

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO SRP COMMITTEE, 19 OCTOBER 2008

Secretary

Eighteen Branch visits by conductors have been arranged since Conference 2008, all but two for 2008-09.

Other than arranging conductors' visits there has been little activity over the Summer. The main activity has been making a start on revising the Rules of the Society.

I regret to report the death in early September of Peter Hammersley, Chairman of Norfolk Branch.

There have been several amendments to the details of Branch Secretaries, either already reported or shortly to be reported, in The Recorder Magazine.

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Bob Whitmarsh

Treasurer**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2008**

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2007-08 in comparison to the forecast for 2007-2008.

INCOME	2007-2008 (actual)	2007-2008 (forecast)
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	25,170.15	24,500
Kent Festival 2008 Surplus	638.01	
Scottish Recorder Festival Glasgow 2008 Surplus	10.20	
Inland Revenue		
Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received)	1,442.21	1,200
Total	27,260.57	25,700
EXPENDITURE – Actual Payments, Not Accrued		
Magazine	12,301.96	12,750
Annual Conference	3,504.50	4,000
Conductors Visits	2,917.32	3,600
Committee Expenses	1,891.08	2,500
Printing, Stationery	271.28	550
Phones & Postages	346.13	500
Publicity	200.00	100
Ex-gratia payments to York, and WBF	535.40	535
Ex-gratia payments to Edinburgh, and WBF	66.66	66
Subscription to Making Music	399.60	400
Internet Presence	47.00	200
Liability Insurance	1,105.00	1,075
Office Insurance	162.50	325
Trustee Insurance	215.25	215
Audit	150.00	150
Miscellaneous	17.99	
Total	24,131.67	26,966

There is a surplus of about £3,130 due to an increase in bank interest rates and lower expenditure in some areas.

Subscription income rose about £1,500 compared with 2006/07. The cost of the Annual Conference was £200 less than in 2007, the cost of conductors' visits was also slightly less than in the previous year – due to illness and cancellation of two visits (these are likely to be added to the present financial year). Committee expenses were down by £150. I expect the costs of conference, committee expenses and conductors visits to rise by about 17% in view of the increase in mileage rate from 1st September as travel expenses make up the major proportion of these costs.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £1,533 in donations, £300 share of festival surpluses and £2,485 share of bank interest (18.52% of total). It made grants totalling £5,204 and awarded the Philip Cole Prize for best performance at the SRP/Moeck competition in November 2007 (£300).

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £9,490 share of bank interest (70.73% of total) and a legacy of £1,000 from Anne Blackman. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6000), Bass Instruments (£5000), Prizes for SRP/Moeck Competition (£600), commission

of a composition for Recorder Ensemble by Gavin Bryars (first instalment £585) and a workshop (£150, minus £44 entrance fees) £106.

To date I have not received the 2007/8 accounts from the outgoing Competition Administrator and so cannot finalise the Arthur Ingram Fund at present. Also gift aid for 2006/7 has not yet been received.

I attach the provisional accounts for 2007/8.

Ursula Burchette

Membership Secretary

During the summer Jerry Burbidge and I spent a considerable amount of time checking that his list of members is up-to-date with mine and that all addresses / postcodes are correct. Since the last magazine was sent out, only three returns have been made so far. Two of these 'have gone away' and neither of us has been notified about the change of address. The third address was the same on Jerry's printed list and mine, but his computer had brought up a previous address for the posting.

Last year I issued guidelines on how I would like the membership list presented. These were posted on the SRP admin page with the 'Who, What, When, Where' page so that branches can refer back to them and new secretaries / treasurers can find information they need. Most branches tried very hard with their lists and this made a big difference to the time it took me to process the cheques and lists. However a few things need addressing this year to improve the system and to encourage secretaries to include a few more 'bits' for me. These have just been sent out to branches.

Since the introduction of the renewal form branch treasurers need to be clear about who the cheques for donations should be sent to. Last season I received one included with the membership money. It has been suggested that perhaps I should collect ALL the money with clear instructions of the breakdown about donations. However I feel that all donations should be sent directly to the relevant co-ordinator or to the treasurer. **This is something which should be discussed at the meeting and a decision made that can be included in an amended list of 'Who, What, When, Where' on the website admin page.**

Margaret Shearing

Country and Overseas Branch

I am in the midst of gathering in subscriptions. No significant fall off in numbers so far.

