

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 20 April 2008

The Weald of Kent Girls' Grammar School, Tonbridge TN9 2JP

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Helen Jones	Committee
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Jane Sellek	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Mary Steele	Committee
Margaret Shearing	Membership Sec.	Caroline Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Eileen Silcocks	Musical Adviser
Andrew Short	NYRO Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Jim Rowley	COS Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Sheila Richards	pp. WBF Chairman	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser

Branches

Bath	Bill Cartwright	Lincolnshire	Diana Knight
Beds & N Herts	Elaine Lowrence	Mid-Herts	Graham Danbury
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Norfolk	Charles Levien
(Observer	Robert Hoffman)	N Cotswold	Gwen Klepping
Cambridge	John Sinclair	Nottingham	Tessa Rolph
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Nuneaton	Helen Jones
(Observer	Geoff Walker)	Northampton	Sheila Marlowe
Cornwall	Sue Eades	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
(Observer	Jill Hoskin)	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
Country/Overseas	Jim Rowley	South Downs	Patricia Evans
Cumbria	David Beare	(Observer	Chris Evans)
Devon	Sheilah Evans	South London	Margaret Crocker
Dorset	Noreen Johnson	(Observer	Paula Marsh)
East Berks	Anne Helmore	Suffolk	John Halliwell
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	Warwick	Anne Childs
Guildford	Anne Martin	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
Isle of Man	Wensley Higgins	(Observer	Margaret Williams)
Kent	David Harris	Wessex	Shirley Batterley
Leicester	Sylvia Davidson	West Riding	Jane Sellek

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.00 a.m. He welcomed the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated Recorder Players from Kent on the success of the Festival. He also paid tribute to Andrew Short, his predecessor, for coping with 11 years of change including the setting up of NYRO and new charity law. He was pleased to note that Andrew will

continue as NYRO Chairman. The Chairman also thanked the departing Secretary, Alistair Read, for his sterling efforts on behalf of the Society over 14 years. Finally he thanked Colin Touchin, whose term as Musical Adviser to the Committee was ending.

In Memoriam. The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since last Conference: Anne Blackman, a Life Member and Secretary of the Society from 1981-1994; Sally Crispin, Devon; Richard Davies, Guildford; Valerie Elliott, Essex; Audrey Read, South Staffordshire; Leslie “Tom” Tucker, formerly Musical Director of Warwick Branch; Ella Washington, Chairman of Kent Branch.

Apologies for absence had been received from Brian Bonsor, Andrew Collis, Beryl Craven, Petrina Lodge, Madeline Seviour, Colin Touchin and Mary Tyers.

2. Minutes of Conference 2007

The Minutes of Conference 2007 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

Jim Rowley (Country and Overseas) asked whether, in view of the requirement for the Society as a charity to carry out activities of benefit to the public, Branches should tell the Secretary of such activities. In reply, Andrew Short confirmed that the law now required the Society to act in this way and asked that any relevant information sent to the Secretary was copied to him. Currently the Society had to report only to the English Commissioners; he said that reporting to the Scottish regulator was under discussion but the Society should still collect information about charitable activities in Scotland too. Examples of such activities were: school visits, concerts that raised money for other charities, or where there was any other public benefit. He concluded by noting that keeping records of such activities was essential to maintain the Society’s charitable status.

4. Elections of Officers, Committee and others

4.1 The Chairman said that Mary Tyers wished to stand down as Competition Administrator and Andrew Collis had been proposed as her potential successor. The remainder of the Committee were willing to stand. In addition he noted that the position of Secretary was vacant with only one nomination received (Bob Whitmarsh). The Chairman put it to Conference that, there being no other nominations, the current Committee with the above changes should be elected *en bloc*.

The Motion was proposed by Graham Danbury and Seconded by Helen Hooker. The Committee was ELECTED *nem. con.* by Conference for a term lasting until the end of Conference 2009.

The Chairman also mentioned that the following had indicated that they wished to stand down at Conference 2009: Margaret Shearing (Membership Secretary) and Jim Rowley (Country & Overseas Secretary).

4.2 Committee elections. Beryl Craven (Leicester) and Helen Jones (Warwick) were due to retire from the Committee. The following nominations had been received to fill two posts for a three-year term..

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed and Seconded by</i>
Shirley Brown (Cornwall)	Pat Fitzpatrick, Rosemary Marsh (Devon Branch)
Sandra Foxall (Cleveland)	Ursula Burchette, Berenice Styles (Kent Branch)
Steve Marshall (Cotswolds)	Pam Smith, Julie Stanley (Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch)

Pam Smith (Cheltenham & Gloucester)	Central Committee
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In the ensuing election, Sandra Foxall and Pam Smith were ELECTED to serve on the Committee for three years until the end of Conference 2011.

The Chairman thanked the retiring Committee members, Beryl Craven and Helen Jones, for their work on the Committee and congratulated and welcomed the new members.

