

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO SRP COMMITTEE, 18 FEBRUARY 2007

SECRETARY

I have authorised 36 pastoral visits for the current financial year and two for 2007–08. The two new branch enquiries noted in my last report to Committee have not come to fruition although I do still hope that the South Wales enquiry might come into being at the beginning of the next financial year. Milton Keynes Branch ceded from the Society, with effect from 31 December 2006 (although no subscriptions were paid for the period 1 September–31 December 2006).

There are a number of changes of branch secretaries—

Devon

Mrs Sheilah Elvins, 2 Caynton Court, Mill Street, Torrington EX38 8AL
01805 623581 devon@srp.org.uk

Lincolnshire

Mrs Diana Knight become substantive

Mid-Herts

ADD email address: midherts@srp.org.uk

North Cotswold

Dr Douglas Craig, Galliards, Hixet Wood, Charlbury OX7 3BS
01608 819168 ncotswold@srp.org.uk

Oxford

Mrs Helga Bogisch-Francis, 6 The Ridgeway, Caversham, Reading RG4 8NX
0118 946 3928 oxford@srp.org.uk

Roxburgh

Mr Mike Ellis, Scauredge, Haysike, Hawick TD9 0NT
01450 372999 roxburgh@srp.org.uk

The following musical advisers have resigned—

Paul Clark, Layton Ring, Theo Wyatt and Colin Martin (whose death occurred on the 24 January 2007).

Alistair Read

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I have received all the levies and membership lists. There are still a few minor discrepancies to resolve. About half of the final corrected versions for the new membership booklet have been returned to me.

32 branches have paid the higher rate (old rate + donation) and 13 branches have paid the previous rate. 4 branches have paid mixed levies (3 of which are mostly lower rate, 1 of which is mostly the higher rate).

It is quite clear that there is confusion in branches over who receives what and when. I will raise this under AOB

Margaret Shearing

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current figures: (with figures from March 06 for comparison)

UK	174 (181)	Ordinary	96 (106)
Rest of Europe	17 (15)	Family	34 (32)
Rest of World	10 (12)	Life	7 (5)
	201 (208)	Student	64 (65)
			201 (208)

NYRO members, included in the above, 59 (61) Corporate Members: 5 (5). Orchestras and affiliated groups: 11 (11). Gift Aid: 59 members have signed the form.

Jim Rowley

CHAIRMAN, WALTER BERGMAN FUND

The 2007 Philip Cole Bursary has been awarded to the Edinburgh Young Musicians to support their Easter Recorder Course. The fund has placed an advert in the York Festival programme and will be distributing the new improved WBF leaflet at the Festival/conference. We have received two applicants so far for consideration at our next meeting in March.

Andrew Collis

SRP NEWS EDITOR

Although the Festival preview appeared in the Winter issue, the advert did not. Peacock Press have apologised for this. Most of the vital information, i.e. contact addresses, was contained in the preview, but unfortunately, for reasons of space, the list of conductors was included only in the advert. The advert should appear in the Spring issue; however it is missing from the proofs - I have taken this up with the Editor and with Peacock Press.

The date of the Festival and Conference means that it would be possible to include reports in the Summer issue - the 1st April deadline can be extended for a week. I have not yet found anyone to write the report on the Festival - it is customary for the branch organising the following year's Festival to review the current one. As soon as I know who this is I will make the necessary arrangements.

Could I ask everyone - branches and committee members - to let me know immediately if there is any item of news which should be included in the Magazine, even if the copy date for the next issue has passed? Usually the Magazine goes to the printer about 3 weeks after the copy date (which is one week after the SRP deadline). It is often possible to include a brief item of late news - at the end of January we managed to get an announcement of the death of Colin Martin into the Spring edition. A tribute to Colin will appear in the Summer issue.

2007 is the 70th anniversary of the SRP. The first meeting took place in October 1937: for the Autumn issue I am planning something based on an interview I recorded in 1987 with Carl Dolmetsch and Edgar Hunt, about the formation of the SRP. If there are any plans to celebrate the anniversary please let me know - or are we waiting for 75?

Madeline Seviour

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

Maria Martinez Ayerza presented a most original, challenging and enjoyable winners recital with her group Aerodynamic on Sunday November 12th 2006 in the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich. Approximately one hundred and twenty people attended. Reviews have been published in the Recorder Magazine and elsewhere, possibly including Spain and Germany.

The closing date for the 2007 Competition is 16th March 2007. Twenty enquiries for information, including rules, regulations and an entry form, have been dealt with so far, the majority coming from abroad. All enquiries and other correspondence has been by e-mail, justifying the decision not to print and post forms this year.

Mary Tyers

TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

I am aware of only one new course - Helen Hooker is running a technique day for Essex on 24 March.

I am getting feedback that branches are reluctant to organise full days as extra to their normal programmes. I would suggest that we offer half day workshops as well, so that branches can have the tutor for a whole day as part of their normal playing cycle, but have the workshop in the morning. This will be difficult with the intermediate conducting course, but should be possible with the others. If the committee agrees, I will approach the tutors for their agreement and email/write to branches to this effect.

I wish to propose that the fee should rise to £60 for a half day, £120 for a whole day.

