



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2004

SECRETARY

Whilst the quantity of enquiries about the Society diminishes, I take heart from the fact that several branches have confirmed to me that they receive membership enquiries directly from the website; and I know from my own branch we have picked up both new permanent members and visitors by such means.

I have authorised 46 pastoral visits to branches during the year under review (an increase of 5), 36 for the current financial year 2003–04 (a decrease of 8); and five for the financial year 2004–05. Once again I should like to thank branch officials for requesting conductors fairly close to them; and I have been happy to accommodate those branches not geographically central.

During the year under review the number of adverts for courses/playing days has continued to grow. Whilst the vast majority are received in good time for me to process them and meet the magazine's copy dates, there seems to be a growing number that either arrive on copy date (or after) or are being sent directly to Peacock Press. Whilst Peacock Press have, so far, been indulgent, I feel we are pushing our luck. Would you therefore please send your adverts to me with at least three days to process them before the copy dates that appear at the foot of the contents pages of the magazine.

The past year has seen an appreciable drop in the number of changes to branch secretaries; and I am grateful to the new postholders, all of whom have been on-line, who have agreed to having their email addresses published, both in the magazine and on the website. With Conference's leave, I shall continue to distribute Committee papers on-line where possible but, as in previous years, Conference papers will be distributed by post as I am mindful of the time it takes to download long and complex documentation.

Alistair Read

BRANCH REVIEW EDITOR

Out of 50 SRP branches just 18 contributed to SRP News during 2003. What were the other 32 doing? I'm sure SRP readers would like to know what their colleagues throughout the land are up to. Although I never have any trouble filling our pages, it would be really good to hear from every branch at least once a year.

I am updating my email address book to the format "branch-at-srp-dot-org". Mostly it is the branch secretary who sends me the branch news, but where this is not the case would secretaries please forward any emails from me to the appropriate person.

A regular moan - please remember that ALL material for the SRP News pages (not just branch reports) should be sent to me - NOT to the Magazine's Editor, or to the publisher. If you have a late item please contact me to find out if it will be possible to fit it in.

To end on a flippant note, a non-SRP reader recently remarked to me that SRP members do love their cakes - which are usually home-made, and always delicious!

Madeline Seviour

CHAIRMAN, WALTER BERGMANN FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

No report received.

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Current figures:

UK	199	Ordinary	109
Rest of Europe	19	Family	38
Rest of World	<u>12</u>	Life	5
	230	Student	<u>78</u>
			230

This includes 67 NYRO players, who are given free membership of the Society for one year.

Corporate Members: 5.

Orchestras (affiliated): 5.

Jim Rowley

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Nothing to report

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

To date (8 April) returns have been received from all but four branches - ABE, DUR, MDH, SLO. If these have no changes to report, would they please confirm; or if it be the case that the return has gone astray, would they please resubmit.

The latest membership figures are: 19 branches have increased membership (+42), 17 have lost members (-65) while 12 have no change. This year we include the 67 members of NYRO, a few of whom formerly paid their subscription through their local branch. The net change in membership, excluding COS, is therefore +44.

I am steadily working my way through an update of the Members' List. When complete, I will send an electronic copy to all branches for whom I have an e-mail address. If they or any other branch would prefer a floppy disc or CD-ROM, please let me know.

John Allen

EDITOR, SRP INFORMATION BOOKLET

Last year I mentioned the information booklet at the AGM. I prepared it for the National Youth Recorder Orchestra as part of their 2003 programme, but it contained information which could be of use to other recorder players. A prototype was subsequently sent to branch secretaries.

The executive committee asked me to produce 2000 booklets, so that all SRP members could have one free, funded by some of the interest from the Arthur Ingram legacy. These were mailed to members with the Spring 2004 Recorder Magazine. About 250 are still available for anyone who is interested. Thanks to Ashley Allerton, it can be downloaded from the SRP website, but of course the web version will not be bound.

The cost of the job, including distribution, was £2,283.