4.3 The two current Musical Advisers to the Committee (Evelyn Nallen and Eileen Silcocks) had agreed to continue on the Committee. Under the Society's amended Rule 5.8, Alyson Lewin succeeded Colin Touchin as Musical Adviser to the Committee until the end of Conference 2011.

5. Officers' Reports

The reports are mentioned below only if additional information was provided at Conference. The full reports are attached to these Minutes.

5.1 *Training Officer.* The Training Officer noted that her role was to co-ordinate and that any Society member could organise a workshop so long as she was kept informed. The Society would pay the fee of any workshop leader or tutor. Non-Society members can be included at the discretion of the tutor. The only other stipulations were that notice of the workshop should appear on the Society's web site and that the local Branch Secretary should be informed.

5.2 *Membership Secretary.* The Membership Secretary informed Conference that the membership application/renewal form was being revised. It would allow people to leave out their email address or telephone number if they wished. She noted that an increasing number of people were requesting that their address was also omitted but this caused administrative problems, regarding the distribution of The Recorder Magazine, and she wished to discourage it.

5.3 *Treasurer.*

5.3.1 The Treasurer regretted that there was an error in the table on page 4 of her report. The total income should read £25,700. She noted that the forecast income from Subscriptions was likely to increase, as more members joined during the year, as was the income from bank interest.

5.3.2 The Treasurer recommended that the annual subscription be increased by 50 pence. In discussion Tessa Rolph (Nottingham) asked for a definition of 'student'. It was confirmed subsequently that 'student' is as defined on the membership renewal/application form, that is, anyone in full-time education up to and inclusive of a first degree.

5.3.3 In reply to a question, the Treasurer pointed out that the percentage mentioned in the bank interest item in the table in her report referred to the percentage of the total interest earned that was allotted to the Central Fund.

5.3.4 Tessa Rolph (Nottingham) asked what Gift Aid income and the large sum held in the Arthur Ingram Fund were being used for. The Chairman and Treasurer explained that the Arthur Ingram Fund was a bequest and was being used by the Society for general charitable purposes but not for covering its running costs. For example, it had been used to purchase instruments and to subsidise some training workshops. Shirley Batterley (Wessex) asked why Gift Aid funds, which were mostly being reclaimed from members subscriptions, were being channelled into the Arthur Ingram Fund and not returned to members. Andrew Short replied that Gift Aid income arises from the charitable status of the Society and so it cannot be used for the benefit of members; it must benefit the public. David

Beare (Cumbria) noted that if a Branch claimed Gift Aid on its share of the annual subscription it too should also ensure the funds were applied to the public benefit. This might be a problem if a Branch operated a single account. The Chairman proposed that the tax authorities should be consulted about this aspect of Gift Aid.

5.3.5 Adoption of accounts (2006-2007). Accounts for 2006-2007 were approved by Conference. Proposed: Sue Eades (Cornwall), Seconded Caroline Jones (Birmingham). The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

5.3.6 The Treasurer formally proposed that the subscriptions for 2008-09 should be £18.00 for an ordinary member, £28.00 for household members and £13.50 for students. The resolution was Proposed by Jane Sellek (Committee) and Seconded by Diana Knight (Lincolnshire). There were 40 votes For, none Against and no Abstentions. The resolution was Carried.

5.4 A motion that the Officers' Reports be approved was Carried *nem con.*

6. National Youth Recorder Orchestra (NYRO). The report of the NYRO Chairman was presented without discussion.

7. Future Festivals

The Chairman reported that it had recently been realised that there was a clash between the dates of Festival 2009 and the Northern Recorder Course. Subsequently Cleveland Branch had managed to move the Festival to the NEW dates of **25-26 April 2009** and to secure accommodation at Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough.

The following arrangements were noted:

- 2009 Cleveland Branch, Guisborough 25-26 April
- 2010 Suffolk Branch*, Easter
- 2011 Somerset and Devon Branches (Devon to be confirmed)
- 2012 Guildford Branch (provisional)

*Moira Usher (Suffolk) asked whether the Festival could be held in May or June. Anne Martin (Guildford) pointed out that schools would be unwilling to suffer the disturbance of hosting a Festival during the examination period. A straw poll of those present indicated that Easter was preferred.

8. Resolutions to Conference

8.1 It was Proposed by Ulli Burchette and Seconded by Mary Steele that Life Membership of the Society be conferred on Alistair Read upon his retirement after 14 years as the Society's Honorary Secretary. The Resolution was Carried *nem. con.*

8.2 It was proposed by Dick Pyper and Seconded by Ulli Burchette that Anthony Rowland-Jones be made a Vice-President of the Society for his active support of the Society and the recorder over many years. The Resolution was Carried *nem. con.*

8.3 Amendments of rules. Six changes to the Rules of the Society were voted on *en bloc*. The changes were,

8.3.1 Rule 2.1.1 *to be added*;

“Throughout these Rules, “charitable” means charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales provided that it will not include any purpose which is not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. For the avoidance of doubt, the system of law governing the constitution of the charity is the law of England and Wales.”