Workshops organised for SRP

<i>Date</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Tutor</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
Feb 2003	Intm. Conduct.	MU	Edinburgh	A Short
Nov 2004	Intm. Conduct.	MU	Bristol	S. Davies
Sep 2005	Intm. Conduct.	MU	Winchester	B. Whitmarsh
Jan 2006	Intm. Conduct.	CT	Edinburgh	A Short
Jun 2006	Technique	HH	Bristol	S. Davies
Mar 2007	Technique	HH	Essex	S. Walker

Moira Usher

Instrument loan

NYRO has 2 instruments (1 great bass and 1 contrabass) donated by Jeanette Hipsey. They were serviced by Kung in 2006 and are now in excellent condition. Apart from the NYRO summer course and concert they are available for use by other groups. It is of course desirable that resources such as these be fully used. Also loans relieve NYRO of the need to store them, an issue that will become more difficult as the number of instruments increases. In the past two years quick *ad hoc* decisions have been made. The NYRO subcommittee now proposes a fairer procedure.

The instruments will be offered for loan preferentially to SRP-affiliated orchestras or SRP branches from September to June. There will be a charge of £100 per instrument. Transport costs will be met by the borrowers. They may be recalled temporarily for NYRO playing days or short courses. Applicants will submit a written case for evaluation by the NYRO subcommittee in case there are competing applications. If no applications are received from preferred groups, instruments may be loaned to other organisations on similar terms but at a cost of £150. Availability and closing date will be notified to orchestras and branches and posted on the SRP website.

Instrument purchase

Orchestras require more bass instruments. The musical requirement for NYRO is 6 great basses and 4 contrabasses, for NYTRO 3 great basses and 2 contrabasses, plus spares. Purchase of one instrument per year would average about £2500 and take about 18 years to complete. NYRO proposes to start such a programme and build the cost into the annual budget. Donations and loan fees would be allocated to the instrument fund. This will give a focus to fundraising with the possibility of individually sponsored instruments. Purchased instruments will be offered for loan as are the current instruments. Makers (such as Kung, Paetzold and Dolmetsch) and shops will be invited to tender as preferred suppliers for the acquisition programme.

The programme will accelerate if other funding can be obtained. It has regularly been suggested at Conference that the SRP buy instruments for loan. If the Committee agrees to do so, loans, servicing etc. could be managed by the NYRO subcommittee in the same way as the current instruments. If a separate management is preferred, we suggest that there be a commitment to make SRP-owned instruments available to NYRO for the main course and concert in the summer. This would acknowledge SRP ownership and support of NYRO and would be a reasonable *quid quo pro* for the preferred loan of NYRO instruments to SRP groups. Any policy for charging, also ideally the purchasing policy, should be consistent for SRP and NYRO instruments.

Andrew Short & NYRO s/c

9 February 2007

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2006

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2005-06 and a forecast of the figures for 2006-2007.

INCOME	2005-2006	2006-2007
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	20,411.26	22,700
Cumbria Festival 2005 Surplus	1,685.76	
Scottish Recorder Festival Aberdeen Surplus	58.22	
Donation (return of Annual Conference travel expenses)	70.00	700
Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received)	1,058.04	1,000
Total Income	23,283.28	24,400
EXPENDITURE – Actual Payments, Not Accrued		
Magazine	12,248.35	12,750
Annual Conference	3,217.53	3,300
Conductors Visits	2,439.19	2,700
Committee Expenses	2,367.19	2,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership Lists 2001, 03, 05	111.88	550
Phones & Postages	554.39	500
Publicity	178.75	
Ex-gratia payments to Cumbria, and WBF		1124
Ex-gratia payments to Aberdeen– Scottish Festival 2005	0	58
Competition	2273.30	0
Subscription to Making Music	343.40	350
Internet Presence	199.81	300
Liability Insurance	825.83	850
Office Insurance (from July)	54.17	165
Total Expenditure	24,813.79	25,147
SURPLUS(+)/LOSS(-)	-£1530.52	-£747

The deficit for the year was £1530 leaving the fund at £24,681 on the 31st August. I anticipate a further shortfall of £500 for the current year.

Subscription income fell by £881 compared with 2004/05 and subscriptions for 2004/05 were £460 less than 2003/04. The cost of the Annual Conference rose by almost £350, the cost of conductors' visits remained the same, though it appears that one branch hasn't claimed yet (their claim will put up the cost by about £100). Committee expenses were down by £760 due to holding one of the meetings immediately after the Conference.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £1,159 in donations, and £1,822 share of bank interest. It made grants totalling £5,575 and donated £180 to sponsor a concert for the ERTA conference in 2005. The year's loss was £3073 leaving its fund at £41,264.

I separated the NYRO accounts from the Arthur Ingram Fund for the 2004/5 accounts as NYRO has its own treasurer and bank account. It also makes the accounting for the Arthur Ingram Fund easier; the fund received £6961 share of bank interest, £20 in donations, and £7 in royalties. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£1000 still owed for 2005, £4000 for 2006 course), a grant towards a David Munrow memorial composition, and workshops (£560, minus £410 entrance fees) £150. For the current year the NYRO management fee will be £6000.

In view of the deficit for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and quite possibly for the current year I would recommend to accept last year's suggested increase in subscription rates from September 2007. This means the rates would rise to / or for those who have already accepted the higher

rates remain at £17.50 per full member, £28.00 per household membership and £13.00 for students. I am very grateful that several branches have already opted to pay the recommended increased rate from September 2006.

I would also like to ask that branch accounts, Competition account report and NYRO accounts should get to me in mid-November wherever possible to give me sufficient time to consolidate all accounts, present them to the Independent Examiner and be able to send them to the Charity Commission as early as possible (this may influence access to funding) as well as making sure they are completed in time for the Conference. – I intend to modify the standardised form for branch account returns to encourage its use – I hope to have this ready in time for the Conference. – I request that Warwickshire falls in line with the SRP financial year (1st September to 31st August); and further that pastoral visitor's travelling expenses be claimed before the end of the financial year in which they take place.

I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts.

Ursula Burchette

JAR
11.02.07
Officers' Reports (Master) 02.07