



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Jonathan Dove

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

at Barton Peveril College, Chestnut Avenue,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire PO50 5ZA

### PRESENT:

#### **Committee & Musical Advisers**

Vic Morris	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Tessa Rolph	Gift Aid Administrator
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Rodney Callow	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Josée Beeson	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Sarah Langdon	SRP/Moeck Competition	Frances Tuffery	Committee
Anthony Hall	Web Editor	Mary Tyers	Festival 2019

#### **Branch delegates**

Bath	Jean Reynolds	Macclesfield	David Alcock
Beds and North Herts	Elaine Lowrence	Mid Herts	Jim Grant
	Gillian Mitchell - observer	Newcastle	Joyce Watts
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Norfolk	Charles Levien
Bristol	Mary Neave	Nottinghamshire	Alison Wilson
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Diana Knight	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Orkney	Caroline Melody
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Oxford	Anthony Hall
Cumbria	George Thorp	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts – observer
Dorset	Stuart Miller	Sheffield	Joanne Simmie
Durham	Mary Tyers	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
East Berkshire	Andrew Challinger	South Staffordshire	Alyson Lewin
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	Suffolk	Geoff Knight
Guildford	Penny Clarke	Warwick	Helen Jones
	Maria Lemonidou – observer	Weald of Kent	Ian Jutting
Ireland	Frances Tuffery	Wessex	Pippa Belas
Leicester	Janet Scott	York Guildhall	Fiona Kemp
Lincolnshire	Rodney Callow	Country & Overseas	Sandra Foxall

#### **Others**

Tom Beets	An SRP Vice President Visiting Conductor
Barbara Law	Honorary Life Member Editor, the <i>Recorder Magazine</i>
Joris van Goethem	Visiting Conductor

## 1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.10am by welcoming Delegates, Committee Members, Musical Advisers and others to Conference.

1.2 In Memoriam: Conference noted with sadness the passing of the following members and friends of the Society since the previous Conference:

- Anne Ayre, widow of Alex Ayre
- Dr Christine Bellamy, Leicester Branch
- David Bellugi, SRP/Moeck competition adjudicator
- Edna Coop, Country & Overseas Branch
- Beryl Hussey, Norfolk Branch
- Christine Parkinson, Sheffield and Country & Overseas Branches
- Paul Richards, Country & Overseas Branch
- Eileen Silcocks, Country & Overseas Branch and an SRP Musical Adviser
- Dr Gregory Wells, former Chairman of Warwick Branch
- Ann Williams, Suffolk Branch
- Anne Withington, Edinburgh Branch
- Theo Wyatt, an SRP Vice president
- Jackie Yeoman, East Berkshire Branch

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from:

\* Committee and Musical Advisers: April Munday (who was involved in Festival activities), Louise Findlay, Ciara Flanagan, Caroline Jones, Evelyn Nallen, Debbie Nicholas and Colin Touchin.

\*Branches: Aberdeen, Cambridge, Devon, Essex, Glasgow, Hillfoots, London, North Cotswold, North London, Peterborough and South Downs.

The following Branches were also not represented:

Kent, Manchester, South London, Wales, West Dorset and West Riding.

## 2. Minutes of Conference 2017

2.1 Subject to a spelling correction and clarification that the Society's new President, Jonathan Dove, had addressed Festival attendees after rather than at Conference, the Minutes of Conference held in Cambridge on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded: Joyce Rudall Approved.

3. **Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda** : no matters were raised

## 4. Officers' Reports

These Minutes record points made in presentation or discussion of Officers' reports. The actual reports, most of which had been circulated in advance, are available at [www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference](http://www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference).

4.1 Chairman: The Chairman said that, after two years in the role, he remained conscious that many recommendations set out 6 years ago in the 2020 Report ([www.srp.org.uk/srp-future](http://www.srp.org.uk/srp-future)) remained to be acted upon. Membership was at best steady and it was vital to recruit new

members of all ages to maintain the viability of the Society. While many members saw playing at Branch meetings as their key activity, it was important that the Society engaged with a wider audience, for example with schools, to promote its charitable objectives. Some new initiatives would be discussed later in the meeting. Barbara Law, as Editor of the *Recorder Magazine*, was well placed to advise on and promote such initiatives.

