



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CH CBE
Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 13th April 2014

Truro School, Trennick Lane, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1TH

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Anthony Hall	Web Editor
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Naomi Wellings	NYRO Chairman/Committee	Sheila Richards	Committee
Sue Eades	Festival 2014	Frances Tuffery	Committee

Branches

Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Joan Reeve
Bristol	Hattie Lupton	Norfolk	Katherine Grey
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Nottinghamshire	Trevor Brown
Cornwall	Jenny Orpwood	Oxford	Anthony Hall
Devon	Ashley Allerton	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Dorset	Sue Tipping	South London	Catherine Jennaway
Dorset (observer)	Noreen Johnson	South Staffordshire	Trudie Davies-Findell
East Berkshire	Jim Grant	South Staffs (observer)	David Roberts
Edinburgh	Emma O'Neill	Suffolk	Margaret Harvey
Guildford	Pauline Terry	Wales	Delyth Holland
Ireland	Genevieve Mullins	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
Leicester	Janet Scott	Wessex	Mary Steele
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	York Guildhall	Fiona Kemp
Mid Herts	Richard Webster		

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 *Welcome.* The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.45am by welcoming the Committee, Musical Advisers and Delegates to the Conference.

1.2 *In Memoriam.* The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference: Paul Clark (SRP Vice President & a member of Birmingham Branch), Rev Ian Shield (Birmingham & South Staffordshire), Chris Bullard (Essex), Jennie Barton and Maysie Nicholls (Guildford), Edgar Gordon (London), Jane Jesshop (Mid Herts), Felix Jaffe (North Cotswold), Patricia Denning (a founder of Somerset Branch), Phoebe Williams (South Downs), Nigel Hawley (South Staffordshire), Howard Foster (Suffolk) and Tessa Walters (Warwick).

1.3 *Apologies for absence* had been received from Committee/Office Holders: Emily Bannister, Ulli Burchette, Pamela Flanagan, Sarah Langdon, Vic Morris, April Munday, Evelyn Nallen, Madeline

Seviour, Eileen Silcocks, Colin Touchin and Moira Usher; and from the following Branches: Bath, Beds & North Herts, Essex, Hillfoots, Hullavington, London, Macclesfield, Nuneaton and Warwick.

2. Minutes of Conference 2013

2.1 It was a skilful demonstration of step dancing, not tap dancing, to which delegates had been entertained in Dublin (minute 1.1), and the names of Pamela Flanagan, Caroline Jones and Sheila Richards had been omitted from the list of Committee members (minute 7.4). Subject to these amendments, it was proposed by Sue Eades (Cornwall) and seconded by Alyson Lewin (South Staffordshire) that the Minutes of Conference 2013 be approved. The Motion was **carried unanimously**, and the Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

3.1 Gift Aid (minute 3.2) : The Chairman said that the existing advice to Branches on claiming Gift Aid on some or all of their subscription income was being revised to ensure it fully reflected HMRC's guidance. Key issues for Branch Gift Aid claims were to exclude the value of individual benefits, such as tuition, from claims, and to ensure that any Branch meeting fees, Playing Day fees etc charged to non-Branch members are either the same as those charged to Branch members, or only marginally higher. That successful claims could be made was shown by the fact that 7 of the 25 Branches represented at Conference had done so. The Chairman asked Branches to inform the Secretary of any issues they encounter over claiming Gift Aid since, while Branches had to be responsible for their own claims, some pooling of experience might be helpful.

3.2 Regarding the Society's national Gift Aid claim, the over-riding point was that Branches must not jeopardise the Society's Gift Aid reclaim by giving any discount to SRP members who are not Branch members – i.e. there should be no discounted Branch meeting or Playing Day fees etc for SRP members who are not Branch members.

3.3 The Chairman also thanked Dick Pyper for his sterling work in handling Gift Aid claims on national SRP subscriptions for several years. Dick was standing down from this role after completion of the claim for 2013/14, so a new volunteer was needed. A job description for the role would be drafted and circulated, and anyone interested should contact the Secretary in the first instance.

