

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO SRP COMMITTEE, 19 OCTOBER 2003

SECRETARY

As reported in previous reports, enquiries addressed to me about the Society have continued to decline even further. I am, however, pleased to be able to say that hits on the website continue to rise quite remarkably. Ashley Allerton's report is appended below. Apparently my request for feedback from branches whose secretaries are on-line was not welcomed as I had hoped: not one single secretary responded!

Please note that there are changes of branch secretary for *London*: Bob Horsley, 15 Palliser Road, London W14 9EB (020 7385 7321) Email: london@srp.org.uk; *Aberdeen*: Miss Jenny Cudworth, 27 Chapel Street, Turriff, Aberdeen AB53 4DL (01888 560443) Email: aberdeen@srp.org.uk and *Norfolk*: Sylvia Hughes, 7 Parmeter Close, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6AX (01263 733448) Email: sylvia@valse.freemove.co.uk

Please note that Helen Hooker's address has been changed (although she hasn't physically moved). The new street name is **Canal** Place. All other details are as previously published.

Alistair Read

WEB EDITOR

SRP Website use during the past year:

Average daily hits on the site have been around 700 for most of the last year. They were 1000 in September, and are 960 so far in October.

I have looked in a bit more depth at September's figures, and this month's so far.

A lot of hits appear to come from search engines such as Google, MSN, Yahoo, Inktomi, and they come well up the list because they usually look at lots of pages. Many 'ordinary' users will only look at a few pages.

This does mean however that it is easier to find us, and various search sites feature among the 'referrers', i.e., where people came from, to our site.

As a result of the search engine activity, the biggest proportion of hits (30% - 40%) come from US commercial sources, with around 20% coming from UK sources. There are also small numbers of visitors from Canada, Netherlands, France and Singapore, Japan, Australia, Spain, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Taiwan, Belgium, New Zealand, Belize, Finland, Israel, Portugal, Thailand, S. Africa, Switzerland, Malaysia, Brazil, Germany, Dominican Republic.

The most popular pages are those of Edinburgh branch and the NYRO – I am at a loss to explain this, except that it is perhaps because of their high quality (I don't maintain them!). I note that these pages are near the top of the list of entry pages (those that people come to first in the site), so it may be that they are used a lot for people to keep up to date with their content.

The most common entry page is the index page, but all sorts of other pages are looked at, including the Changes page, so it does seem that people come back to look at new things on the site.

I continue to have people make contact with me in my role as Devon Branch Secretary as a result of seeing the Web site, and I imagine other branches have a similar experience.

Ashley Allerton

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Current figures:

UK	148	Ordinary	129
Rest of Europe	21	Family	42
Rest of World	<u>18</u>	Life	5
	187	Student	<u>11</u>
			187

Corporate Members: 5. Orchestras (affiliated): 4.

Jim Rowley

BRANCH REVIEW EDITOR

The Summer and Autumn issues appeared on time and without problems in our ages, as far as I can recall. I can't actually find them at the moment - being in process of turning out the workroom I can't find anything!! The Winter issue will include a Spotlight on Warwick branch, and there is a preview of the Festival. NYRO 2003 will be a feature in the main part of the Magazine - Andrew Mayes has interviewed four players, there is a review of the concert and a review of the course, with photos.

During the summer I contacted 11 branches which had not contributed for more than 3 years (one hasn't reported since 1996). The response has been lukewarm - 1 contribution!

Madeline Seviour

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY; PUBLICITY OFFICER; CHAIRMAN, WALTER BERGMANN FUND; AND TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Nothing to report.

NATIONAL YOUTH RECORDER ORCHESTRA PROJECT MANAGER

NYRO 2003

The year started with fund raising, seeking grants and sponsorship, trying to raise at least the same amount of money as the SRP donated for 2002. It became apparent that, although government organisations, grant giving bodies and sponsoring business claim to be targeting youth and music, most of the giving is currently to organisations working with the socially deprived. To our surprise, the National Federation for Youth Music gave us a grant of nearly £16,000. Not to belittle them but to put them in perspective, the other 7 grants and private donations amounted to less than 20% of this figure. A carefully constructed campaign to obtain commercial sponsorship produced nothing. A study of the funding of other youth orchestras revealed that all, except the National Youth Orchestra itself, existed without major funding and relied significantly on the use of voluntary labour. However, smaller businesses associated with recorders readily supported us with prizes and donations for the course and concert. It is concluded that fund raising for cultural activities for talented children like NYRO players is difficult in the present political climate.

With acceptance of the Youth Music grant in January, planning and publicity could proceed. With over 500 days of accommodation required, considerable attention was focussed on a obtaining satisfactory site

at the lowest possible cost and an order was placed with Haileybury school in August. Colin Touchin was appointed as Musical Director and he chose Helen Hooker, Marion Scott and Ross Winters as tutors.