4.2 **Secretary:** The Secretary reminded Conference of the Long Service Certificates that the Society was pleased to award to Branch officials who had served for at least 25, 40 or even 50 years. Since such service could be in more than one Branch and/or in more than one role, Branches considering nominations might wish to check Branch records and the limited records held by the Society centrally for any information that might confirm length of service. Helen Hooker noted that Sophie Middleditch, as well as William Summers and Vincent Tumasas, were relatively recent additions to the Panel of Conductors.

4.3 The Secretary also noted that several Branches had not yet used the £80 vouchers they had been awarded at Conference in 2017 to celebrate the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The vouchers could be used for purchases from Recorder MusicMail and expired on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. There were no plans to extend their validity.

4.4 **Commissioned work:** The Secretary tabled a note that Evelyn Nallen had sent from composer David Knotts (see [www.davidknotts.co.uk](http://www.davidknotts.co.uk)), from whom the Society had commissioned a new piece for 2018. The note (included with the Officers' reports on the website) gave details of David's other commissions and the inspiration for his compositions. The first performance of the new piece will be at 3pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at the Bene't Club (Corpus Christi College's Music Society), Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RH, with tickets available at the door.

4.5 **Treasurer:** To help Conference understand the accounts for 2016/17, which had been certified by the Independent Examiner (Keith Varney), the Treasurer explained the current account structure:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>main income</b>	<b>main expenditure</b>
Central Fund	national subscriptions share of Festival surpluses	the <i>Recorder Magazine</i> , insurance, conductors' visits, membership list, Committee and Conference expenses
Arthur Ingram Fund	Gift Aid, royalties, workshop and competition fees	workshops, commissioned music SRP/Moeck competition
Walter Bergmann Fund – restricted Fund	donations and Gift Aid share of Festival surpluses	grants to young players
Concerto Fund – temporary Fund	donations	support for the concerto commissioned from Graham Fitkin by Evelyn Nallen and Barbara Law
Consolidated Branch accounts	Branch subscriptions donations, Gift Aid, visitors' fees, concerts, sales	conductors' fees, venue hire, music, expenses, insurance

The Treasurer had also prepared a more detailed paper on the history and use of the Arthur Ingram Fund. This was primarily for the benefit of the SRP Committee but was available to any Society member on request.

4.6 The Treasurer then explained that, having kept national subscriptions unchanged since 2014, she was proposing an increase of £1.50 for 2018/19, raising the rate for individuals from £23.50 to £25. This was forecast to reduce the rate of net expenditure from the Central Fund. If this was agreed then the subscription for Corporate Membership, which was twice the individual rate, would become £50. The Treasurer also proposed that the household rate should increase from £35 to £36, though some delegates suggested that reverting to the more customary formula of 1½ times the individual rate (i.e. £37.50) was preferable.

4.7 The Treasurer then gave notice that, having held the role for the last 12 years, she would not be standing for re-election at Conference 2019 but would be prepared to serve for the 2018/19 financial year and complete the 2018/19 accounts. It was important that a successor was identified quickly so that they could learn about the work involved before taking over, ideally from the start of a new financial year. The role as operated by the present Treasurer was very intensive since it combined that of (a) Finance Director, overseeing the Society's financial health, and (b) accountant, processing very many items of income and expenditure, maintaining the cashbook, and preparing the accounts. To reduce the burden for a successor it was worth considering whether the latter role should be undertaken by a professional bookkeeper, who need not know anything about the recorder, with the Treasurer focussing on the more strategic role. It was agreed that this proposal should be costed and examined further by the Committee.

Action: Chairman

4.8 Conference then applauded the Treasurer in recognition of her sterling work in that role over many years.

#### Financial Resolutions:

##### **RESOLUTION A**

\* That the accounts for 2016/17, as certified by the Independent Examiner, be accepted.

Proposed: Alyson Lewin Seconded: Sarah Langdon Carried

##### **RESOLUTION B**

\* That Keith Varney be re-appointed as Independent Examiner until Conference 2019.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded: Jim Grant Carried

##### **RESOLUTION C**

\* That the national subscription for individuals should be £25 from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Proposed: Treasurer Seconded: Sandra Foxall

There were 36 votes in favour, 1 against and no abstentions. More than 75% of those voting supported the Resolution and so, in accordance with Rule 7.8, the Resolution was carried.

