



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CH CBE

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 19th April 2015

Wolverhampton Grammar School, Crompton Road,
Wolverhampton WV3 9RB

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Anthony Hall	Web Editor
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
April Munday	Training Co-ordinator	Vic Morris	Committee
Emily Bannister	Publicity Officer	Frances Tuffery	Committee

Branches

Bath	Debbie Nicholas	Manchester	David Alcock
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Mid Herts (observer)	Sue Cross
Bristol	Rachel Mason	Mid Herts	Hilary Worsfold
Cambridge	Vic Morris	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Martin Evans
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Norfolk	Katherine Gray
Cornwall	Sue Eades	Nottinghamshire	Trevor Brown
Cumbria	Judith Bush	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cumbria	George Thorp (observer)	Oxford	Anthony Hall
Dorset	Sue Tipping	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Dorset (observer)	Noreen Johnson	Sheffield	Joanne Simmie
Durham	David Rollason	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
East Berkshire	Andrew Challinger	South London	Sheila Richards
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	South Staffordshire	Lynn Hammersley
Essex	Janet Holt	Suffolk	Geoff Knight
Glasgow	Emma O'Neill	Wales	Fran Johnstone
Guildford	Pauline Terry	Warwick	Suman Geeves
Ireland	Ciara Flanagan	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
Leicester	Simon Aley	Wessex	April Munday
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	West Riding	Roger Hatfield
Lincolnshire	Gill Chatfield (observer)	Country & Overseas	Sandra Foxall

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.45am by welcoming Delegates, Committee and Musical Advisers to the Conference. She also took the opportunity to thank Alyson Lewin and her team for the excellent Festival they had arranged.

1.2 In Memoriam: The Chairman recorded with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference: Frans Brüggén (an SRP Vice President), Harry Lyall (Bath Branch), Paul Jennings (Cambridge), Philip Charsley (Guildford), Geoffrey Pinfold (Mid Herts), Christine Eyre (Sheffield), and Margaret Holmes (West Dorset).

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from Committee/Office Holders/Musical Advisers: Sarah Langdon, Madeline Seviour, Eileen Silcocks, Colin Touchin and Ross Winters; and from the following Branches: Aberdeen, Beds & North Herts, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Devon, Hillfoots, Hullavington, Kent, London, Manchester, North Cotswold, North London, Peterborough, South Downs, West Dorset and York Guildhall.

2. Minutes of Conference 2014

2.1 Subject to the deletion of George Thorp (Cumbria Branch) from the list of those present, the Minutes of Conference held in Truro on 13th April 2014 were approved.

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

3.1 Gift Aid (minute 3.1): The Chairman reported that she had temporarily taken over responsibility for submitting Gift Aid claims to HMRC, and so new Gift Aid declarations should be sent to her. She was currently working on the claim for 2013/14. She reminded Branches to use the current Gift Aid form, dated September 2012 and available from the forms page of the website, for new Gift Aid declarations. She also noted that a subscription payment could only be Gift Aided by the member concerned, not jointly or by someone else, though donations could of course be Gift Aided by anyone eligible to do so. The Society was still looking for a volunteer to take over the Gift Aid role on a longer term basis: anyone interested should contact the Chairman.

3.2 Concerts and Performing Rights (minute 3.2): The Chairman reminded Branches of their responsibility to submit to the Treasurer details of copyright music (including arrangements) played at any concerts arranged by the Branch, unless the venue held a licence from *PRS for Music* (in which case the Branch should make any royalty payments via the venue). The Society would continue to submit consolidated returns for Branches, and affiliated orchestras if they wished, annually in November via Making Music and recharge Branches and orchestras for any required fees. There are further details and a Declaration Slip at www.makingmusic.org.uk (see Performing Rights FAQ) or www.prsformusic.com.

3.3 Treasurer (minute 4.9): Ulli Burchette, who had thought she might need to stand down as Treasurer, had now confirmed that she was happy to continue in that role.

4. Annual Report and Officers' Reports

These minutes record points raised in discussion of the Annual Report and Officers' reports. The reports themselves, which had been circulated in advance, are available on the SRP website.