Jim Rowley

SRP News Editor

25 branches have contributed to SRP News during 2008.

There was a good response when I wrote to all branches a year ago to encourage them to contribute to SRP News. In fact the response was overwhelming. For the Autumn edition I received 5,100 words - our normal amount is around 3,000. Helen agreed to let us have extra space, and I submitted 3,500. However, these were crammed into our usual space - there is even an advertisement on our final page.

For the Winter issue branch contributions have dropped off again - only 3. However, the Scottish Recorder Orchestra had asked for extra space; there are a couple of photos, the Festival preview and a NYRO report as well, so we should fill our space.

Madeline Seviour

Walter Bergmann Fund report

The committee received eleven applications to consider at its Summer meeting. We assisted three participants to attend the Woodhouse Recorder Week and an applicant to purchase a new recorder. We also supported a Recorder event at the Finchcocks Museum, involving young players, held in September. The other applicants were not considered suitable as many had received financial help from us on more than one occasion in previous years.

We sponsored a recorder event in Worcestershire which included workshops/recital by Chris Orton.

We are giving £250 as third prize in the Moeck/SRP Recorder Competition 2009.

Andrew Collis

Moeck Competition report

The Winner's Recital will take place on 16 November 2008 at the Early Music Exhibition. We are holding a reception afterwards which will include the performers, previous winners/finalists/adjudicators and members of the SRP Committee/Early Music Shop/Moeck. An article about the winner, Chris Orton, was published in the Autumn issue of The Recorder Magazine and a review of the recital will appear at a later date.

The 2009 competition will be held in November at the Early Music Exhibition. Adjudicators will be Maurice Steger, Julien Feltrin and Jane Chapman. Prize money will be :1st prize: Winners Recital + £500 2nd prize: £400 and 3rd prize: £250. Details and application forms can be found on the SRP, Early Music Shop and Moeck websites. Applicants will have to include a set work on their CD and finalists will have to include a set work in their programmes. Flyers have been sent out to conservatoires/colleges/music schools both here and worldwide and an advertisement was placed in the latest issue of The Recorder Magazine.

Andrew Collis

Training Co-ordinator

No courses have been run since the last Committee meeting although I have received some enquiries.

Moira Usher

NYRO Sub-Committee (Minutes of two meetings)

A) 11th meeting on Friday 16th May 2008 at 9.45 a.m.
at 12/6 Woodburn Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4SJ.

Present: Andrew Short, Naomi Winterburn, Rosemary Byde, Colin Touchin, Jean Murray.

Apology: Dianne Charles,

1. The Minutes of the meeting on 8 February 2008 were approved as a true record.
2. Matters arising.
(2.13, *Single signatory banking*). A rule change to allow this, approved by the Charity Commission, was proposed to Conference 2008, where it received 20 votes in favour, 12 against and 6 abstentions. As a 75% vote in favour is needed for amendments to the rules, this one has failed. Suggestions made at Conference and at the subsequent Committee meeting included investigating how other charities deal with the issue, seeking professional advice and enquiring if NatWest could suggest security measures that would be acceptable to Conference. Andrew has undertaken to report to the next Committee meeting in October 2008. Naomi agreed to meet NatWest and Andrew to investigate other sources of advice.
3. 2008 Easter course, 1st to 5th April at Bromsgrove School.
There were 19 UK players and 12 in a South African touring group, which has indicated that it would like to return in future. Musical direction was provided by Colin and Ross Winters; the student assistant was Eleanor Perkins. The standard was judged to be higher than in previous years. It is expected to break even financially.
4. London Playing Day, Sunday 4th May 2008.
This took place at James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich with 15 players. 10 were new to NYRO and some of these very good players. The school premises were provided free, although there may be a servitor charge. The southern location is perhaps not ideal.
5. 2008 Summer course, 27th July to 2nd August, Abbots Bromley School, Staffordshire
50 applicants have been auditioned, 3 have withdrawn and there are 3 auditions still to take place. These numbers are less than in previous years. Previous players are often in other musical groups. An increased supply of new applicants is needed. In addition to the staff previously noted, the Assistant Tutor will be Janet Forbes.
It was agreed to engage Christian Payne (www.christianpayne.com) as photographer for a full day (rehearsal and concert) at fee of £400 (travel included). Images will be supplied copyright free.
The new SRP and NYRO great- and contra-basses are now available. Loaned instruments will still be required to make up the required numbers (including spares, 14 great- and 7 contra-basses). The post-concert reception will include wine, water, juice and nibbles. Invitations will be sent to local SRP branches, music services and locally-based notables.