##### **RESOLUTION D**

\* That the national subscription for households should be £37.50 from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Proposed: Wendy Pettitt Seconded: Frances Tuffery

On a show of hands, this Resolution was supported by a similar majority to Resolution C and was therefore carried.

4.9 Membership Secretary: David Rollason, who was standing down as Membership Secretary, said that during his 4-year tenure of the post his job had been made very significantly easier by the introduction of the sophisticated membership database developed by the Web Editor, Anthony Hall. This, for example, enabled Branches to input members' details directly and generated Gift Aid returns and copy for the printed Membership List. The scope for using the database to generate an up to date mailing list that Recorder MusicMail could use to distribute each issue of the *Recorder Magazine* remained under investigation.

4.10 Country & Overseas Secretary: Sandra Foxall reported that recent renewals and additions had taken COS membership to 122, an increase of 24 since 2017. Referring to a suggestion that the COS Secretary and Membership Secretary roles might be combined, she noted that there were significant differences in the roles. For example, while the Membership Secretary dealt mainly with Branch Secretaries, the COS Secretary had to maintain individual contact with all COS members, of whom about 20% lived overseas and some of whom did not use e-mail. Chasing subscriptions and renewals was a key task for attracting and retaining COS members.

4.11 Web Editor: Anthony Hall noted that he had put considerable effort into updating the Society's website to better serve the membership and inform the wider public about the Society and its activities. In particular, he encouraged those Branch Secretaries not already doing so to use the straightforward online system for submitting membership returns and updates. Further developments, such as a facility to join the Society online and a page summarising regular Branch meetings and venues, were planned. The information and links available on the website were extensive and any members who found incorrect or outdated material or other problems should alert the Web Editor. It was also important to remember that the website relied on the many authors and originators of the information submitted to maintain its accuracy and relevance.

4.12 Anthony indicated that he would be stepping down as Web Editor. His deputy, Sara Scorey, would continue to maintain the website but a new Web Editor was needed to be responsible for managing the underlying software. A Job Description had been issued and Anthony would be pleased to hear from anyone interested. Conference was unanimous in thanking Anthony for his sterling work on the website, which had become a vital tool for promoting the Society's membership and objectives.

4.13 Gift Aid Administrator: Tessa Rolph noted that Gift Aid claims for 2014/15 and 2015/16 had been submitted to HMRC in October 2017, so payments should appear in the accounts for 2017/18. The claim for 2016/17 will be submitted soon, after which the submission of claims will be up to date. While earlier claims had to be prepared manually, the membership database could now generate claims. Branch Secretaries were encouraged to upload members' Gift Aid declarations directly to the database but could send scanned copies to the Membership Secretary if preferred.

4.14 Walter Bergmann Fund: Moira Usher, Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund, noted that the Fund had agreed to cover the potential small loss in membership income resulting from the Committee's decision to introduce immediately a £10 subscription for students in full-time education, pending approval by Conference, since that sum did not fully cover even the cost of the Magazine. Barbara Law welcomed measures to help students engage with the Society at a time when their finances were likely to be most stretched.

4.15 Moira also said that, with over £39,000 available at the end of 2016/17, the Fund would welcome more and more imaginative applications. Individuals applying for grants had to demonstrate financial need, but the Fund was also willing to consider applications from ensembles, schools, music festivals etc wishing to promote recorder playing by young people. Branches could help by informing Moira of potential opportunities in their areas so that she could send information about the support available from the Fund. A further suggestion, which Moira agreed to take forward, was to ask the British and International Federation of Festivals ([www.federationoffestivals.org.uk](http://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk)) to include the Fund in its guide to potential sources of funding for festivals.

