



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 12th May, 2013

All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tessa Rolph | Chairman | Sheila Richards | Committee |
| Bob Whitmarsh | Secretary | Caroline Jones | Committee |
| Ulli Burchette | Treasurer | Alyson Lewin | Musical Adviser |
| Mike Wilkinson | Membership Secretary | Helen Hooker | Musical Adviser |
| Sandra Foxall | COS Secretary/Committee | Frances Tuffery | Festival 2013 |
| Moira Usher | Training/WBF Chair | Anthony Hall | Web Editor |
| Pamela Flanagan | Committee | Emily Bannister | Publicity |

Branches

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Birmingham | Wendy Pettit | Leicester | Simon Aley |
| Bristol | Ellen O'Gorman | Lincolnshire | Diana Knight |
| Cambridge | Vic Morris | Lincolnshire (observer) | Linda Hepburn-Booth |
| Cleveland/C&OS | Sandra Foxall | Mid-Herts | Enid Holmes |
| Cornwall | Sue Eades | Nottinghamshire | Tessa Rolph |
| Cumbria | George Thorp | Oxford | Helga Bogisch-Francis |
| Dorset | Sue Tipping | Somerset | Joyce Rudall |
| Durham | David Rollason | South London | Ros Fox |
| Edinburgh | Claire Johnstone | Suffolk | Geoff Knight |
| Guildford | Alan Martin | Wales | Noel Stacey |
| Hillfoots | Lynne Hope | Warwick | Suman Geeves |
| Ireland | Frances Tuffery | Weald of Kent | Mike Wilkinson |
| Ireland (observer) | Pat Flanagan | Wessex | Lorraine Curtis |

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.30 a.m.

1.1 *Welcome.* She welcomed the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference. The Chairman thanked the departing Committee members, David Powell and April Munday, for their efforts on behalf of the Society. She also thanked Musical Adviser Helen Hooker, who was rotating off the Committee, and welcomed Eileen Silcocks in her place. The Chairman noted that Dick Pyper was formally standing down as Competition Administrator (although continuing with the practical arrangements until November) and Andrew Short was remaining as Chairman of NYRO Sub-Committee until the summer. She also thanked Bob Whitmarsh who was stepping down as Secretary.

The Chairman also thanked the local organisers in Ireland Branch for all their hard work and mentioned the great success of the ceilidh the previous evening which demonstrated some remarkable musical and other talent including the step dancing.

1.2 *In Memoriam.* The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference: Peter Roscoe (Sheffield), Anthony Smith (North Cotswold), Raymond Harvey, Bob Berry (Cumbria), Frank Ellen (Hillfoots), Mrs S Elton (Manchester), John Lacey (Suffolk), Pat Fidler (Suffolk), Dennis Breeze (Somerset), Marion Harjani (London), Donald Craig

(North Cotswold) and Alec Loretto, a regular contributor to the *Recorder Magazine* until a few years ago and former COS member from New Zealand.

1.3 *Apologies for absence* had been received from Committee/MAs: April Munday, Evelyn Nallen, David Powell, Dick Pyper, Madeline Seviour, Andrew Short, Eileen Silcocks, Colin Touchin, Naomi Wellings and Ross Winters; from Branches: Bath, East Berkshire, Hullavington, London, Macclesfield, Manchester, Newcastle, Norfolk, Nuneaton, Peterborough, Sheffield, South Downs, South Staffordshire and West Dorset; and from Vice-Presidents: Denis Bloodworth and Anthony Rowland-Jones.

2. Minutes of Conference 2012

2.1 It was proposed by Alyson Lewin (South Staffordshire) and seconded by Mike Wilkinson (Weald of Kent) that the Minutes of Conference 2012 should be accepted. The Motion was **carried nem. con.** The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

3.1 The Chairman reported that a new publicity leaflet, explaining what the Society does, was expected to be published in a few months time.

