

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 18 April 2004

St Swithun's School, Alresford Road, Winchester SO21 1HA

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

Andrew Short	Chairman	David Beare	Committee
David Scruby	A/Secretary	Ulli Burchette	Committee
Brian Fraser-Hook	Treasurer	Peter Sturgeon	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Training Co-ordinator	Paul Clark	Musical Adviser
Alyson Lewin	MA on Comte	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser

Branches

Bath	Nicola Lee	Manchester	Margaret Shearing
Beds & N Herts	Elaine Lowrence	Newcastle	Joan Reeve
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Norfolk	Janet Wright
Bristol	Margaret Leach	Northampton	Sheila Marlowe
(Observer	Ken Leach)	North Cotswold	Anne Childs
Cambridge	Christine Gibbons	Nottinghamshire	Peter Sturgeon
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Nuneaton	Philip Goode
Cornwall	Jenny Orpwood	(Observer	Vivian Goode)
(Observer	Angela Dumbreck)	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
Cumbria	Helen Beare	Plymouth	Susan Watson
Devon	Jeanette Hipsey	Roxburgh	Maureen Richardson
Dorset	Margaret Greensmith	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Durham	Anne Stoddart	South Downs	Phoebe Williams
East Berks	Andrew Challinger	South London	Denis Bloodworth
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	(Observer	Margaret Crocker)
Essex	Ella Hassall	Suffolk	John Halliwell
Glasgow	Bill McCormack	Warwick	Helen Jones
Guildford	Sue Pluthero	Weald of Kent	Anne Trevillion
(Observer	B Barton)	Wessex	Bob Whitmarsh
Leicester	Sylvia H Davidson	West Riding	Tony McCann
Lincolnshire	Frank Davies	York	David Grosvenor
London	Paula Marsh	(Observer	Ann Grosvenor)

The Chairman welcomed the Committee and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated Wessex Branch on the success of the Festival.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Alistair Read, John Allen, Jim Rowley, Mary Tyers, Andrew Collis, Madeline Seviour, Colin Martin, Hilary Oliver, Norma Herdson, Brian Bonsor, Evelyn Nallen, Layton Ring, Anthony Rowland-Jones, Eileen Silcocks, Colin Touchin and Theo Wyatt (Officers, Committee and Musical Advisers); and from the following branches: Aberdeen, Hillfoots, Ireland, Isle of Man, Kent, Mid-Herts, Milton Keynes, North London, Peterborough, Sheffield, South Staffs and West Dorset.

It was noted, with regret, the deaths in the past year of Douglas Haston and David Kinsell.

2. **Minutes of last Conference**

There were no corrections to the minutes. Alyson Lewin (MA) proposed and David Beare (Cumbria) seconded the motion that the Minutes of Conference 2004 be adopted as a fair record of those proceedings. Carried *nem con.*

3. **There were no Matters arising**

4. **Election of Officers and Committee**

4.1 The Chairman said all Officers were prepared to stand for re-election with the exception of Bob Horsley (Publicity Officer), whose post it is being proposed to remove under the rule changes (agenda item 10) and Sandra Foxall (Training Co-ordinator). The current Officers (except Bob Horsley and Sandra Foxall) were proposed *en bloc* by Jeanette Hipsey (Devon); seconded by Peter Sturgeon (Nottinghamshire) and ELECTED *nem con.* by Conference for a term of one year.

4.2 The creation of the role of National Youth Recorder Orchestra Project Manager and election to that post were carried out under agenda item 10.

4.3 Committee Members: As David Beare (Cumbria) and Hilary Oliver (West Riding) were due to retire this year; the following nominations had been received:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Proposed and seconded by</i>
Sandra Foxall (Cleveland)	Central Committee
Petrina Lodge (Cambridge)	Central Committee
Margaret Shearing (Manchester)	West Riding Branch

In the ensuing election, Sandra Foxall and Margaret Shearing were ELECTED to serve on the Committee for three years.

4.4 Moira Usher was ELECTED *nem con.* by Conference for a term of one year as Training Co-ordinator, proposed by the Committee.

4.5 Under the Society's amended Rule 5(i), Helen Hooker succeeds Alyson Lewin as Musical Adviser on Committee

The Chairman thanked the retiring members of the committee for their work and welcomed the new members of the committee.

5. **Officers' Reports**

The Chairman reminded Conference that written reports from most Officers had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. No report had been received from the Chairman of the Walter Bergman Fund (Andrew Collis) and the Chairman undertook to ensure a report was prepared at the next conference (Action: Chairman). The NYRO project manager (David

Beare) circulated his report at the conference. The Chairman thanked the Officers for their work during the past year. Some Officers added to their reports or answered questions:

5.2 On behalf of the Branch Review Editor, the Chairman urged branches to submit reports to the Magazine. At the request of David Beare (Cumbria) he clarified that the SRP information should go to Madeline Seviour, the Branch Review Editor, but that the course information should be sent to the Secretary, Alistair Read. Neither should be sent to Peacock Press.