Action: WBF Chairman

4.16 Training Co-ordinator: April Munday was stepping down as Training Co-ordinator. Conference thanked her for her work in that role. Moira Usher had volunteered to take over the role and reminded Conference that anyone, not just individual SRP Branches, could invite the Society to run a workshop. Workshops were underwritten by the Society, so there was no financial risk for organisers - see [www.srp.org.uk/courses/GuidanceForRunningAWorkshop.pdf](http://www.srp.org.uk/courses/GuidanceForRunningAWorkshop.pdf). So, for example, U3A recorder groups might welcome the opportunity of workshops, and Caroline Jones would mention these in an advertisement for the Society that she was preparing for the U3A magazine *Third Age Matters*.

Action: Caroline Jones

4.17 SRP/Moeck Competition Administrator: Sarah Langdon reported that there had been a record 23 entrants for the 2017 Competition, including 5 from players from or studying in the UK. There were mixed feelings about how the new venue in Blackheath (St Margaret's Church) compared with the previous one in Greenwich (the Peacock Room at the Old Royal Naval College). The 2017 winner, Silvia Berchtold, is due to give her winner's recital at All Saints' Church, Blackheath, at 5pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## 5. Membership categories

5.1 The Chairman introduced his paper proposing changes in the Society's membership categories. He envisaged that the main route to membership would continue to be through Branches (though there were significant gaps in their geographical coverage), but the Society also needed to cater for the increasing number of people who expected to be able to join directly online, to redouble its efforts to engage younger players, to work with schools, and to attract smaller recorder ensembles. The paper gave details of what was proposed in each of these categories. Stu Miller endorsed the need for joining the Society to be made easier. Joyce Watts suggested that, however new members joined, they might appreciate a Welcome Pack explaining the role and activities of the Society and including a copy of the latest *Recorder Magazine*.

5.2 Individual Membership: There was discussion of whether "Individual Membership", which was essentially a new title for Country and Overseas membership, was the most appropriate term for members unable or not wishing to join through a local Branch. Some people found the spatial connotations of "Country and Overseas" confusing, especially since most COS members lived in the UK. Alternatives suggested included "central", "central and overseas", "personal" and "direct" membership. There were limited parallels to be drawn with the structure and terminology used by the American Recorder Society, which had largely autonomous Chapters affiliated to a central organisation but where every member had a vote. This contrasted with the current situation in the SRP where only Branch delegates and central members had a vote at Conference, so

prompting the question of whether and how representation of the membership at Conference should be widened. The choice of name for the "Individual Membership" category was remitted to the SRP Committee to decide in the light of the Conference discussion.

5.3 Youth/Student Membership: This proposed category, with an annual subscription of £10 (or £5 for new members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> January) was intended to replace the present Student Membership category, for which the subscription was currently £17 (£8.50). Conference had decided several years ago that "students" could be of any age, though they had to be in full-time education. There was discussion of the appropriate age limit for the "Youth" category. The paper proposed an upper limit of 25 years but some delegates suggested that 30 years was preferable in view of the financial pressures faced by people of that age. See also Minute 4.14 above.

**RESOLUTION E**

\* That the Youth/Student category be open to anyone up to the age of 30 and anyone in full-time education.

Proposed: Jim Grant Seconded: Mary Tyers Carried, with one vote against

5.4 Schools Affiliation Programme: Rules 14.1-14.4 currently provided for schools to be affiliated to SRP Branches on payment of two individual subscriptions, in return for which they received copies of the *Recorder Magazine* and an occasional visit from a conductor. This option was rarely used and, given pressure on school finances, seemed likely to remain so. The current proposal was therefore that schools at any level should be able to affiliate to the Society without charge and would in return receive a copy of the *Magazine*, the opportunity to apply for grants from the Walter Bergmann Fund and other benefits to be determined. Each Branch would also be encouraged to "adopt" a local school and, with financial and practical support from the Society centrally, work with that school and its community to promote the recorder by visits, concerts, loan of instruments etc. If successful, that programme could be expanded.

5.5 Conference welcomed this ambitious proposal, the success of which would depend heavily on national and local promotion and on the enthusiastic involvement of Branches. The costs of both national and local support for the initiative would be borne by the Society and, just in case the initiative proved unexpectedly popular, it was proposed that there should be an initial cap on total costs.

**RESOLUTION F**

\* That Conference welcomes the proposed Schools Affiliation Programme and agrees that there should be an initial cap of £10,000 on its total costs.

