graph of membership numbers against year in the Membership Secretary's report and said how he was concerned at the steady drop in the number of members since around 2002. Madeline Seviour noted that some Branches had successfully encouraged less able players to become members by running 'easy' practice sessions before the main Branch meeting. Helen Hooker said that in her experience there had been a drop recently in the number of youngsters attending several courses for young persons but not of adults attending other courses. Mike Wilkinson noted that there was a steady turnover of members of around 10-15% per year as members leave, often for health reasons. Evelyn Nallen stressed the need for Branches to constantly advertise for new members and for the need to be flexible and adaptable.

## **8. Confirm date and time of future meetings**

The Secretary confirmed that the next meeting would take place in Hitchin on Sunday 31 October 2010. After a short discussion the best date for the following meeting was identified as Sunday 6 February 2011 again at Hitchin but subject to a room being available.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.45.

RBW/RP

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