I do not have plans, at the moment, to update the booklet, but any comments can be sent to informationbooklet@srp.org.uk

Helen Beare

ADMINISTRATOR, MOECK/SRP SOLO RECORDER COMPETITION

The Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Playing Competition completed its two-year cycle with a very successful finals competition on Sunday October 26th 2003. This took place at the Early Music Festival's new home in Greenwich. The venue was the Peacock Room, which proved too small for the event but did provide an acoustic and general ambience that was very positive, whilst the excitement generated by a packed, attentive and knowledgeable audience added much to the overall atmosphere and sense of occasion.

Three finalists had been selected from a total of nine eligible entries - smaller numbers than in recent years due to the decision to restrict the 2003 competition to UK nationals only. The adjudicators were Dan Laurin, Marion Scott and Ashley Solomon; the winner of both the Competition and the Philip Cole Memorial Prize (donated by the Walter Bergmann Fund for an outstanding performance of a single work) was Alexandra Opshall who is currently completing her studies at The Royal Academy of Music, London. A full review of the afternoon has been published in the Spring 2004 edition of The Recorder Magazine and details of the finalist's programmes together with biographical information were published in the Festivals brochure

The next event to look forward to is the winner's recital. This will take place at 4.00pm on Sunday 14th November 2004 in The Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, It will be the final concert in a series which is running concurrently with the 2004 International Festival of Early Music. We have been very lucky to secure such a prestigious venue, known for both its architectural beauty and excellent acoustic, and hope that many SRP members will be there to enjoy what should be a lively and entertaining afternoon.

The future of the competition looks secure with a pattern emerging of competition one year, winner's recital the next, both being a prominent part of the Greenwich International Festival of Early Music. Discussions are currently underway with Moeck concerning the competition resuming its international status and full details of the 2005 Competition will be published this autumn. Meanwhile thanks should be extended to Vanessa Smye of the London Recorder Centre/ The Early Music Shop for her practical support and unstinting promotion of the event.

Mary Tyers

PROJECT MANAGER, NATIONAL YOUTH RECORDER ORCHESTRA (NYRO)

At last year's AGM we had just finished auditions for the 2003 course and at present we are in the middle of those for the 2004 one.

NYRO 2003

Auditions for the 2003 course were held in London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester during last Easter holidays. Following these 70 offers of places were made and 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 on the Saturday afternoon. The Musical Director was Colin Touchin with Helen Hooker, Marion Scott and Ross Winters as tutors. There was intensive musical tuition from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm and later with breaks for swimming and a trip to Cambridge to see an outdoor production of *The Taming of the 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 the previous year. The musical eagerness of the players was apparent throughout course with them relishing the chance to meet other similar players.

The end of course concert at the Royal College of Music was played to a full hall with Colin Touchin conducting most of the items and Helen Hooker one. The Orchestra was joined by Piers Adams as a soloist in two works. 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 *Groovy and What ?* 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.

Early on both Aulos and Yamaha suggested they might sponsor Piers Adams but this took several months to resolve. There was limited suitable music for recorder soloist and orchestra so Colin Touchin organised arrangements of *Groovy and What ?* by David Pugsley and arranged Vivaldi's concerto in A minor himself. The players benefited considerably from both Piers Adams and David Pugsley coming to Haileybury to help at 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 but overall Haileybury proved to be good venue. The RCM was a satisfactory although 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. 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 the Youth Music grant, 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 specially prepared recorder information booklet and have been told to try to attend branch meetings to help to improve the standards of members playing. The information booklet has been developed into a more comprehensive second edition which has been distributed to all SRP members with the recent Recorder Magazine.

Accounts have been prepared up to the end of August 2003 as follows excluding uncleared cheques.

<i>Income</i>	£		<i>Expenditure</i>	£
CD 2002	952.55		CD 2002	59.00
Audition fees	1,700.00		Auditions costs	2,417.02
Sponsors, grants, gifts	9,868.00		PM Office	151.04
Course fees	15,021.00		Course costs	14,957.31
Concert tickets	2,907.45		Concert costs	2,309.45
<i>Total Income</i>	30,449.00		<i>Total expenditure</i>	19,893.82
Income over expenditure		£10,555.18		

These accounts are in mid course and do not give the overall financial situation for the whole course which will show a profit once the remaining invoices and payments are received. The only obvious point is that auditions are not self funding and have to be supported from other income. Saving arose from reduced accommodation costs compared with the budget. On the other hand 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 is now being watched carefully with future contracts.