Proposed: Stu Miller Seconded: Geoff Knight Carried

5.6 Recorder Ensemble and Recorder Orchestra Affiliation: The Chairman explained that the Ensemble category was intended to attract smaller ensembles for which the existing Orchestra Affiliation scheme was not appropriate. It was thought that there were many such ensembles that had either not heard of the SRP or thought it had nothing to offer them, so the onus was on the Society to identify and promote itself to these ensembles. There was discussion of the proposed £40 annual affiliation fee, reduced to £20 if two or more ensemble members were also SRP members, and of a suggestion that Orchestra affiliation fees should likewise depend on the number of SRP members in an Orchestra. While the aims of these Affiliation schemes were welcomed, there was concern that if the terms for an Ensemble or Orchestra to benefit from SRP affiliation were too generous, this could affect Branch membership. There was little information available on the overlap between Branches, ensembles and orchestras, though anecdotal

evidence suggested it might be extensive. Details of the Recorder Ensemble Affiliation scheme and the fee structure for that and the Orchestra Affiliation scheme were remitted to the SRP Committee for decision in the light of the Conference discussion.

## **6. New Competitions**

6.1 Mary Tyers introduced David Rollason's paper on the proposed new SRP Recorder Composition and Performance Competitions. The intention was that there should be (a) a competition for composers, with a class for composers of any age and a class for composers under age 18 or under on the day of the competition, and (b) a competition for performers, with classes for solo players under 18 and for groups of 2-8 players age under 23, including at least one recorder player. It was envisaged that the finals of each competition would be held at alternate Festivals, with the finals of competition (a) in Durham in 2019 and of competition (b) in Suffolk in 2020, and so on. The competitions would be managed and funded by the SRP centrally, with Festival organisers asked only to provide a venue and allocate a time slot. Further details of the suggested criteria for each competition and possible prizes were given in David's paper. It was not intended that there should be any restriction on the nationality of entrants.

6.2 The SRP Committee had already agreed to launch competition (a) at the current Festival, with the finals in Durham in 2019, and had allocated a budget of £7,330 for it. Mary Tyers and David Rollason would oversee the competition, select judges and appoint a professional quartet to perform the shortlisted pieces and give related workshops (see also Minute 8.2 below). It would be important to advertise the competition widely and attract a broad range of entrants, and Branch members and others could help with publicity and contacts.

6.3 A decision on competition (b) had been deferred by the SRP Committee pending further information about a new Early Music Young Ensemble Competition being launched in 2018 by the Early Music Shop, though it was thought this had no requirement for recorders.

6.4 SRP/Moeck Competition: The launching of new competitions by the Society inevitably raised the issue of the Society's continuing involvement in and part funding of the biennial SRP/Moeck Solo Recorder Playing Competition (see also Minute 4.17 above). There had been much debate about what benefit the Society derived from its involvement, including the very substantial work undertaken voluntarily by the Society's Competition Administrator. There was, for example, concern at what was perceived as the relatively poor record of UK entrants (which perhaps reflected differing approaches to the study of music in different countries), about the current age limit of 30 (which was also seen as disadvantaging UK entrants) and even about the fact that "SRP" always came second in the title of the competition and was rarely spelt out in full. Suggestions for changing the competition included a new name, reducing the age limit to 25 or 26, opening the competition to ensembles, giving a prize for the best UK entrant, and offering winners the opportunity of more than one recital – though some of these would significantly change the character of the competition.

6.5 Sarah Langdon, the Competition Administrator, noted that such issues had been discussed with Moeck and the Early Music Shop several times but that they seemed most reluctant to change what they regarded as a prestigious and firmly established event. The Society therefore had to decide whether to maintain its involvement on more or less the current basis. It was likely that, if the Society withdrew, Moeck and the Early Music Shop would continue to run the competition, though they would probably need a paid administrator.



6.6 While delegates shared the concerns mentioned above, there were several points in favour of maintaining the Society's involvement in the SRP/Moeck Competition, at least for the time being, especially if the role of the Society could be made more prominent. The net cost to the Society was relatively modest (averaging about £2,000 in expenses and prize money per two year cycle) and significantly less than the cost of the proposed new SRP competitions, UK entrants benefitted from the experience of competing with overseas participants, and the nature of the Competition differed from that of the proposed new SRP performance competition and so arguably there was room for both.