3.2 The Chairman explained some of the complexities of branches claiming Gift Aid from HMRC. Difficulties might arise when reduced fees for any activity are charged to members. Because branches operate in different ways each Branch would have to claim its own Gift Aid. The Chairman noted that an explanatory article was in press in *The Recorder Magazine* and that helpful advice was available from the Making Music web site. It was agreed that Mike Wilkinson should send a copy of the Chairman's article to all branches and to the web master for loading onto the Society web site. [Action Secretary]

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 *Chairman's report.* The Chairman reminded Delegates that a bulk order to Recorder MusicMail by a Branch, or a COS member, of the newly re-set or original arrangements by Alex Ayre would attract a 30% discount. Although copies of the original handwritten scores will be available on the website, Helga Bogisch-Francis (Oxford) opined that she would also like copies of the hand written parts to still be available but there was no support for this proposal because of the extra work that it would entail. Sandra Foxall (Cleveland) congratulated Moira Usher and her team for all the work they had put into resetting the arrangements. Moira Usher (Suffolk) said that more helpers, provided they had access to Sibelius software, would be welcome.

Helen Hooker (COS) made a plea for people to take Brian Bonsor CDs with them back to the UK to sell.

4.2 *Treasurer's report.* Alan Martin (Guildford) asked what strategy the Committee had for the Walter Bergmann Fund (WBF) which, at the rate of expenditure in 2011/12, would run out of money in four years time. In reply the Chairman explained that in 2011/2012, before Moira Usher took over as Chairman of the WBF Sub-Committee, expenditure had been unusually high. Moira confirmed that there was no set limit on the annual expenditure but that it was rare to allocate more than £600 per applicant and she is keeping a careful eye on the total granted each year. Many applications failed for lack of supporting financial information. She added that donations were always welcome and that £700-800 had been raised from sheet music sales alone in the last year or so.

The Treasurer reminded donors that they could claim Gift Aid on donations and should make it clear if their donation is intended for the WBF.

4.3 Alan Martin asked whether a campaign to raise funds was required. The Chairman responded that donations to the WBF were already mentioned in the new leaflet being prepared for members and on the form used to renew annual membership of the Society, which branches are strongly encouraged to use. Finally, Moira Usher offered to write an article for The Recorder Magazine about the Fund. **[Action Moira Usher]**

It was proposed that the Society's accounts for 2011-2012 should be approved.

Proposed: Simon Aley (Leicester) Seconded: Joyce Rudall (Somerset) Carried: *nem. con.*

4.4 The Officers' Reports were approved and adopted by Conference.

5. The future of NYRO

5.1 The Chairman explained the background to the Committee's decision in October 2012 to hive off NYRO from the Society. NYRO had been running for over ten years. Over that time it had grown but become more dependent on the Society for financial support as in recent years the number of students had declined. The Society had made a loan of £4,000 to NYRO in 2010 but it had become apparent both that there was no realistic possibility of the loan being repaid and that NYRO required further additional funding to continue in its present form. In addition NYRO had found it difficult to raise funds from external bodies while part of the Society simply because of the size of the Arthur Ingram Fund.

5.2 Therefore the Committee had decided to devolve NYRO from the Society as from September 2014. Until that date the Society will continue to support NYRO financially and indeed after that date it would still be possible for NYRO to request financial support but probably at a lower level. Consequently the NYRO Sub-Committee were already drafting a new constitution.

6. Responses to the 2020 Report

6.1 The Chairman recalled that the 2020 report had been published about 12 months ago. Since then various members and Branches had commented and she thanked Anthony Hall (Oxford and web editor) for gathering together these responses. It was not too late to respond even now. It had become clear that communications, or the lack of it, was a big part of what the report covered either directly or indirectly.

6.2 The Chairman noted that the Committee had therefore taken several actions. An Acting Publicity Officer (Emily Bannister) had been co-opted, pending formal creation of the post at this Conference. Ways of using social media were being explored to attract younger players. An information leaflet for members, which includes the benefits of membership and explains the wider remit and activities of the Society, was being prepared. A new-look and more comprehensive web site was in an advanced state of readiness. The Chairman also mentioned that charitable activities outside Branch meetings were part of the Society's remit and were being encouraged.

6.3 Simon Aley (Leicester) commented that the report's tendency to present the Society and the U3A as being in competition was not helpful especially since U3A members often became members of a local SRP Branch. The Chairman agreed that the Society needed to work to create more links with U3A groups. Lorraine Curtis (Wessex) said that her Branch encouraged U3A players to reach a standard where they could join in Branch meetings.

