



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012

St Teresa's School, Effingham Hill, Surrey RH5 6ST

### PRESENT:

#### *Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:*

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Caroline Jones	Committee
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Evelyn Nallen	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Tessa Rolph	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Membership Secretary	April Munday	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary/Committee	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Moira Usher	Chair Training/WBF	Ross Winters	Musical Adviser
Pamela Flanagan	Committee	Frances Tuffery	Festival 2013
Sheila Richards	Committee	Anthony Hall	Web Editor
Naomi Wellings	Committee		

#### *Branches*

Bath	Belinda King	Lincolnshire	Diana Knight
Beds & N Herts	Elaine Lawrence	(Lincolnshire, Observer)	Linda Hepburn-Booth
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	London	Alistair Read
Bristol	Richard Little	Mid-Herts	Graham Danbury
Cambridge	Vic Morris	Newcastle	Joan Reeve
Cleveland/C&OS	Sandra Foxall	Nottinghamshire	Tessa Rolph
Cornwall	Sarah Whomersley	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cumbria	George Thorp	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
Durham	Helen Poole	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
East Berks	Ann Scruby	South London	Ros Fox
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	Suffolk	Mark Usher
Essex	Janet Holt	South Staffs	David Roberts
Guildford	Rosemary Whisson	Wales	John Clifford
Ireland	Frances Tuffery	Warwick	Helen Jones
(Ireland, Observer)	Noala O'Neil	Weald of Kent	Peter Bowman
Leicester	Janet Scott	Wessex	Lorraine Curtis

#### **Ordinary members**

Jill Kemp

C&OS

Jackie Birch

S London, C&OS, E Berks

#### **1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.45 a.m.

*1.1 Welcome.* He welcomed the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated Anne Martin and fellow Guildford Branch members on the success of the Festival. The Chairman thanked the departing Committee members Mat Taylor and Evelyn Nallen for their efforts

on behalf of the Society. He also thanked Andrew Collis, who had resigned as Competition Administrator, Musical Adviser and Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund at the end of January, for his contributions.

1.2 *In Memoriam.* The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference: Colin Branch (West Dorset), Jim Carey (Edinburgh), Janette Clare-Flint (Lincolnshire), Tony McCann (West Riding), Margaret Somerset (Bristol), Janet Williams (COS) and Gordon Young (Cleveland).

1.3 *Apologies for absence* had been received from Committee/MAs: David Powell, Madeline Seviour, Eileen Silcocks and Colin Touchin; and Branches: Dorset, Hillfoots, Hullavington, Manchester, Norfolk, Peterborough, Roxburgh, Sheffield, West Dorset, West Riding and York Guildhall.

## **2. Minutes of Conference 2011**

It was proposed by Alistair Read (London) and seconded by Joan Reeve (Newcastle) that the Minutes of Conference 2011 should be accepted. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.* The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## **3. Matters arising**

3.1 In answer to a question, the Chairman stated that a publisher had probably been found for the re-set Chiltern Recorder Consort Series. It was expected that all the duets and quintets would have been re-set by Festival 2013.

3.2 The Chairman confirmed that the CD in memory of Brian Bonsor would be recorded in August and be ready for sale by Christmas 2012.

## **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 *Secretary's report.* The Secretary stressed the importance of good communications within the Society, either by mail, which was cumbersome and increasingly expensive, or through The Recorder Magazine, which was rather slow although it reached the whole membership, or by email, the preferred method to reach all Branches. He referred to a recent test email to all Branches to which 11 Branches had yet to reply after 2 weeks. He said that he and the Web Editor were investigating the lack of response from these Branches in case there was a technical cause.

The Secretary announced that he would not be seeking re-election in 2013.

4.2 *Membership Secretary's report.* Mike Wilkinson noted that he had a new stock of Membership cards with him for any Branch that was running short.

4.3 *Training Officer.* Moira Usher stressed that anyone, not only Branch Secretaries, could organise a workshop.

4.4. *NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman's report.* Andrew Short reported that Colin Touchin, Helen Hooker and Ross Winters were retiring from their respective roles in NYRO. He extended special thanks to all three. He said that Adam Dopadlik had been recruited to help with the Easter course and that Chris Orton was now NYRO's Musical Director.

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 except himself and Andrew Collis, who had resigned as Competition Administrator and chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund, were prepared to stand for re-election. Therefore he proposed to Conference, seconded by the Secretary, that, there being no other nominations, the current Committee together with Tessa Rolph (nominated as Chairman) and Moira Usher (nominated as Chair, Walter Bergmann Fund) should be elected *en bloc* for a term lasting until the end of Conference 2013. The motion was CARRIED *nem. con.* The post of Competition Administrator remained vacant.

5.2 *Election of Independent Examiner.* A motion was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Secretary 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.*

5.3 *Musical Advisers.* The Chairman reported that the two current Musical Advisers to the Committee (Helen Hooker and Colin Touchin) had agreed to continue on the Committee. Under the Society's Rule 5.8, Evelyn Nallen filled the vacancy that would have been left, had not Andrew Collis resigned as Musical Adviser before Conference, until the end of Conference 2015. The Chairman welcomed Evelyn Nallen.