6.7 After further discussion the Chairman concluded that the balance of opinion at Conference was that the Society should continue its involvement in the SRP/Moeck Competition for at least one more cycle – i.e. the Competition in 2019 and the winner's recital in 2020. Delegates agreed though, since this was maintaining the status quo, no formal vote was required. The SRP Committee would continue the debate and examine the scope for change with a view to seeking views on the Society's longer-term involvement at Conference in 2019 or 2020.

## 7. Election or re-election of Officers, Committee and others

7.1 There were more changes than usual this year in the composition of the SRP Committee etc. Including ones already recorded in these Minutes, these were:

- \* Mike Wilkinson is standing down after 4 years as Secretary, and previously as Membership Secretary for 4 years.
- \* David Rollason is standing down after 4 years as Membership Secretary but has put his name forward for election as Secretary.
- \* Ulli Burchette gave notice that she would not be standing for re-election as Treasurer at Conference in 2019 but was prepared to finish the 2018/19 accounts and present these at Conference in 2020.
- \* Sandra Foxall has indicated her wish to stand down after many years' service to the Committee, including as Country & Overseas Secretary in 2019.
- \* Anthony Hall, having overseen major improvements to the Society's website and IT systems, is standing down, though Sara Scorey will continue to manage the day-to-day operation of the website.
- \* April Munday is stepping down as Training Co-ordinator, and Moira Usher has volunteered to take over the role.
- \* Sarah Langdon has indicated that she will be stepping down as SRP/Moeck Competition administrator.
- \* Allyn Richardson has stepped down as News Editor but will continue producing the monthly e-news bulletin until a successor can be found. Evelyn Nallen has stepped in as acting News Editor.
- \* Rodney Callow, whose term of office was due to run until 2019, has also decided to step down.
- \* the terms of office of Josée Beeson, Ciara Flanagan and Pamela Flanagan come to an end at this year's Conference, though Josée and Ciara are eligible for re-election for a further term.
- \* Isobel Clarke resigned as one of the Society's Publicity Officers due to pressure of her other commitments in 2017.

7.2 In discussion Sandra Foxall agreed to defer stepping down from the Committee until 2019 pending further decisions on membership categories (see Minute 5.2 above) and on whether the roles of COS Secretary and Membership Secretary should be merged. Nominations for new Committee members had not been sought this year since, with changes in the management of the Society in prospect, it was not clear what skills or how many people would be needed. However, it was noted that not having new members risked breaching Rule 4.8.6 and so it was suggested that Josée Beeson and Ciara Flanagan be nominated for re-election for a further term of 3 years. This was agreed. It was also agreed that, since the Society currently had only 4 Musical Advisers, Helen Hooker should remain as a Musical Adviser on the Committee (Rule 5.8).

Committee Resolutions:

**RESOLUTION G**

\* That David Rollason be elected as Secretary of the Society.

Proposed: Andrew Challinger Seconded: Joyce Watts Carried

**RESOLUTION H**

\* That Conference endorses the appointment of Moira Usher as Training Co-ordinator (Rule 5.16).

Proposed: Joyce Watts Seconded: Charles Levien Carried

**RESOLUTION I**

\* That Conference endorses the appointment of Evelyn Nallen as News Editor (Rule 5.17).

Proposed: Diana Knight Seconded: Joyce Watts Carried

**RESOLUTION J**

\* That Josée Beeson and Ciara Flanagan be re-elected as Committee members until 2021.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Frances Tuffery Carried

**RESOLUTION K**

\* That Vic Morris, Ulli Burchette, Sandra Foxall, Moira Usher (as WBF Chairman), Sara Scorey, Louise Findlay and all 4 Musical Advisers be re-elected to or reaffirmed in their current roles until Conference 2019 (Rule 5.7).