6.4 The Chairman emphasised that it was important for Branches to extend a warm welcome to all visitors and potential new members or they may not return. Ellen O'Gorman (Bristol) thought that it was important for Branch committee members to make themselves better known. Moira Usher said that Suffolk members took it in turns to bake a cake which was consumed at each Branch meeting and this created a sociable environment. Helen Hooker said that she visited lots of Branches and the welcome extended to visitors varied a lot. Lorraine Curtis remarked that Wessex Branch asked everyone to sign in, to meet fire regulations, and this created an opportunity to identify and welcome new visitors.

6.5 Vic Morris (Cambridge) remarked that the web site had greatly improved. He thought that building threads and creating forums helped too. Anthony Hall noted that it is already possible to use Facebook to 'like' the SRP web site and that members use email a lot as well although about one third did not provide an email address for the membership list. Emily Bannister said that the use of social media had to be dynamic and not stagnate otherwise people lost interest.

6.6 Diana Knight (Lincolnshire) noted that half the members in her Branch don't use computers at home and public library machines frequently time out after a while. The Chairman suggested that Branches could print off information to display at their meetings. Sue Eades (Cornwall) said that there needed to be an App to allow mobile phones better access to the web site. It was agreed that there were numerous opportunities to network with other local and national music groups and organisations with overlapping interests.

Resolutions

The Chairman requested that Resolution C, which formally approved the creation of the Publicity Officer post, should be passed before the election of Officers.

C. Conference resolves to create a new post of Publicity Officer (in accordance with Rule 5.13) to promote and assist with the work of the Society, in particular the design and layout of leaflets and information brochures, the drafting of appropriate texts, including press releases, the electronic distribution of publicity material, the construction and population of contact databases and networking with individuals and other organisations.

Proposed by: Bob Whitmarsh (Secretary, Wessex)

Seconded by: Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire)

Carried: *nem. con.*

7. Election of Officers, Committee and others

7.1 *Election of Officers and holders of named offices.* The Chairman was pleased to report that all the Committee members, except Bob Whitmarsh (Secretary), Andrew Short (NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman, Dick Pyper (Competition Administrator) and two ordinary members due to rotate off in the normal way (David Powell and April Munday), and post holders not on the Committee were prepared to stand for re-election. Andrew Short was standing down in the summer, after the NYRO concert. Dick Pyper would continue with the practical arrangements for the Competition until November. Emily Bannister, co-opted as Publicity Officer, was standing for election too. Nominations had been received for all vacant positions except Competition Administrator, namely Mike Wilkinson (Secretary), David Rollason (Membership Secretary), Naomi Wellings (Chairman, NYRO Sub-Committee from September 2013) and 3 nominations for the two ordinary Committee member posts.

7.2 Therefore the Chairman recommended to Conference that, there being no other nominations, the above named persons, with the exception of the two ordinary Committee member posts, should be elected *en bloc* for a term lasting until the end of Conference 2014.

All members of the current Committee appointed annually and other holders of named posts, who have not stood down, plus those nominations received unopposed are re-elected/elected en bloc.

Proposed: Simon Aley (Leicester)

Seconded: Alan Martin (Guildford)

Carried: *nem. con.*

7.2 *Election of Independent Examiner.* **It was proposed that Keith Varney should be re-elected as the Society's Financial Examiner for a further period of one year.**

Proposed: Ulli Burchette (Weald of Kent)

Seconded: Bob Whitmarsh (Wessex)

Carried *nem. con.*

7.3 *Musical Advisers.* The Chairman reported that Helen Hooker, as Musical Adviser, had rotated off the Committee and been replaced by Eileen Silcocks (COS).

7.4 *Committee elections.* There were two vacancies for Committee members and three nominations (David Ellis, Vic Morris and Frances Tuffery). Therefore a secret ballot was held. The tellers were Emily Bannister and Anthony Hall. The result was that Vic Morris (Cambridge) and Frances Tuffery (Ireland) were duly elected as Committee members for a three-year term.