5.4 On behalf of the Membership Secretary, the Chairman asked that the missing returns be submitted as soon as possible.

5.5 Discussion of the Information Booklet Editor's report was left to agenda item 7.

5.6 On behalf of the Competition Administrator, the Chairman reported on the success of the 2003 Moeck/SRP competition with the finals held in October at the Early Music Exhibition in Greenwich.

The prizewinner's concert by Alexandra Opsahl will be held on Sunday 14th November, 2004 at 4.00pm in the ORNC Chapel at Greenwich at the 2004 Early Music Show. The Chairman urged all those who can attend to do so. He explained that it had been felt that the using the London Wigmore Hall was no longer appropriate as it cost a lot and attracted a small audience.

The Chairman reported that the next competition is scheduled to be at the 2005 Early Music Show at Greenwich (provisionally Sunday, 15 November), subject to agreement with Moeck.

The Chairman explained that the 2003 competition was restricted to UK players. In the past international players had been invited but this had been stopped in part due to the cost. It was now felt that international players could be invited and the costs contained by good management. He reported that the committee had discussed this and agreed international competitors should be invited and asked for the views of delegates. Several delegates spoke for widening the competition, none spoke against.

5.7 Discussion of the NYRO Project Manager's report was left to agenda item 6.

5.8 On behalf of the Web Editor, the Chairman urged delegates to put publicity information on the website and to use it for getting information. He pointed out that the web editor could only put on what he was given and felt that the website was now the primary source of information about what was going on in the Society.

5.9 Discussion of the Treasurer's report was in two areas, firstly the Treasurer's report and accounts (5.9.1) and the Chairman's paper on use of Charitable Funds (5.9.2)

5.9.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that accounts were a year behind. The 2002 accounts had been delayed by problems with the first NYRO course. The 2003 accounts were behind because of two late branch returns (Cleveland, now in, and Cornwall) and the requirement of the Charity Commissioners that we consolidate the branch accounts into the Society accounts.

The Treasurer reported that the Auditor was happy with the 2002 accounts subject to a modification to the opening paragraph of the report that now reads:

"The provisional accounts on a cash basis for the year ended 31 August 2002 have been inspected by Robert Harrison and are attached hereto. Subject to his acceptance of the minor changes to accommodate the accruals accounting, the Accruals Accounts Report for the Charity

Commissioners and an outstanding set of NYRO expenses I ask conference to approve them.”

The Treasurer asked conference to approve the 2002 accounts, subject to the change. Conference agreed. Proposed Paula Marsh (London); seconded Phillip Goode (Nuneaton) and carried *nem con*.

The Treasurer reported that the consolidation of the 2003 branch accounts had shown a discrepancy in the reporting period of some branches and asked conference to approve a motion that all branches should adopt 31 August as their year-end. Conference agreed. Proposed Sandra Foxall (Cleveland); seconded Eileen Finlayson (Edinburgh). Carried *nem con*.

Margaret Shearing (Manchester) stated that she found it hard to follow the 2003 accounts, which were in narrative form, but found the 2004 figures easier as they were in a table. She urged the Treasurer to use a table for all account reporting in future. The Treasurer undertook to do so. (Action: Treasurer)

David Beare (Cumbria) asked for clarification about consolidation of branch accounts. He recalled that a common consolidated reporting format had been discussed at committee but that he had heard no more. David Scruby (Manchester), who had consolidated the branch accounts for 2003, explained that, after discussion between himself and the Treasurer, a different method had been used whereby he had taken the information from the normal branch accounts with a bit of guesswork to produce the consolidation. Both David and the Treasurer felt branches should continue using a format that suited them but that more information might be needed on some accounts to help the consolidation. Information would be sent to branches about this. Ursula Burchette (Kent) urged that this be sent soon so that branch Treasurers could adjust to the new requirements. The Treasurer agreed to do so. (Action: Treasurer)

5.9.2 Charitable Funds

The Chairman outlined the main points of his paper on Charitable Funds that had been circulated to conference, in particular whether expenditure should be from income or depletion of capital. Helen Beare (Cumbria) saw no harm in depleting the capital if it was for a worthwhile cause.

A delegate suggested buying large instruments for NYRO. Sandra Foxall (Cleveland) suggested that the instruments be loaned to other recorder orchestras when not needed by NYRO and this would solve the storage problem. The borrower would be responsible for organising and paying for the postage of the instruments. Helen Hooker (MA), a member of the teaching staff of NYRO, was asked how many instruments were needed, said ideally they would need 4 great basses and 4 contra basses with each player ideally having 2. David Beare (Cumbria), the NYRO project manager suggested that proper carrying boxes for transport be purchased with the instruments.

Ursula Burchette (Kent) suggested the SRP should make a professional standard video promoting the recorder for use in schools etc.

Helen Hooker (MA) proposed and Andrew Challenger (East Berkshire) seconded that the officers reports be approved. Carried *nem con*.