Proposed: Josée Beeson Seconded: Stuart Miller Carried

7.3 Accordingly, the full list of officers, other Committee members and vacancies following Conference is as follows:

Chairman	Vic Morris
Secretary	David Rollason
Treasurer	Ulli Burchette
Membership Secretary	vacancy
COS Secretary	Sandra Foxall
Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund	Moira Usher
Training Co-ordinator	Moira Usher
SRP/Moeck Competition Administrator	impending vacancy
Web Editor	impending vacancy
Deputy Web Editor	Sara Scorey
News Editor	Evelyn Nallen
e-news Editor	impending vacancy
Publicity Officer	Louise Findlay
Musical Advisers	Helen Hooker, Alyson Lewin, Evelyn Nallen, Colin Touchin
Gift Aid administrator	Tessa Rolph
Other Committee members	Caroline Jones, Frances Tuffery – to 2019 Debbie Nicholas – to 2020 Josée Beeson, Ciara Flanagan – to 2021

7.4 It was noted that, while the new appointments nominally took effect at once, in practice the handover of responsibilities would be phased. All those present were asked to consult colleagues with a view to finding volunteers willing to take over the roles shown as vacant or becoming vacant in the above list. Job descriptions for some of the posts had been circulated and anyone interested should contact the outgoing incumbent or the Chairman.

## 8. Future Festivals

8.1 Conference noted the position as follows:

\* **2019:** The Society's next Festival, hosted by Durham and Newcastle Branches, will be at Ushaw College, Durham DN7 9RH from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019

\* **2020:** Continuing its decennial tradition, Suffolk Branch has volunteered for 2020.

\* **2021:** Edinburgh Branch announced that it would be host for the 2021 Festival and was currently exploring possible venues.

8.2 For the 2019 Festival, Mary Tyers reported that 19 conductors had been confirmed, with Joris van Goethem (Flanders Recorder Quartet) as lead conductor, Rosemary Robinson had been commissioned to write a piece playable by all Branches, there would be a performance by *Red Priest*, and Block4 would be the resident quartet and would play the shortlisted compositions in the inaugural SRP composers competition. See [www.srp.org.uk/national-festival](http://www.srp.org.uk/national-festival) for further details as they become available.

8.3 David Rollason asked Conference for views on a proposal that next year's Conference should be held late in the afternoon of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, before the evening meal and concert, rather than as usual on the Sunday morning of the Festival. This would address a frequent concern that Branch delegates and SRP Officers had to miss several playing sessions to attend Conference. While it was noted that those who had to work on the Friday and could not take leave would find it difficult to reach Durham in time for a late Friday afternoon meeting, there was general support for the proposal, which will therefore be trialled in 2019. This is not to be seen as a precedent for future Conferences.

## 9. Any other business

9.1 General Data Protection Regulations: Several delegates had asked about these new Regulations, which come into force on 25 May 2018. Anthony Hall said that he was preparing a guidance note, to be posted on the website, about the implications of these Regulations for the Society and its Branches. He did not expect the Society centrally to have to make significant changes since communicating with members, newsletter subscribers, purchasers of goods and grant applicants about the Society's business and to promote its interests, with their implicit consent, was accepted as legitimate under the Regulations. Where Branches included non-members in their regular mailing lists they could imply consent from established contacts but should seek explicit consent from new ones and should always tell recipients that they could opt out of some or all communications at any time. Information about retention of data and consents would be in the guidance note.

9.2 There is more detailed information on the website of the Information Commissioner at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>.

9.3 Music in schools: Several delegates expressed concern at reports of the continuing decline of music teaching in schools and, in particular, that some schools were classifying music as an extra curricula activity and requiring children wishing to study the subject to GCSE and A-level to pay for music lessons and exam fees. This appeared at least in part to be a consequence of the Government's policy on the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), which did not include music and other arts subjects in the list of subjects on which pupils' performance was to be assessed. The petition at [www.baccforthefuture.com](http://www.baccforthefuture.com) remained open for signature and that website provided further information that reinforced delegates' concerns. It was agreed that the Society would consider writing to the Secretary of State for Education, currently the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, asking about the Government's response to such concerns.

Action: Chairman

The Chairman concluded proceedings by thanking all those who had attended and contributed to discussion at Conference, those who would continue or start to serve as Officers and Committee members to help take forward the work of the Society, and those who were standing down from the Committee, in several cases after many years' service.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 1.05pm.

**The next Conference will be at Ushaw College, Durham DH7 9RH on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

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