6. Future courses and playing days

- i. Easter 2009, 14th to 18th April in either Bromsgrove (to be confirmed). More new players are needed. There will be a big mail-out in September, including to music services, specialist music schools and schools with music specialism.
- ii. Summer course, 26th July to 1st August. A location in the East of England is still to be found. The audition dates and locations will be published early.
- iii. The next Birmingham playing day will be on 19 October 2008 in the Priory School.
- iv. A venue for a London playing day needs to be found, probably to take place before the end of March 2009.
- v. Jean and Colin will discuss whether a playing day can be arranged in Scotland for April 2009.
- vi. For brochure printing, a commercial folding and mailing service will be investigated.
- vii. A drawback of the present website service is that updates can take up to a month to implement, negating a main advantage of electronic publication. Naomi will discuss the issue with the website manager. We have the option of bringing management back in-house to provide fast updating.

7. BlockWork

BlockWork has been accepted into the National Festival of Music for Youth (www.mfy.org.uk) to perform in the Ensemble category on Tuesday 8 July 2008 in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham. A fee of £250 to Ross was agreed. Other financial and practical arrangements are still to be worked out. At the next meeting a proposal to the SRP Committee for support will be discussed.

8. Finance

- i. Budget – to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- ii. Colin mentioned a music festival possibly willing to offer a bursary however it depends on their timings and will follow this up.
- iii. Julia Rigg (parent of a player) has become a Patron and has offered to pay for something else; she is open to suggestions. A range of options with costs could be offered, for example: DVD production (£2000); display boards (£88 upwards); photography (£400); commission music (£5000); a fundraising manager (£?); designing high-quality publicity materials (£?).
- iv. NYRO will apply for a Staples Business Card allowing NYRO to be invoiced monthly for stationary and photocopying. It will also earn us discounts with Staples. Better methods of payment for postage are still to be considered.

9. Widening communication

- i. Naomi will set up an entry on MySpace (now there at www.myspace.com/nyrouk).
- ii. The proposed shop on eBay requires consent from composers and arrangers of works on CD. Colin presented a draft letter and will take this further.
- iii. Naomi will look into costs for a generic “hoodie”.
- iv. Colin will make suggestions for concert publicity.

10. The availability of instruments for loan has been advertised.

11. Risk assessments will be discussed at the next meeting. Naomi will investigate possible formats.

12. Applicants will be surveyed to obtain data that we need for grant applications, such as ethnic origin.

13. The next meeting: will be on Friday 19 September 2009, in Naomi's house in Nuneaton.

14. The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m. with thanks to Andrew.

B) 12th meeting on Friday 18th September 2008 at 11.00 a.m.
at 8 Mendip Drive, Church Farm, Nuneaton CV10 8PT.

Present: Andrew Short, Naomi Winterburn, Rosemary Byde, Colin Touchin, Jean Murray,
Dianne Charles,

1. The Minutes of the meeting on 16 May 2008 were approved as a true record.

2. Matters arising.

(2. *Single signatory banking*). Still to be taken forward.

(6.vii. *Web management*). Still to be taken forward.

(7). On July 8th Ross Winters conducted BlockWork in Paul Richards' Triptych in the final of the Ensemble class of the National Festival of Music for Youth (www.mfy.org.uk) in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham. The performance received a

Highly Commended Award. The Sub-Committee expressed delight and offered congratulations to Ross and the players.

(12) Risk assessments will be considered at a future meeting, also job descriptions

3. Summer course 2008.

Naomi summarised the feedback from the players. The accommodation was good, although some objected to dormitories of 10 beds. The food was not good; cooked breakfasts would be wanted in future. The activities, time off and staff-student concert were all liked. They learned most about posture, least about intonation. They would like: more training on the technique of large instruments; music sent out earlier; more concert pieces for NYRO and NYTRO together. 52% of players are at state schools, 45% private and the remainder in higher education or elsewhere.

