



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 9th May 2010

Orwell High School, Felixstowe IP11 9EF

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Matthew Taylor	Committee
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Evelyn Nallen	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Pam Smith	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Membership Secretary	Andrew Collis	Musical Adviser/WBF & Moeck Competition S/C Chairman
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary/Committee	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator		

Branches

Bath	Debbie Nicholas	Newcastle	Joan Reeve
Beds & N Herts	Glynne Parry	Norfolk	Ann Cardew
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Northampton	Sheila Marlowe
Cleveland/C&OS	Sandra Foxall	Nottingham	Tessa Rolph
Cornwall	Jackie Spiers	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
Cumbria	Judith Bush	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Durham	Anne Stoddart	South Downs	Pat Evans
Essex	Madeline Seviour	(Observer Christopher Evans)	
Guildford	Anne Martin	South London	Ros Fox
Ireland	Frances Tuffery	Suffolk	Chris Westren
(Observer Genevieve Mullins)		Wales	Jackie Hourahine
Weald of Kent	Peter Bowman	Warwick	Helen Jones
Leicester	Sylvia Davidson	Weald of Kent	Peter Bowman
Lincolnshire	Diana Knight	Wessex	Mary Steele
London	Alistair Read	West Riding	Caroline Payne
Mid-Herts	Jane Marsh		

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.35 a.m.

1.1 Welcome. He welcomed the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated Suffolk Branch on the success of the Festival. The Chairman thanked the departing NYRO Administrator, Naomi Winterburn, and Committee members Caroline Jones and Jane Sellek for their efforts on behalf of the Society. He also thanked Eileen Silcocks, whose three-year term as Musical Adviser to the Committee was ending.

1.2 In Memoriam. The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference: Alex Ayre (North London), Audrey Barnes (Bristol), Paene Birch (COS,

formerly Secretary of Lincolnshire), John Dunn (South Staffordshire), Elsa Jenkins (South Downs), Sandra Hardman (Lincolnshire), Olga McCann (West Riding) and Flora Pitt (Durham).

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from Committee/MAs; Caroline Jones, Jane Sellek, Eileen Silcocks and Colin Touchin; and Branches: Aberdeen, Bristol, Cambridge, Devon, Dorset, East Berkshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hillfoots, Isle of Man, Kent, Manchester, Nuneaton, Peterborough, South Staffordshire and W Dorset.

2. Minutes of Conference 2009

The Minutes of Conference 2009 were accepted and signed by the Chairman after the addition of Jim Rowley as the Delegate for Birmingham Branch.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

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

4.1 Membership Secretary's report. Mike Wilkinson noted that the Society's membership had decreased by 14 since the last Conference. He said that a new Membership List would be produced in 2011 in a new format based on a new database.

The Chairman commented that where the current membership application form refers to donations to NYRO and the Walter Bergmann Fund it should be understood that Gift Aid can be claimed on such donations which, in effect, will be added to the donations. He asked that the form be updated to make this clear. He also noted that Customs & Excise had queried how Branches handled their Gift Aid claims; it was necessary for Customs & Excise purposes to quote both the Society's charity registration number (282751 in England and Wales or SC038422 in Scotland) and the Society's HMRC number XR95229.

4.2 News Editor's report. Madeline Seviour reported that she was pleased with the amount of news and information provided by Branches during the year for publication in The Recorder Magazine. She hoped that the six Branches that had not written in the last five years would submit a news item in the coming year.

4.3 Web Editor's report. Although the Web Editor was absent there was a consensus that the web site was useful and was especially valuable in attracting new members. Delegates also thanked Ashley Allerton for responding rapidly to requests for changes.

4.4 Training Co-ordinator's report. Moira Usher circulated a leaflet advertising upcoming workshops (further information is available on the web site under Training). She said that technique workshops were the most popular but the others were just as easy to organise. The next event was a conducting workshop by Marion Doherty in Edinburgh for which spaces were still available. Although the workshop system was now working well she asked people to send her ideas for new workshops. Helen Hooker announced that she was leading two more technique workshops in 2011 in Devon and Bath.

4.5 Treasurer's report. Ulli Burchette started by pointing out a minor error in a table in her report (the Expenditure total for 2008-09 should read £26688.53). The Chairman noted that around £8000 had yet to be received from Gift Aid donations for 2008-09.

A Motion to adopt the Accounts of the Society was proposed by Alyson Lewin and seconded by Matthew Taylor. It was carried *nem. com.*

A Motion to increase the annual subscription to the Society, as recommended by the Treasurer in her report, was proposed by Ulli Burchette and seconded by Bob Whitmarsh. The proposed subscriptions were £19.00 (full member), £29.00 (household membership) and £14.50 (student). The Motion was carried with one vote against and no abstentions.

