

19th May, 2007. Margaret Leach

Despite the cup final and the reasonable gardening weather, we had a very good turn-out for Margaret's conducting session (although we did include Ken, her husband, in the figures). We began with a *Fantasia* by **Ferrabosco**, after Margaret had told us a little about his life in London and his musical dynasty. We worked on this for a while and the things we worked on stood us in good stead for the next piece, **Bach's** *fugue* number 23 (although really 47 from the 48), fortunately in a more recorder friendly key than the original. After a good look at all the tricky passages we gave a reasonable rendition. Then we needed 2 descant soloists for a version of the beautiful *Dido's Lament*, from *Dido and Anneas*, **Purcell**. The basses weren't over stretched with their ground bass, but it did sound good. After tea and chocolate marshmallows (provided by Dennis) we resumed to play 2 movements from **Gaspar Sanz's** *Spanish Airs and Dances* – no. 4, the elegant, slow *Espagnol*, and number 5, the slightly manic *Canarios*. (This was the music that inspired Rodrigo to write his well known guitar concerti). The descants definitely needed a rest after this! So for the final music of the afternoon, 2 pieces unknown to anyone, Geoffrey **Russell Smith's** *Moments of Delight*. *Moment of Tranquility* was just that – relaxed and fairly straightforward, *Moment for Comedy* was again well titled, and great fun to play. A good introduction for most people to this wonderful composer. And then, sadly, it was the end of the afternoon, most enjoyable and I hope that Margaret will return next year with more delights.