The tutors are a good team.

NYTRO needs to be bigger as some weak players were over-exposed. We hope that the increased circulation of brochures this year will increase recruitment. 6000 have been sent to music centres, schools with a music specialty, specialist music schools etc.

There had been careful training in the handling and care of instruments. New stands for large instruments increased safety. There was one complaint, however, about bending of a crook resulting from careless re-packing of an instrument after the concert, an issue that will be addressed in future.

The sub-committee had a discussion on whether the course should be driven by the need to perform the best possible concert or to train players, without a firm conclusion.

Naomi questioned the policy of moving the course around the country and suggested that a permanent base would be better. One difficulty is that schools have regular bookings. This will be considered over time.

There will be a double CD of the concert. Pre-publication sales were at £10. It was confirmed that the post-publication price will be £12.50. Dianne will investigate whether a "chip-and-PIN" machine can be rented from the Federation of Small Businesses.

4. Future courses.

For Summer 2009, Colin, Eileen Silcocks, Ross, Helen Hooker and Chris Orton will be invited to conduct and tutor as in 2008. Applications for the assistant tutorship will be invited from former players and conservatoire students and considered by Colin and Naomi.

An application has been received from an advanced amateur player. He will be told that our normal requirement for a tutorship is conservatoire training, but he could be welcomed as a member of the house staff.

Helen has indicated that she would be available for Easter 2009. As Ross would be unable to stay for the last day anyway, it will be suggested that Helen might substitute for him (Colin to discuss this with Ross). For Easter, without audition, applications often come late, making it impossible to cancel even if a loss is expected.

It is difficult to plan auditions with only two auditioners. Colin will check with Eileen on auditioning requirements. An invitation will be sent to selected teachers to join the audition team, in the first instance sitting in on an audition. Colin will take this forward.

For Summer 2008 a concert hall in Cambridge has been provisionally booked. Naomi will view it. Stewarding and ticket sales will not be provided. Brian Jordan will be asked if he could sell tickets in advance and process credit card transactions and invited to have a sales stall in the foyer. A venue for the course has still to be found.

Colin has suggested that a studio-standard commercial CD could be made by BlockWork over a weekend. A budget of about £5000 would be needed. Sources for this will be considered in future. There would need to be agreements with composers and publishers.

5. Finance

Rosemary said that the surplus for 2007-2008 would be about £600, disregarding £1500 spent on the new large instruments (supplementing £5000 from the SRP Arthur Ingram Fund), considered to have been spent from the reserve. The surplus is less than in all previous years. A few areas for economy were considered, for example not having a mid-week excursion, but the main thrust needs to be recruiting more players.

CD income has never covered production costs but the production of CDs is important as a record and for publicity. There was a discussion on whether part of the course fee could be attributed as CD income and a CD sent to each player.

Naomi has said that her laptop has reached the end of its useful life and as it is used principally for NYRO she does not have a personal reason to replace it. Dianne offered to provide a laptop as sponsorship by her company Patrick Charles Consulting Ltd. The sub-committee expressed thanks for this kind offer.

6. Colin and Naomi had met recently with Julia Rigg, Patron of NYRO and mother of a player, about fundraising and sponsorship. Julia has experience as a Trustee of several major charities. She suggested that NYRO courses could be classed as charitable events if bursaries are offered. A bucket for donations should be proffered after concerts. Possible sources of grants are the NAM Foundation, EMI Sound Foundation and the Duffield-Clore Foundation. Julia is willing to review applications, committee resolutions etc. The sub-committee agreed to consider fundraising at the next meeting and invite Julia to attend. Colin will propose a list of projects for fundraising support.
7. Repertoire and commissions. Colin will investigate whether other orchestras might collaborate in a consortium commission.
8. Primary feeders. Colin suggested that regional NYRO days for primary children in collaboration with local teachers might feed into NYTRO and NYRO. Funding and management need to be considered.
9. Naomi has been invited, through Douglas Coombes and his wife, to write an article for the Schools Music Association for publication in its December magazine. Colin said that we should be making similar inroads into other similar organisations such as the National Association of Music Education.
10. The next meeting will be on Friday 6th February 2009 in the Midlands area. The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m. with thanks to Naomi.