It was agreed that the subscription for Corporate Members, currently £60, would not increase. It was confirmed that that Affiliated Orchestras would continue to pay a subscription that was twice that of a full member.

4.6 NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman's report. Andrew Short thanked Jeanette Hipsey for her very generous donation of a set of recorders to NYRO following her earlier gift of great bass and contrabass recorders. Helen Hooker noted an error in the written report; she had in fact been the second tutor for the NYRO Birmingham Playing Day and the Easter course with Ross Winters and not Colin Touchin.

4.7 Walter Bergmann Fund Sub-Committee Chairman's report. Andrew Collis thanked Branch Secretaries for sending him donations from their members.

4.8 Moeck Competition Sub-Committee Chairman's report. Andrew Collis reported that the Competition was gaining in reputation. Last year there had been ten entries and the finalists had been of a very high standard. The Chairman confirmed that he thought last year's winner had been 'brilliant and stunning'.

The Reports were approved and adopted by Conference.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and others

5.1 Election of Officers and holders of named offices. The Chairman was pleased to report that all the Committee members were prepared to stand for re-election. He suggested to Conference that, there being no other nominations, the current Committee and Financial Examiner should be elected *en bloc*.

The Motion was proposed by Alistair Read and seconded by Anne Martin. The Committee was ELECTED *nem. con.* by Conference for a term lasting until the end of Conference 2011.

A Motion was proposed by Alyson Lewin and seconded by Moira Usher that Madeline Seviour (News Editor) and Ashley Allerton (Web Editor) should be re-elected for a further period of three years. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

A Motion was proposed by Mike Wilkinson and seconded by Mary Steele that Keith Varney should be re-elected as the Society's Financial Examiner for a further period of one year. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

5.2 Committee elections. The Chairman said that three nominations had been received for the three vacant places on the Committee. The nominees were April Munday (Wessex), David Powell (Glasgow) and Tessa Rolph (Nottingham).

A Motion was proposed by Moira Usher and seconded by Helen Hooker that in view of an election being unnecessary all three nominees should be elected *en bloc*. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

The Secretary then explained that, because one of the newly elected Committee members was effectively replacing Sandra Foxall, who had already served two years on Committee, and to maintain the regular pattern of two Branch Committee members rotating off Committee each year, one of the

three elected members would have to stand for re-election at Conference 2011. It was agreed that lots should be drawn on behalf of the newly elected members. Consequently Tessa Rolph was elected until Conference 2011 and April Munday and David Powell until Conference 2013. It was confirmed that, according to rule 5.10, Tessa Rolph would be eligible to stand for re-election for a three-year term starting in 2011.

The Chairman again thanked the two retiring Committee members, Caroline Jones and Jane Sellek, for their work on the Committee and congratulated and welcomed the new members.

5.3 Musical Advisers. The Chairman reported that the two current Musical Advisers to the Committee (Alyson Lewin and Andrew Collis) had agreed to continue on the Committee. Under the Society's Rule 5.8, Helen Hooker succeeded Eileen Silcocks as Musical Adviser to the Committee until the end of Conference 2013. The Chairman welcomed Helen Hooker.

6. Adoption of revised Rules

The Secretary introduced various amendments to the Rules and noted that they had already been considered and approved, after some amendments, by the Committee. It was noted that the new Rules would need a 75% vote to be approved by Conference and eventually would have to be agreed by the Charity Commissioners.

6.1 Proposed amendment 1. Society Rule 10.4 reads:

10.4 Any body of recorder players numbering twelve persons or more may apply to the Committee to be recognised as a Branch of the Society. The Committee may recognise such a Branch subject always to ratification by the next Conference.

And should read:

10.4 Any body of recorder players numbering six persons or more may apply to the Committee to be recognised as a Branch of the Society. The Committee may recognise such a Branch subject always to ratification by the next Conference.

The Secretary explained that the rule change was intended to help small groups in less populous areas to get started. He confirmed that Rules 9.1 and 9.3 remain unchanged so that Branches with less than 12 members would still not benefit from the various subsidies provided to larger Branches. Anne Martin suggested that the new rule would also help struggling smaller Branches to continue and possibly such a Branch could be allowed the privileges available to larger Branches every other year. The Chairman said that the latter suggestion should be treated separately and might have to be discretionary.

The Motion was proposed by Bob Whitmarsh and seconded by Mike Wilkinson. It was CARRIED by more than 75% of those present.

6.2 Proposed amendment 2. Branch Rule 2.4.6 reads:

2.4 The Branch Treasurer shall

2.4.6 S/he shall present the same to the Annual General Meeting of the Branch

and should read:

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and Branch Rule 2.4.7 reads:

2.4 The Branch Treasurer shall

2.4.7 Shall submit the said approved statement and balance sheet to the Society Treasurer by the specified date

and should read:

2.4 The Branch Treasurer shall

2.4.7 Submit the said approved statement and balance sheet to the Society Treasurer by the specified date

The Secretary explained that these two changes were simply to tidy up the grammar of the rules.