4.1 Instrument Insurance: The Secretary had recently circulated information about an offer by Lark Insurance, which provided public liability and instrument insurance for the Society, to give SRP members a discount on the insurance of any musical instruments, not just recorders. The information provided by Lark will also be available at www.srp.org.uk/admin-documents. Policies are subject to a minimum premium and so might be better suited to the insurance of more expensive instruments or those subject to risks not covered by household policies. Members wishing to take up this offer or wanting more information should deal directly with Lark.

4.2 Chiltern Recorder Consort Series: Moira Usher said that there were now over 200 of Alex Ayre's arrangements available as computer set versions – see www.srp.org.uk/crcs for details. Any members who used Sibelius software and wished to join the team of setters should contact Moira.

4.3 Publicity: Emily Bannister reminded delegates that the Society now had a Twitter account (@recorderSocUK), a Facebook page and a blog, all of which were accessible from the home page of the SRP website. Sheila Richards also continued to operate a linked Facebook page with SRP news. Emily was looking at the scope for posting video recordings on YouTube, which might also provide opportunities to advertise the Society to a wider audience.

4.4 NYRO: The Chairman reminded delegates that the National Youth Recorder Orchestras had been an independent charity since 1st September 2014. It was hoped that this would enable NYRO to access grant funding from sources in addition to the SRP. The Society had awarded NYRO a grant of £5,000 for 2014/15 and would be considering an application for a grant for 2015/16 at the Committee meeting later that day. The option of making a donation to NYRO when paying subscriptions would remain on the membership application form.

4.5 Panel of Visiting Conductors: The Secretary had produced a new edition of the list of Visiting Conductors. Delegates could collect their Branch copies, and copies for Branches not represented would be posted. The printed list would continue to be updated every 2-3 years but the current list, updated whenever necessary, would be available from the SRP website. The Secretary noted that, after many years' service, Denis Bloodworth, Graham Danbury, Robert Hault and Layton Ring were retiring from the list. Conference asked that they be sent thanks and good wishes from the Society.
Action: SECRETARY

4.6 Membership administration: The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of all Branches for the excellent work the Web Editor had undertaken, in association with the Membership Secretary, to computerise most of the process of collecting membership details, updating the distribution list for the *Recorder Magazine*, and producing the biennial Membership List, the 2015 edition of which was available for delegates to collect. The Web Editor announced that he would be introducing an option for Branches to input membership details online if they wished and Sandra Foxall, who had already tested this for COS Branch, confirmed that the process was very straightforward.

4.7 Early Music Festival and Moeck/SRP Competition: The dates for the 2015 Early Music Festival at Greenwich are Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th November, with the Moeck/SRP Competition from 1pm on the Friday. The Society would again be taking a stand at the Festival and would welcome volunteers to help staff it. The publicity material purchased initially for use at Greenwich, which included banners and a table cover with logo, was available for loan to any SRP Branch or member organising a concert or other event and willing to publicise the Society. Enquiries should be addressed to the Chairman.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and others

5.1 Vice Presidents: The Chairman explained that, under Rule 5.1, the Society could appoint up to twelve Vice Presidents. The role of Vice President was not formally defined but appointment was intended to mark outstanding contributions to the art and practice of recorder playing. It was hoped that Vice Presidents would support the work of the Society and take part in some of its activities. Following the deaths of Paul Clark in 2013 and Frans Brüggén in 2014, there were currently five Vice Presidents – Denis Bloodworth, Jeanne Dolmetsch, Friedrich von Huene, Anthony Rowland-Jones and Theo Wyatt. The Committee felt that there were many other outstanding recorder players and teachers whose skill and achievements should be acknowledged. The Committee had nominated four such people, all of whom had been graciously pleased to accept nomination, and now invited Conference to confirm their appointments as Vice President. In addition to the information in the

biographies that had been circulated, it was noted that Piers Adams had been the joint winner of the first Moeck/SRP competition in 1985 and that Philip Thorby was a past Chairman of the Society.

* **Resolution A:** That, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5.3, the following, having been nominated by the Committee and having signified their willingness to accept appointment, are endorsed by Conference for appointment as Vice Presidents of the Society:

Piers Adams, Tom Beets, Michala Petri, Philip Thorby

Proposed by: Tessa Rolph, Chairman

Seconded by: Mike Wilkinson, Secretary

Carried unanimously

5.2 The Chairman said she would write to the new Vice Presidents to confirm their appointments and to suggest, if convenient opportunities arose, that they might be invited to lead workshops or masterclasses. Branches and affiliated Orchestras were invited to keep this possibility in mind when arranging suitable events.