The standard of entry for auditions was increased to a minimum of grade 7 and to make them all live, as recorded applications had been found not to be wholly satisfactory. Information on NYRO was disseminated by mail about 700 possible points of interest but only produced 80 applications of which 45% were from last year. This was not satisfactory and is an area that requires addressing this year. One of the major problems that there is no substantial list of recorder teachers. Significantly there were only 6 applications north of Manchester. Auditions were held in London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester during the Easter holidays from which 70 offers of places were made, of which 67 were accepted - 12 boys and 55 girls, ages varying from 11 to 19.

The NYRO course was held at Haileybury School from Sunday August 9th to the following Saturday with the concert at the Royal College of Music on the Saturday afternoon. There was intensive musical tuition from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm with breaks for swimming and a trip to Cambridge to see an outdoor production of Taming of a Shrew. The ebullience of the players was amazing. On one occasion the boys were found to be waiting for the clock to reach 7.00 am so they could start practising! The students concert was received enthusiastically and demonstrated how wide players musical interests were. Colin Touchin reported that there had been a considerable improvement in the standard of playing over last year.

The concert was played to a full hall with Colin Touchin conducting most of the items and Helen Hooker one. A review will appear in the next issue of the Recorder Magazine. All items were greeted with great enthusiasm by the audience of about 320. Piers Adams's items were hugely enjoyed with the David Pugsley piece receiving an encore. About 85% of the tickets were purchased by the players or their relations. A recording of the concert was made and this is currently being turned into a CD similar to last year and should be available in November

Early on both Aulos and Yamaha suggested they might sponsor Piers Adams but this took several months to resolve at which point it was realised that there was limited suitable music. Eventually arrangements of Groovy and What ? by the composer, David Pugsley, and Vivaldi's concerto in A minor by Colin Touchin were made. The players benefited considerably from both Piers Adams and David Pugsley coming to Haileybury to help with rehearsals.

At Haileybury all the players and staff were accommodated in one block and all the rehearsal rooms were close by which made administration easier. There were minor problems with the sectional rooms, vegetarian food and other courses being run at the same time but overall Haileybury proved to be good venue. The RCM proved to be a satisfactory although an expensive venue for the concert.

All music staff were paid fees and expenses both for the auditions and the course. Administrative staff were all voluntary with their expenses being reimbursed. The course staff varied in age from their 20s to 60s, some were music teachers, some were parents and most had been at the previous 2002 event. They tackled their work with enthusiasm, insight and care. NYRO is very grateful to them for providing the essential support that allowed the music to be a success.

As part of the requirements for Youth Music NYRO had to provide an outreach programme. To achieve this all players have been made student members of the SRP, they will receive the Recorder Magazine for a year, they have been given a SRP and recorder information booklet and have been told to try to attend branch meetings to help to improve the standards of members playing.

Three sets of accounts are in preparation - annual ones for SRP (now a separate part of the main accounts), project accounts to determine the viability of the course and compare with the budget and ones for Youth Music. It is expected that there will be a surplus of income over expenditure, most of which arises from a saving on the accommodation costs compared with the budget. On the other there were a number of unexpected expenditures which offset this. After lengthy discussions with HM Customs and Excise, it was established verbally that NYRO is an 'eligible body' under VAT regulations and is entitled

to receive invoices free of VAT from other eligible bodies which is significant in respect of the major costs. Unfortunately this was not possible with Haileybury but will be watched carefully in the future.

A substantial amount of publicity was undertaken after the 2002 event with 36 press releases being sent to suggested magazines and newspapers and over 40 CDs for review. The Recorder Magazine made substantial reports on NYRO's activities and smaller articles have appeared Music Teacher, ISM Journal, NAYO's Newsletter, Trinity College's magazine and the American Recorder Magazine but newspapers, general magazines and early music publications have not been interested. Similarly as far as we know Recorder Magazine was the only publication to review the CD. Publicity is now being concentrated on those periodicals who have expressed an interest. There has been great support from Andrew Mayes who will be publishing interviews with some of the players in the next Recorder Magazine issue.

This year's course can be regarded with satisfaction on both musical and administrative fronts. The areas requiring attention are the publicity of the event to obtain more auditionees, earlier notice of the audition and course dates, borrowing of musical instruments and storage of NYRO property.

NYRO 2004

As discussed at the last meeting, NYRO 2004 will be made self funding and, to keep charges to a minimum, special attention will be paid to the accommodation and concert venue. Enquiries for accommodation have been made with the intention of moving north if a satisfactory venue can be found. Like other youth orchestras who alternate between prestigious and simpler venues, consideration is being given to having the concert at the same venue as the accommodation if there is a satisfactory hall. This will cut the concert costs considerably. The likely time for the course is the last week of July.

Colin Touchin has proposed a senior and junior orchestra of approximately 40 each if there are sufficient applicants of the required standard.

Proposals to visit Holland in October 2004 and the Steps in Time Festival in Australia in January 2005 are still being investigated. The Dutch trip would last 3 to 4 days and would be for those attending the 2004 course. They would play an item from that year's concert. The Australian trip would be for longer to allow a full programme to be developed and would be open to anyone who had played in NYRO in the previous 3 years. Nearly all players have expressed an interest in these trips but do not know the costs yet.