A review by Bob Horsley appeared in the Recorder Magazine and there has been great support from Andrew Mayes, the editor, who interviewed four of the course participants as part of his series of interviews with recorder players.

This year's course can be regarded with satisfaction on both musical and administrative fronts. As always there is scope for improvements.

The CD of the concert has been delayed for a number of reasons, including having to obtain permissions from the soloist and David Pugsley, my subsequent absence on holiday and illness which put me out of action for most of December and January. From then I have concentrated on finalising the accommodation and arranging the auditions for this year. I hope that the CD will be ready for sale in the next few weeks.

NYRO 2004

The NYRO course this year has been arranged for the last week of July at Casterton School on the Lancashire Cumbria border. The accommodation is in picturesque old stone buildings with single rooms, double rooms and small dormitories for the younger players.

Colin Touchin is the Musical Director and music being considered by him for this year includes original works by Bamforth, Clarke, Farquhar, Hawkes, Hilling, Touchin and arrangements of works by Beethoven and Striggio. The climax of the course will be an afternoon concert on the final afternoon, Saturday July 31st, which will be recorded for a CD. The cost of the course for all players is £375 and includes the musical tuition, accommodation with full board, all course activities, loan of instruments where appropriate, the concert, transport for course activities and membership of the SRP for a year. The cost is higher than last year (£225) because the decision was made to make it self funding. Since Helen Beare retired from fund raising after NYRO 2003 no replacement has been appointed. We found that, during extensive investigation for grants and sponsorship in 2002/3, money was difficult to obtain for an activity which is restricted to only the best players as current giving seems to be mainly for social reasons.

The number of applicants at 49 is down on last year but their grades are higher. Immediately this became apparent a survey of past applicants was undertaken. This showed that, while about 58% of 2003 players reapplied, there are a lot of activities competing for the interest of teenagers. Many

having played once are off to do something else, not least working to raise funds for university. A breakdown of the survey is below.

Too busy	24%	Not interested	8%
Cost	20%	Course too far away	4%
Clashed with non musical activity	16%	Stopped playing	2%
Clashed with holiday	12%	Ill	2%
Clashed with musical event	12%		

Players mentioning cost as a reason were directed to the information in NYRO's literature about bursaries and the Walter Bergmann Fund. The clashes cause concern as a total of 30% of those surveyed were unavailable throughout most of the summer holidays. No adverse criticism of the NYRO courses was received. At present our databases require improving to make them more effective in targeting possible players. One of the difficulties is that there is no good national list of recorder teachers and one is being put together from a number of sources but only amounts to 50 so far.

A survey of other national youth orchestras has been undertaken to compare charges, venues and how they work to see if their arrangements could benefit NYRO.

David Beare

WEB EDITOR

Visits to the site continue at a good rate – 100 to 170 each day.

Most seem to be from US commercial sources, and the UK, but there are a significant number of visits from people all over the world.

A range of pages are visited, some probably members keeping up to date, others people seeking information about the recorder.

Helen Beare produced a printed Information Booklet, and this is also available for download and home printing from the Website. Two sections of it have been made available as two new standard Web pages – “Suppliers” and “Studying the Recorder”.

A new page “Concerts and Recitals” has also been created.

There are fairly frequent updates to the site, so I hope it is a useful up-to-date source of information.

The sad death of Douglas Haston has halted development of the listing of Branch Music Libraries. I had hoped to take this up, but have been unable to find the time as yet.

Ashley Allerton

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2002

The accounts for the year ended 31st 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.

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 £2,592.

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 £21,700. 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). 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 and 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. However, the accounts will show a figure of £199 due to the accrued £133 from last year less £66 held over to next year's accounts. Liability Insurance premium remained at £818 (this included an ex-gratia payment to the Irish branch to help with their separate insurance). This was the same as last year's premium so the accrued figures cancel out. 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, of which £86 is written into the 2004 accounts, and we sponsored ERTA's Ensemble Competition with a donation of £1,000. We made ex-gratia payments of £200 to Manchester to support their October 2002 Festival loss and sums of £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 Central Fund'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, 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 £3,425 for the year brought the fund's reserves up to £43,216.