8.3.2 Amend Rule 5.12 (printed version), updated numbering (after Conference 2006) Rule 5.11; Lines 3-4 *read* “... by confirmation of the consent of the candidates...” and *should read* “... by confirmation of the consent of the candidates and a completed Charity Trustee Disclaimer form”.

8.3.3 Amend Rule 5.8 (printed version), updated numbering (after Conference 2006) Rule 5.7; Line 1 *reads* “Candidates for the offices of ...” and *should read* “Candidates, who are members of the Society, for the offices of”

8.3.4 Amend Branch Rule 2.6;

Line 1 *reads* “The Committee of the Branch shall consist” and *should read* “The Committee of the Branch, who are members of the Society, shall consist”

8.3.5 Amend Rule 7.6;

Line 3 *reads* “... and (subject to rule 9(c))” and *should read* “... and (subject to rule 9.1.2)”

8.3.6 Amend Rule 9.3;

Line 3 *reads* “... paragraphs (a) and (b) ...” and *should read* “... paragraphs 9.1.1. and 9.1.2 ...”

The changes were Proposed by David Beare (Cumbria) and Seconded by Joyce Rudall (Somerset). The Resolution was carried *nem. con.*

8.4 Changes to Rule 6.1. The following proposed changes to Rule 6.1 originated from the NYRO Sub-Committee. They had been proposed as a means of making it easier to make payments and transfer funds within UK and abroad.

Rule 6.1 *reads* “The Committee shall maintain such banking account or accounts as it thinks fit into such of which as may be appropriate shall be paid forthwith all sums of cash for the time being belonging to or paid to the Society. Cheques shall be signed by such persons being not less than two in number as the Committee shall from time to time authorise.” and *should read* “The Committee shall maintain such banking account or accounts as it thinks fit into such of which as may be appropriate shall be paid forthwith all sums of cash for the time being belonging to or paid to the Society. Except where electronic banking has been approved by the Committee, cheques shall be signed by such persons being not less than two in number as the Committee shall from time to time authorise. The Committee may approve electronic banking on any account and shall authorise for such account signatories not less than two in number, of whom at least one shall be a Trustee of the Society, which is a charity, who shall be required to inform each other of all transactions, to ensure that transactions are legitimate and individually to inspect the bank record periodically to ensure its integrity.” [new text is underlined]

Tessa Rolph (Nottingham) expressed concern about the lack of safeguards built into the proposed scheme which would effectively operate with a single electronic ‘signature’. Andrew Short (NYRO Chairman) replied that the NYRO Treasurer was keen to adopt this new system because he found the existing scheme a burden as did the professional people with whom NYRO did business. He observed that cheques were on the way out and this proposal was a way of coping with the changing world. He continued that such a scheme was suggested on the Charity Commission web site. Tessa Rolph responded that, as a Chartered Accountant, she did not consider the proposed controls were tight enough. For example, a limit could be set to the amount of a transaction but even that could be

circumvented by carrying out multiple transactions. She pointed out that, although the proposal concerned only the current account, internal transfers between accounts in organisations were often done by one person. Shirley Batterley (Wessex) concurred; she said that we assume everyone is honest but the proposed scheme was wide open to abuse. Graham Danbury (Mid-Hertfordshire) said that he shared the concerns raised over electronic banking and proposed an amendment to the resolution that allowed the Committee to set a limit to any transaction. Tessa Rolph suggested that the Society should investigate how other charities coped with the same problem. Finally Caroline Jones (Birmingham) proposed that the Society should seek professional advice and that the subject should be discussed again at Conference 2009.

The resolution was Proposed by Andrew Short and Seconded by Eileen Silcocks. There were 20 votes For, 12 Against and 6 Abstentions. The motion was Defeated because it did not attract the three-quarters majority required by Rule 7.8 for any change to the Society's rules.

8.5 It was proposed that with effect from 1 September 2008 the car mileage rate for journeys made on Society business will increase from 30p to 35p per mile. The Resolution was Proposed by Ulli Burchette and Seconded by Helen Hooker and Carried *nem. con.*

9 Any other Business

9.1 Anne Martin (Guildford) reported that the Teacher's Guide had been updated with a short Addendum.

9.2 Several speakers raised their concerns about The Recorder Magazine. Some said it was too broad to appeal to ordinary members. The Chairman asked those with concerns to write to him and pointed out that 10% of the Society's members relied on the magazine to keep in touch because they did not belong to a Branch. It was also pointed out that the magazine contains important information for the Society's musical directors and visiting conductors. Anne Martin (Guildford) noted that this had been a frequent subject of discussion at Conference for over 30 years and that there was no simple solution.

9.3 The Chairman thanked all those who had attended Conference and especially Ulli Burchette and Mike Wilkinson for arranging and organising the Festival.

Conference closed at 11.27 a.m.