Consequently the new Committee and post holders, until Conference 2014, will consist of the following:

Committee:

Chairman: Tessa Rolph

Secretary: Mike Wilkinson

Treasurer: Ulli Burchette

Membership Secretary: David Rollason

COS Secretary: Sandra Foxall

Music Advisers: Colin Touchin, Evelyn Nallen and Eileen Silcocks

Moira Usher: Training Co-ordinator and Chairman, WBF

NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman (until August, 2013): Andrew Short

NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman (from September, 2013) : Naomi Wellings

Committee Members: Pamela Flanagan, Caroline Jones, Vic Morris, Sheila Richards, Frances Tuffery

Other Post Holders:

News Editor: Madeline Seviour

Web Editor: Anthony Hall

Publicity Officer: Emily Bannister

The Chairman thanked the retiring Committee members, April Munday and David Powell, for their work on the Committee and congratulated and welcomed the new members.

8. Resolutions to Conference

A. Conference resolves to appoint Dick Pyper as an Honorary Life Member of the Society of Recorder Players in recognition of his period in office as Chairman (2007-2012) and his work both before, during and after that time in assisting the Society with obtaining Gift Aid status. Dick also set up insurance policies, which safeguard the Society's activities and property at Branch and national level, and instigated the 2020 Working Group. Since stepping down as Chairman, Dick has temporarily taken on the administration of the Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Competition (Rule 5.6).

Proposed by : Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire)

Seconded by: Bob Whitmarsh (Secretary, Wessex)

Carried: *nem. con.*

B. Conference resolves that the Society subscription rates for 2013-14 shall be £23.00 (full member), £34.50 (household members) and £16.50 (student member) (Rule 7.8).

Proposed: Ulli Burchette (Treasurer, Weald of Kent)

Seconded: Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire)

For: 32 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Carried

D: Conference is pleased to ratify the creation of a new Branch in Macclesfield (Rule 10.4).

Proposed by : Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire)

Seconded by: Bob Whitmarsh (Wessex)

Carried: *nem. con.*

E: Conference regretfully resolves to formally dissolve the Isle of Man Branch (Rule 10.5).

Proposed by : Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire)

Seconded by: Bob Whitmarsh (Wessex)

Carried: *nem. con.*

8.1 It was noted that the Isle of Man Branch had decided to disband as the number of members had fallen to an unviable level in recent years. In discussion, Frances Tuffery pointed out that some members of Isle of Man Branch had joined the Country & Overseas Branch. Simon Aley noted that the Rules do not preclude a Branch shrinking to less than six members and wondered if such a Branch could continue but the general opinion was that this was not always viable. Sandra Foxall asked Conference to record its thanks to Eddie and Marion Cullen for nurturing the Isle of Man Branch.

9. Future Festivals

9.1 *2014 Cornwall.* Sue Eades, on behalf of her daughter Zoe Eades, said that Cornwall Branch was getting ready to welcome members to the 2014 Festival in Truro School, Truro from 12-13 April. The school could accommodate 75 people. 13 conductors had been booked and an ensemble competition was being planned.

9.2 *After 2014.* The Secretary confirmed that the Festival in 2015 would be hosted by South Staffordshire Branch. No offer had been received so far for 2016.

10. Any other business

10.1 Conference was reminded that the Society of Recorder Players/Moeck Competition would take place on Friday 8 November 2013 in Greenwich.

10.2 The Chairman asked Delegates to spread the word about the possibility of making bequests to the Society. Anthony Hall confirmed that some text needed to be written for the web site on this subject. It was helpful to tell the Society when such a bequest, which should include the appropriate Charity Commission number for removal of doubt, had been planned. Lifetime donations are also welcome at any time and can be Gift Aided where applicable.

10.3 The Chairman strongly requested that in future any public reference to the Society, e.g. in publicity material, should always use its full name (Society of Recorder Players) simply because few people know what SRP stands for and the Society needs to improve its image.

10.4 The Chairman reminded Delegates that the Treasurer has to make a return each year to the Performing Rights Society (PRS), via Making Music, regarding any concerts promoted/organised by Branches, as opposed to concerts promoted by venues or other organisations in which Branches take part. She asked Branches to ensure the Treasurer is informed of all such events.

She noted that, conversely, the Society had already received an income of £200 in PRS royalty fees relating to the performance of pieces from Alex Ayre's Chiltern Recorder Consort Series.

10.5 The Chairman asked Delegates to ensure that copies of their own Branch publicity leaflets are sent to the Publicity Officer to help her in producing the new publicity leaflet for the Society.

10.6 There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 11.15 a.m.

— o — o — o — o — o — o — o — o — o — o —