David Beare

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

No report received.

TREASURER

Provisional accounts for the year ended 31st august 2003

Central fund

The provisional accounts for the year ended 31st August 2003 indicate a surplus of £2,698.

Total income for the year was £24,292.00, some £4,286 greater than last year's figure. Subscription income of £22,128 (including Corporate Subscriptions) was £3,512 greater than last time and we received a donation of £1,000 from Margaret Duff in January. Interest from our COIF and Barclays Deposit accounts totalled £6,934 and was distributed in proportion to the respective assets of the Central, Walter Bergmann and Arthur Ingram Funds. The Central Fund's proportion of 12% amounted to £832 and Manchester's 2003 Festival produced a profit of £325.

Total expenditure was £21,600.67. Major items were the cost of the Magazine at £12,125, Pastoral visitors' expenses at £1,970 (£62 less than last year), Committee Expenses at £1,623 (£472 less than last year) and the cost of the Annual Conference at Manchester was £2,827, an increase of £1,190.

Other notable items of expenditure were Phones and Postages, which cost £280, Printing and Stationery amounted to £135. Thanks to a change of Internet Service Provider our Internet Presence cost £100 compared to last year's £375. Liability Insurance premium remained at £818 (this included an ex-gratia payment to the Irish branch to help with their separate insurance). The SRP-Moeck Competition account was £362 in surplus as a result of a registration fee income of £450.

We paid a subscription of £258 to Making Music and we made a donation to ERTA of £1,000 being a sponsorship of their ensemble competition. We made ex-gratia payments of £200 to Manchester to support their October 2002 Festival loss, £105 and £108 to Guildford and Manchester branches respectively as a third of the surplus they achieved in their 2002 and 2003 National Recorder Festivals. An equal amount of £213 was transferred to the Walter Bergmann Fund.

As a result of these figures the Society's reserves rose to £27,524 at the 31st August 2003.

WALTER BERGMANN FUND

Total income for the year was £8,208. Donations received totalled £6,382.40, which included £1,653 from the sale of instruments, music and LPs from the collections of **Anne Blackman, Paul Clark, Roy Corbishley, Herbert Hersom, Edgar Hunt, Ray Seldon** and others un-named. The 18.5% share of Deposit Accounts Interest was £1,282.

Expenditure totalled £4,783. Individual grants were £4,136 and £62 was spent on CDs as prizes for the ERTA Ensemble Competition. The net cost of the excellent Walter Bergmann Fund Centenary Concert was £255. The resulting surplus of £4,783 for the year brought the fund's reserves up to £43,216.

ARTHUR INGRAM FUND

This separate fund is the result of Arthur Ingram's generous bequest and will be used for projects suggested by committee and approved by Annual Conference. During the year we received the final distribution of £19,883 from the estate. The total bequest received by the SRP was £169,883. Other income was £4,819, being 69.5% of deposit interests.

The Fund has been used during the period to support the 2003 NYRO activity.

NYRO

I can only report on transactions through the Central fund account since I have not received any information from David Beare relating to the NYRO account under his control. It is important that I receive these details soon.

Income to the Central account totalled £2,988, being sale of NYRO 2002 CDs for £1,638.50 and three sponsorship receipts amounting to £1,350.

Expenditure from the Central account totalled £2,529 itemised as Recorder Magazine Inserts at £33, National Association of Youth Orchestras subscription of £90 and the transfer of £2,406 to the NYRO account (Sponsorships £1,350, Donated Fees and expenses from NYRO 2002 of £1,056).

SRP BRANCHES

The Charity Commissioners have decided that, since our individual branches are not independent registered charities, their accounts must be consolidated into the main accounts to show a true picture of the Society's Income and expenditure.

Since the branch accounts received by me are variously individual in their presentation, and in order to reduce the extra work that incorporating these accounts into the main accounts will involve, I have produced a standard pro forma accounts sheet, which I intend to send to all branches in the next few weeks to be completed for the year ended 31st August 2003. At the bottom of the form I have invited branches to consider opening a deposit account with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund who, over the last three months have paid an average interest rate of 3.22%

With this new development in mind it would help branch treasurers if all branches had their yearend on the 31st August, and I commend this suggestion to the committee.

The major part of the Accounts for the year 2001-02 have been audited by Robert Harrison but I still have to provide him with the final accrual accounts. The delay, in the main has been the result of my move to Wales, and completion of these accounts and submission of them to Robert will now be my next priority. I have contacted the Charity Commissioners and they are not, for the moment, unduly perturbed.

HOUSEKEEPING

I am delighted to report that I have a full set of **Branch Accounts** for the year ended 2002 and have received 2002/03 accounts from eight branches so far.

That concludes my report on the Society's accounts

BJ Fraser-Hook
Hon. Treasurer