Eileen Silcocks proposed, seconded by Dick Pyper, that Ross Winters be elected to the Pool of Musical Advisers. The motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

5.4 *Committee elections.* There were three vacancies for Committee members and three nominations (Caroline Jones, Sheila Richards and Pamela Flanagan). Therefore the Chairman proposed to Conference, seconded by the Secretary, that the nominated members should be elected *en bloc*. The Motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

To compensate for Tessa Rolph no longer being an ordinary Committee member the Chairman explained that two Committee members would stand for 3 years and one for 2 years. After drawing lots, Sheila Richards was elected for two years and Caroline Jones and Pamela Flanagan for three years.

The Chairman thanked the retiring Committee members, Mat Taylor and Evelyn Nallen, for their work on the Committee and congratulated and welcomed the new members.

## **6. Resolutions to Conference**

6.1 It was proposed by Moira Usher and seconded by Madeline Seviour that Marion Panzetta be elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Society in recognition of her long-time contributions to the Society and to early dance in particular. The motion was CARRIED *nem. con.*

6.2 It was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Chairman that subscriptions for 2012-2013 become £21 for full members, £31.50 for household members and £15.50 for student members.

In discussion, members expressed concern that a £1 increase in the full subscription was insufficient to cover future costs given the loss made in the previous year and that it would be storing up trouble for the future. The Treasurer and others said they were concerned that members would leave the Society if there was a greater increase. The Treasurer suggested that in future, to reduce the charge against subscriptions, the expenses of visiting conductors might be paid for by the Arthur Ingram Fund. Others were concerned that at some Branches it would actually be cheaper to become an occasional visitor than to join as a full member.

Pamela Flanagan (Glasgow) proposed, seconded by Alyson Lewin (South Staffs), that the motion be amended. The motion was CARRIED 29 for, 5 against with no abstentions.

David Rollason (Durham) said he feared that the Society was encouraging an unrealistic 'culture' and expectation of low subscriptions. Joyce Rudall (Somerset) asked that members should be told of the advantages of membership; the benefits should be listed and widely distributed. Lorraine Curtis (Wessex) pointed out that Branch income could be increased, and Branch subscription kept lower, by holding Playing Days.

Finally, Pamela Flanagan proposed, seconded by Wendy Pettit (Birmingham), that subscriptions for 2012-2013 become £22 for full members, £33 for household members and £16 for student members. The votes cast were 33 for, 8 against with 2 abstentions. The majority exceeded the required 75% for a motion about altering subscriptions (Rule 7.8) and was therefore CARRIED.

Tessa Rolph asked that it should be explained to members why the subscription had been increased by £2. For example, that the postage charge for The Recorder Magazine was about to increase by £1 per annum and other expenses were continually rising as they were in ordinary life. It was also necessary for Branches to look very carefully at their visitors fees so that it would become more expensive to become a regular visitor than a member. The Chairman concurred. [Action Treasurer]

The Chairman added that Branches should persevere with obtaining Gift Aid on their members Branch subscriptions. Although the process was long-winded it was relatively straight forward to follow the instructions provided by the Society and each Branch could obtain a rebate of 25% of the subscriptions paid. Diana Knight (Lincolnshire) thanked the Chairman for his efforts in explaining Gift Aid to Branches.

## **7. Future Festivals**

*7.1 2013 Ireland Branch.* Frances Tuffery (Ireland) informed Conference that the Festival would be held from 11-12 May 2013 in All Hallows College, Dublin, a former seminary which had extensive grounds. The College could provide some B&B accommodation in single and double rooms. She added that a sheet with travel costs was available in the Reception area. She especially noted Stena Line's Rail & Sail scheme which provided relatively cheap rail and ferry fares from anywhere within UK to Dublin. She noted that both Dublin airport and Dublin port has good public transport links into the centre of Dublin and the Festival venue.

Finally she noted that a piece of music had been commissioned from an Irish composer, Rhona Clarke.

*7.2 After 2013.* The Secretary confirmed that the Festivals in 2014 and 2015 would be hosted by Cornwall and South Staffordshire Branches, respectively. No offer was presently extant for 2016.

## **8. Any other business**

8.1 Helen Jones (Warwick) asked that the Committee produce a list of benefits of belonging to the Society. Ann Scruby (East Berkshire) suggested that such a list could also be distributed at recorder concerts. Tessa Rolph (Nottinghamshire) suggested that the list could be included in the membership list too and noted that this was the sort of job for which a Publicity Officer was needed. The Society was currently seeking such a person.

8.2 Alistair Read (London), to applause, thanked the Committee for all its work behind the scenes in the past year. The Chairman thanked Guildford Branch for organising the Festival, especially Anne Martin and Sue Pluthero. He also thanked Alistair Read, the Secretary and Treasurer for their support during his time in office.

8.3 The Chairman reminded members that Eva Fegers, the 2011 Moeck/SRP Competition winner, would be giving a recital at the Greenwich Early Music event on 10 November 2012 at a time to be confirmed.

8.4 The Chairman closed Conference at 10.55 a.m.