3.4 Performing Rights (minute 10.4) : The Chairman noted that the process of obtaining details from Branches of music subject to performance fees for the Society's annual return and payment to *PRS for Music* had worked well for the year to October 2013. The Society would continue to make annual returns on behalf of Branches and would be happy to include any of the affiliated Orchestras unless they preferred to make their own return.

4. Officers' Reports

These minutes record points raised in discussion of the Officers' reports. The reports themselves, most of which had been circulated in advance, will also be published on the SRP website.

4.1 Chiltern Recorder Consort Series : Further thanks were due to Moira Usher and her team for their continuing work on the music bequeathed to the Society by Alex Ayre. Approximately 170 pieces, about a third of the total, had now been computer set. Anthony Hall confirmed that nearly all items, whether set or still in manuscript, were available from Recorder MusicMail. Full details of the music available could be found on the SRP website. For items of music that had been computer set, or where RMM had no more manuscript scores in stock, manuscript scores could be downloaded from the website for study purposes.

4.2 Branch activities : The Chairman thanked Branches for news of the many activities they undertook in the wider community. This was very helpful for the Society's annual return to the Charity Commission (which had been circulated), and Branches were asked to continue sending news to the Chairman or Secretary for future returns.

4.3 National Youth Recorder Orchestras : On 1st September 2014 NYRO will become the National Youth Recorder Orchestras of Great Britain, a charity independent of the SRP. Many thanks were due to Andrew Short, Dianne Charles, Colin Touchin, Naomi Wellings and others for making this possible. It was confirmed that an invitation to donate to NYRO will still be included on the standard SRP/Branch membership application form. Branches were asked to promote NYRO and its courses to young players, and their parents, whenever appropriate. The 2014 NYRO summer course will be held at Bootham School, York, from 27th July to 2nd August, with a public concert on the final day.

4.4 Long-service awards : Branches were reminded that the Society was introducing awards, in the form of certificates, to recognise service as Musical Directors or Branch officers for 25, 40 or 50 years. The Secretary would contact Branch Secretaries to ask for details of those eligible. The Chairman or other Committee members would welcome the opportunity to present certificates at Branch meetings or other events, if they are available.

4.5 Walter Bergmann Fund : The Society continued to be very grateful for all donations of money, and of music and instruments for sale, to support the work of the WBF. Further donations, including legacies, would always be welcome. Donors were encouraged to increase the value of the donations through the Gift Aid scheme whenever possible.

4.6 Publicity : The public SRP Facebook group set up by Sheila Richards had to date attracted 359 members and 266 "likes". Members of the group automatically received new postings by group members and notice of updates to the SRP website. In recognition of the growing influence of social media, Emily Bannister had set up a Twitter account - @recorderSocUK - and encouraged Branches to promote its use.

4.7 Finance : In the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman noted some additional comments on the 2012/13 Accounts: receipt of the first royalties from the sale of Alex Ayre's music; higher than average printing costs due to issue of the 2013 Membership List; grants to Charlotte Barbour-Condini for the purchase of recorders and to I Flautisti towards their *Sound Clouds* CD (for sale at <http://iflautisti.bandcamp.com>); and payments for commissioned music including Jonathan Dove's *Light-dance* for recorder octet in 2012 and a commission from Bob Chilcott for 2017.

4.8 The Chairman thanked Branch Treasurers for their work and the submission of their annual accounts, generally by the deadline given. A reminder was given to Branches of the importance of sending their accounts to the Treasurer by mid October each year so that they could be consolidated as part of the Society's accounts. A delay by just one Branch delayed the whole process. Branches that had any queries regarding how to account for items should raise these with the Treasurer before the deadline. In view of recent discrepancies, Branch Treasurers should particularly ensure that the starting balance in the current year's accounts was identical to the closing balance in the previous year's accounts. Additionally, payments from Branches to the SRP centrally, or vice versa, should be clearly identified to ensure that they are properly treated as internal transactions when the accounts are consolidated.