The Motion was proposed by Tessa Rolph and seconded by Joyce Rudall. It was CARRIED *nem. con.*

6.3 Proposed amendment 3. Branch Rule 3.9 reads:

3.9 *The Branch may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Branch. If any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall be transferred to the Central Fund of the Society.*

and should read:

3.9 *The Branch may be dissolved by resolution passed at a general meeting of the Branch. If any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such assets shall be transferred to the Society. Assets shall include all Sheet Music, Musical Instruments and Records of the Branch as well as any balance remaining in the Branch Funds.*

The Secretary explained that the rule was being changed to make it more explicit as to what should be returned to the Society if and when a Branch was dissolved. Andrew Short noted that the Society had to have such a rule because it was a charity and any assets remaining when a Branch was dissolved had to go to a charity.

The Motion was proposed by Bob Whitmarsh and seconded by Mike Wilkinson. It was CARRIED *nem. con.*

7. Resolutions to Conference

It was proposed by Dick Pyper and seconded by Andrew Short that Jeanette Hipsey should be made an Honorary Life Member of the Society in recognition of her consistent and generous support of NYRO since it was established. Andrew Short explained that not only had she donated instruments to NYRO but she had also provided bursaries for the young players and regularly attended NYRO functions. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

8. Electronic banking

The Chairman updated Conference on the Society's transition to electronic banking. He said that a Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) account was currently being negotiated and would be opened shortly. The CAF account offered better terms than the current account with a High Street bank and would also pay interest on the Current Account balance.

Mike Wilkinson welcomed the move to electronic banking and hoped that eventually it would encourage Branches to make electronic payments too. The Chairman added that CAF could provide cheques as well if needed.

9. Chiltern Recorder Consort Series bequest

The Chairman reported that although the Society was still awaiting formal notification of the transfer of ownership of the Chiltern Recorder Consort Series music progress had been made in deciding how to handle the bequest. The Committee had agreed to seek someone to take over the task of looking after, marketing, duplicating and selling Alex Ayre's recorder music. An advertisement would appear in the next issue of The Recorder Magazine. Meanwhile Moira Usher was assembling and directing a group of people willing to start re-setting the music on computer for eventual sale starting at least three years after Alex Ayre's death.

10. Future Festivals

10.1 2011 Somerset Branch, 16-17 April. Cheddar, Somerset. Joyce Rudall reported that Somerset Branch had obtained the services of six shops, including the Early Music Shop, and a number of conductors although a few more were required. It was noted that this was encouraging in spite of the overlap with the Northern Recorder and the Ascot Courses. Joyce Rudall also noted that the Festival and more formal courses probably appealed to different audiences. Pam Smith said that, although there were many concerns about the date clashes, Joyce had clearly secured the necessary shops and conductors for the Festival and she (Pam) was optimistic that there was a large enough membership within the south-west who would not usually attend either the Northern Recorder or Ascot Courses and who potentially would support the Festival.

Joyce Rudall said that the next step was to assess the availability of local accommodation. A flyer for the Festival was circulated during the final mass playing session.

It was proposed by Mary Steele and seconded by Bob Whitmarsh that the Society should support holding the 2011 Festival and Conference in Cheddar. The Motion was *CARRIED nem. con.*

10.2 2012 Guildford Branch. Anne Martin reported that she was already negotiating for the 2012 Festival and Conference; 2012 would coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Society's Foundation. A venue had been found but the dates were still to be decided. The potential problems of dates clashing with the Northern Recorder and the Ascot Courses and school exams were noted. The discussion moved on to consider alternative times of year, for example, it was pointed out that 20 years ago the Festival was in June.

10.3 2013 Ireland Branch. An invitation from Ireland Branch to hold Festival and Conference 2013 in Dublin was greeted with acclamation.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee should discuss the general problem of the dates of Festival and Conference at a future meeting.

11. Any other business

11.1 Anne Martin said that she was down to the last 100 copies of the Teachers' Handbook which now included a loose update sheet. She also passed on the best regards of Brian and Mary Bonsor who she had met recently.

11.2 Alistair Read thanked the organisers for a wonderful Festival.

11.3 Peter Bowman, recently elected as Chairman of the European Recorder Teachers Association (ERTA), said that ERTA wanted to co-operate and collaborate with the Society in future but pointed out the difficulty his members would have in attending meetings, such as the Festival, in term time.

11.4 The Treasurer asked Branches to submit their final accounts punctually, at least by mid-October.

11.5 The Chairman closed Conference at 11.05 a.m.