6. National Youth Recorder Orchestra (NYRO)

The report was distributed at the meeting. It was stated that numbers applying for the 2004 course were down on the previous year but of a higher standard. A telephone survey of those not re-applying showed that there was no adverse criticism of the previous courses but that

many students had other things to do. The cost will be considerably higher this year for attendees. David Beare (the Project Manager for NYRO) clarified that five students had used the Walter Bergmann fund to help with costs in 2002, none in 2003.

The 2004 course will be taking place in Cumbria and the concert will be on 31st July, in the North West at a venue to be notified. All were encouraged to attend

David Beare pointed out that he needed help with certain areas in organisation.

The Chairman thanked David Beare and Colin Touchin for the enormous efforts they had put into the orchestra project.

7. Information Pack

The editor, Helen Beare said that most packs had been distributed with about 250 spare. Helen considered the project a one off and had no plans to update it. The website is where up to date information can be found. The pack can also be downloaded from there.

Sandra Foxall (Cleveland) proposed and Joan Reeve (Newcastle) seconded a motion of thanks to Helen Beare for her work on the Information Pack. Carried *nem con*.

8. Training Administrator/CSRP

The Chairman had circulated a paper on the Certificate of the Society of Recorder Players (CRSP). The main points were that in the last 5 years very few people had shown an interest and that he felt external accreditation was now needed which could not be done. He stressed that his examination of the papers showed that it had been taken very seriously with a lot of hard work put in by the candidates and examiners. The Chairman felt the emphasis should move to training and he summarised a paper from Moira Usher on the possible future areas of training which covered conducting, analysing scores, music theory, arranging and comparing editions.

During discussion, Christine Gibbons (Cambridge) suggested that the word training be replaced. Suggestions included development, skills, education, educational development and keeping the word training.

Paul Clarke (MA) stated that in the past the training certificate (which preceded the CRSP) was useful as a step between grade 8 and the next exams available at that time. Since then new intermediate exams were available which he felt made the CSRP unnecessary.

The Chairman reported that the committee had supported the move to drop the CSRP and asked conference to agree. Conference agreed. Proposed Jeanette Hipsey (Devon); seconded Alyson Lewin (MA). Carried *nem con*.

A rule change will be brought to the next conference

9. Future Festivals

The following arrangement was noted:

- 2005 Essex Branch (Brentwood County High School, 23/24 April [Easter 27 March])
- 2006 Cumbria Branch (Date and venue to be advised) [Easter 16 April]

The Chairman informed conference that the 2004 Scottish festival was in Edinburgh on 19th June.

David Grosvenor (York) reported that his branch had authorised him to offer York as a venue. The Chairman accepted his offer for 2007.

The Chairman reported a possible development for 2008 based on two brief messages with Evelyn Nallen in which the SRP Festival and Conference could be held with the ERTA conference and Tim Cranmore's Malvern Weekend. A brief discussion was held in which Ursula Burchette (Kent) spoke strongly in favour and reported she had been present at the preliminary discussions at Malvern. David Scruby (Manchester) suggested that as this was for four years ahead, there was time for more detailed discussion by the committee and it could be brought to the conference next year for discussion.

David Scruby (Manchester) informed the conference that any branch considering running a festival could obtain the revised 'Guide to Running a Festival' from the Secretary.

10. Resolutions to Conference

Three rule changes were proposed by the committee with the effect of ceasing the post of Publicity Officer and creating the post of Project Manager, National Youth Recorder Orchestra.

Jeanette Hipsey (Devon) proposed and Andrew Challinger (East Berks) seconded a motion that the rule changes be adopted. Carried *nem con*.

Paula Marsh (London) proposed and Margaret Shearing (Manchester) seconded a motion that David Beare be the Project Manager, National Youth Orchestra. David Beare was ELECTED *nem con*.

11. Any other business

11.1 Jeanette Hipsey (Devon) felt the pictures in the Recorder magazine of the three finalists of the Moeck/SRP competition, especially the winner, were very poor and asked for her comment to be passed on. The Chairman agreed to do so (Action: Chairman).

11.2 Andrew Challinger (East Berkshire) asked if a congratulatory message had been sent to our President on his appointment to the post of Master of the Queen's Music. The Chairman stated this had not been done and undertook to do so (Action: Chairman).

11.3 Sue Pluthero (Guildford) proposed and Margaret Shearing seconded that Anne Martin be thanked for the production of the revised Teachers' Guide. Carried *nem con*.

11.4 David Beare (Cumbria) stated he was trying to create a list of recorder teachers, in particular at the grade 7/8 levels, as part of his NYRO work. Various suggestions were made from delegates.

11.5 Bill McCormack (Glasgow) asked conference to remember Hector Harvey who had recently died. Hector was a founder member of the Glasgow Branch. Several years ago he had been made an honorary member of the branch for his long service and large contribution to Glasgow recorder playing.

11.6 It was confirmed that pastoral visits have to be approved by the secretary and without approval no reimbursement can be made.

The Conference closed at 12.05 pm