Please Note: The Society's bank has stipulated that cheques must be made out to **"SRP"** or **"SRP WBF"** or **"SRP Walter Bergmann Fund"**. Cheques made out to just "Walter Bergmann Fund" may not now be accepted.

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 paid £842 for the new Teachers' Guide and has continued to support the 2003 NYRO activity.

NYRO

The NYRO Activity for the year ended 31st August 2003 showed a surplus of £10,555.

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. The NYRO account received £30,449 made up of £9,868 from sponsorships, grants and gifts, £16,721 for Audition and Course fees and £3,860 from the sale of concert tickets and CDs.

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). Expenditure from the NYRO account amounted to £19,894. Auditions and the NYRO course cost £17,374, Concert costs were £2,309 and Office costs were £210.

As a result of these figures the Arthur Ingram Fund's reserves rose to £180,588 at the 31st August 2003.

SRP BRANCHES

The Charity Commissioners have stated 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 finances.

Since the branch accounts received by me are variously individual in their presentation David Scruby agreed to consolidate those accounts into a form that I could use to incorporate them into the main accounts. As a result of his work on this project I can report that the total of 48 of the branches' income for the year ended 31st August 2003 was £30,876, total expenditure was £28,291 resulting in a surplus of £2,585. **Cleveland** and **Cornwall** accounts are needed before I can complete the Society's accounts.

This exercise has highlighted some anomalies, which may result in changes in branch account format being required. **The first obvious requirement is that all branches should now use 31st August as their year-end.**

In order to maximise their bank/deposit interest I invite 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 3.69%. Phone them on (020) 7489 6010.

THE CURRENT YEAR

Subscription income to date is £20,973 with two branch subscriptions outstanding, amounting to some £560 based on last year's figures. I urge those branches to send in their subscription s as soon as possible. Fee income from the Edinburgh conducting workshop was £80.

There have been 21 claims for **Pastoral Visits** to date for which £904.37 has been reimbursed at an average cost of £43.07; that is £4 less than last year's figure. There are a further 7 authorised visits for the current year and 3 visits for 2002/03, which could be claimed before the end of August at a further approximate cost of £500. More authorisations for the current year could increase this figure.

Roxburgh's 2003 Scottish Festival managed a surplus of £108.08 and, after the effort and disappointment of their cancelled 2002 festival, we have returned the whole of this surplus to them as an ex-gratia payment.

The cost of the 2003 Competition during the current year has been £1,264. The new Teachers' Guide cost £842 and it has been charged to the Arthur Ingram Fund.

On the basis of the year-to-date figures reported above and anticipated developments which I detail below, it is likely that we shall produce a surplus in the region of £750 in year to 31st August 2004.

INCOME	YEAR-TO-DATE (£)	YEAR'S FORECAST (£)
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	20,973	21,500
Bank Interest (12% say. Shared with WBF & A. Ingram a/c)	638	850
Total	21,611	22,350
EXPENDITURE		
Magazine	9,232	12,500
Annual Conference	0	2,000
Conductors Visits	904	1,450
Committee Expenses	1,661	2,200
Printing & Stationery – inc. Membership List	0	100
Phones & Postages	155	350
SRP-Moeck Competition 2003	1,264	1,500
Subscription to Making Music	258	258
Conducting Workshop	180	250
Internet Presence	70	140
Liability Insurance	30	852
Total	£13,754	£21,600

A £750 surplus in the current year will increase the reserves of the Central fund to the region of £28,250.

HOUSEKEEPING

Outstanding Branch Accounts and Subscriptions: - **Cleveland** and **Cornwall** have yet to send me their Branch Accounts or subscriptions. These branches are delaying completion of the consolidated accounts now required by the Charity Commissioners. Their combined subscription amounts to an approximate shortfall of £560. It is also essential that up-to-date membership lists be sent to John Allen, our membership secretary, to ensure continuity of magazine supply to members.

That concludes my report on the Society's accounts.

B J Fraser-Hook
Hon. Treasurer