4.9 The Chairman then reported that the Treasurer, Ulli Burchette, had indicated that she wished to stand down from the post when or soon after the accounts for 2013/14 were complete. The Society owed a great debt of gratitude to Ulli for her excellent stewardship of the Society's finances. It would be difficult to find as diligent and thorough a successor. The Society would be drafting a job description and person specification for the Treasurer's role and inviting volunteers.

Anyone interested, who did not need to be a current member of the Society but should have some experience as a treasurer, should contact the Chairman in the first instance. If necessary it might be possible to split the role by separating management of payments and receipts from the preparation of accounts.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and others

5.1 The Chairman paid thanks to Sheila Richards and Naomi Wellings, whose terms as Committee members were ending, though Naomi would stay on the Committee as Chair of NYRO until 31st August 2014, and to Colin Touchin, who was handing over to Alyson Lewin under the established cycle for Musical Advisers to serve on the Committee for 3 years. The Chairman also thanked Moira Usher, who had resigned as Training Co-ordinator in 2013, and Sue Eades who had been co-opted as Festival 2014 representative. The Committee had co-opted April Munday as Training Co-ordinator and Sarah Langdon to succeed Dick Pyper as Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator, both subject to ratification by Conference.

5.2 There were therefore 2 vacancies for Committee members, and to date no nominations had been received. It was agreed that the Secretary should approach people who had expressed interest in the past, and in one case had stood unsuccessfully for election to the Committee, to ask if they were still interested. Branches were also asked to try to identify members who might be willing to serve on the Committee. The Committee usually met in February and October at the Benslow Music Trust in Hitchin and in April/May during the SRP Festival.

6. Resolutions

6.1 Financial resolutions

Conference resolves that the Society's accounts for 2012-13 be approved.

Proposed: Joyce Rudall (Somerset)

Seconded: Trevor Brown (Nottinghamshire)

Carried: *nem. con.*

Conference resolves that Keith Varney be reappointed as the Society's Financial Examiner for a further period of one year.

Proposed: Richard Webster (Mid Herts)

Seconded: Wendy Pettit (Birmingham)

Carried: *nem.com.*

Conference resolves that the Society's subscription rates for 2014-15 shall be £23.50 for full membership, £35.00 for household membership and £17 for student membership.

Proposed: Ulli Burchette (Treasurer, Weald of Kent)

Seconded: Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire Branch)

For: 34

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried (Rule 7.8)

Conference resolves that Rule 3.4 be amended by the addition of the following after the first sentence:

"A person eligible to be a Branch member who joins the Society for the first time on a date later than 1st January may pay a subscription to the central fund of a reduced amount equal to one half the full year's subscription."

Proposed: Anthony Hall (Web Editor, Oxford Branch)

Seconded: Jean Boler (Macclesfield Branch)

For: 34

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Carried (Rule 7.8)

Before voting on the last Resolution, Conference noted that it arose from an informal agreement for the founding members of Macclesfield Branch to pay 50% of the full rate in 2011/12 since the

Branch had been formed part way through the membership year. The Resolution aimed to remove what for some might be a financial obstacle to joining the Society several months after the start of the membership year in September. Some delegates considered that 1st January was too soon to offer a discount and suggested 1st March instead, while others noted that the discount applied only when a member first joined the Society, that the number taking advantage of this in any year was likely to be modest, and that any measure that might stem the gradual decline in Society membership was to be welcomed. Given the balance of views expressed, the Chairman moved the Resolution as drafted.

6.2 Committee elections

Conference resolves that April Munday (Wessex Branch), having been co-opted as a member of the Committee in accordance with Rule 5.12 to serve as Training Co-ordinator, now be elected to continue to serve in that role.

Proposed: Moira Usher (former Training Officer, Suffolk Branch)

Seconded: Mike Wilkinson (Secretary, Weald of Kent Branch)

Carried: *nem.con.*

Conference resolves that Sarah Langdon, having been co-opted as a member of the Committee in accordance with Rule 5.12 to serve as Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator, now be elected to continue to serve in that role.

Proposed: Tessa Rolph (Chairman, Nottinghamshire Branch)

Seconded: Mike Wilkinson (Secretary, Weald of Kent Branch)

Carried: *nem.con.*

Conference resolves that all other Committee members and Officers, having signified their willingness to continue in their current roles, be re-elected en bloc.

Proposed: Sue Eades (Cornwall)

Seconded: Wendy Pettit (Birmingham)

Carried: *nem.con.*

This means that the Officers and Committee members, and those not on the Committee, are now:

Officers and Committee members	
Chairman	Tessa Rolph
Secretary	Mike Wilkinson
Treasurer	Ulli Burchette
Membership Secretary	David Rollason
County & Overseas Secretary	Sandra Foxall
Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund	Moira Usher
NYRO Chairman	Naomi Wellings – until 31 st August 2014
Training Co-ordinator	April Munday
Musical Advisers on Committee	Alyson Lewin, Evelyn Nallen, Eileen Silcocks
Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator	Sarah Langdon
Committee members	Pamela Flanagan, Caroline Jones, Vic Morris, Frances Tuffery, plus 2 vacancies
Officers not on Committee	
News Editor	Madeline Seviour
Website Editor	Anthony Hall
Publicity Officer	Emily Bannister
Musical Advisers	Helen Hooker, Colin Touchin, Ross Winters

7. Future Festivals

7.1 2015 : Alyson Lewin confirmed that South Staffordshire Branch, assisted by members of Birmingham Branch, was pressing ahead with arrangements for the Festival on 18th and 19th April 2015 at Wolverhampton Grammar School, Crompton Road, Wolverhampton WV3 9RB. Rooms, conductors, shops and entertainment were being arranged and one commissioned piece would be by Sasha Johnson Manning, a composer based in Manchester. The Mercure Hotel and other accommodation were within easy reach of the Festival venue. Alyson invited delegates to contact her if they had suggestions for items to be included in the Festival.

7.2 Future years : Cambridge Branch had agreed to host the 80th anniversary Festival in 2017, so offers were invited to host the Festival in 2016. Given the venues of recent Festivals, a venue in the north of England or in Scotland would be particularly appropriate. The Secretary was asked to continue the search for a Branch or Branches that, with support as necessary from the Society centrally, would be willing to host the 2016 Festival.

8. Any other business

8.1 The *Recorderfest* at Benslow Music from 26th to 29th September 2014 was this year being run in association with the SRP. Participants could stay for 2 or 3 nights, and there would be opportunities to practice conducting as well as playing. Leaflets for delegates to take to their Branches were available, and there was more information at www.benslowmusic.org.

8.2 Delegates were reminded that Sophie Westbrooke, a recorder player from Sevenoaks, was one of the five finalists in the woodwind section of the BBC Young Musician competition 2014. The section final had been recorded in March and delegates were strongly advised to watch its broadcast on BBC4 at 7.30pm on 2nd May. *[Like Charlotte Barbour-Condini in 2012, Sophie won the woodwind final and went on to be one the overall finalists in the competition.]*

8.3 One delegate asked if in future Conference papers could be circulated in time for Branch Secretaries to consult their members, particularly on any proposed Resolutions. The customary 3 weeks, which the Secretary apologised for not meeting for the current Conference, was not adequate when many Branches met only once a month. The Secretary agreed to review the timetable for preparing and issuing Conference papers with the aim of ensuring that, as a minimum, Branches were sent information about proposed Resolutions and other key Agenda items well in advance of Conference.

8.4 Another delegate asked that at future Festivals the use of plastic, for example in disposable drink cups or water bottles, should be reduced or eliminated in favour of more environmentally friendly alternatives.

8.5 In conclusion, the Chairman again thanked Sue Eades, Helen Whomersley and their team for their excellent work in planning, arranging and so efficiently presenting the 2014 Festival, which had been both very enjoyable and musically satisfying. A late influx of participants following the cancellation of another event had necessitated late changes to the programme, and this had been handled most efficiently.

8.6 There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 12 noon. The 2015 Conference will be on Sunday 19th April at Wolverhampton Grammar School.

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