Action: CHAIRMAN

5.3 Honorary Life Members: The Chairman explained that, under Rule 5.6, the Society could award Honorary Life Membership for distinguished service to the Society. The Committee had nominated two new HLMs: Barbara Law who, inter alia, was a long-standing member of the Walter Bergmann Fund Committee and recorder teacher to Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke, BBC Young Musician finalists in 2013 and 2015; and Bob Whitmarsh, Secretary of the Society 2008-2013. Conference was now invited to confirm these nominations.

* **Resolution B:** That, in accordance with Rule 5.6, the following, having been nominated by the Committee for distinguished service to the Society, are endorsed by Conference for appointment as Honorary Life Members of the Society:

Barbara Law, Bob Whitmarsh

Proposed by: Tessa Rolph, Chairman

Seconded by: Mike Wilkinson, Secretary

Carried unanimously

Action: CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY

5.4 Re-election of Officers: All current officers had indicated they were willing to serve for a further year and no new nominations had been received.

* **Resolution C:** That, in accordance with Rule 5.7, the following, who have signified their willingness to continue in their present roles, be re-elected to serve in the roles indicated until Conference 2016:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer
David Rollason	Membership Secretary
Sandra Foxall	County & Overseas Secretary
Moira Usher	Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund
April Munday	Training Co-ordinator
Sarah Langdon	Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator
Madeline Seviour	News Editor
Anthony Hall	Website Editor
Emily Bannister	Publicity Officer

Proposed: Fran Johnstone, Wales Branch

Seconded: Debbie Nicholas, Bath Branch

Carried unanimously

5.5 Musical Advisers: It was noted that, in accordance with the usual practice of rotating the Musical Advisers who served on the Committee, Evelyn Nallen was stepping down after serving for 3 years and Ross Winters was joining the Committee for the first time.

5.6 Committee members: Rule 4.8.7 states that the Committee can include 5-7 members, of which the Society usually has 6, in addition to those with specified roles. Such members are elected to serve for 2 or 3 years and can stand for re-election for a second term but must then take a break. Currently there are 4 such members: Vic Morris (Cambridge) and Frances Tuffery (Ireland), whose appointments run until Conference 2016; and Pamela Flanagan (Glasgow and Ireland) and Caroline Jones (Birmingham), whose appointments expire at this Conference. There were therefore 4 vacancies. Pamela was eligible for re-election but Caroline was not.

5.7 Two nominations for Committee members had been received in advance and two further nominations were made and accepted at Conference:

- **Josée Beeson** (of Recorder Courses Lyme, a Corporate Member of the Society)
proposed: Moira Usher (Suffolk), seconded: Annette Gentleman (Essex)
- **Pamela Flanagan** (Glasgow and Ireland)
proposed: David Ellis (Glasgow), seconded: Patricia Flanagan (Ireland)
- **Evelyn Nallen** (Cambridge, and a Musical Adviser)
- **Ciara Flanagan** (Ireland)

* **Resolution D** (as amended): That Josée Beeson, Pamela Flanagan, Evelyn Nallen and Ciara Flanagan, having been nominated, indicated their willingness to serve, and confirmed that they are not disqualified from acting as Trustees, are elected or re-elected as Committee members. The duration of their terms of office (2 or 3 years) would be considered by the Committee in due course, in consultation with those concerned, with the aim of restoring the pattern whereby the terms of office of two Committee members came to an end each year.

Proposed: Vic Morris (Cambridge)

Seconded: Emma O'Neill (Glasgow)

Carried unanimously

6. Other resolutions to Conference

6.1 Rule changes: The Secretary reported that some changes to the Rules were needed (a) to remove references to NYRO and the NYRO sub-committee now that NYRO was an independent charity and (b) to reflect the fact that, as allowed by the Charity Commission for charities with gross annual income under £250,000, the Society had chosen to use an independent financial examiner rather than a registered auditor to scrutinise its accounts. Under Rule 7.8, Resolutions to amend the Rules of the Society required the support of 75% of those voting.

* **Resolutions E and F** (Rule 11.1)

That the Rules of the Society are revised, and subsequent paragraphs renumbered, as follows:

Delete: 4.8.4 *the Chairman of the National Youth Recorder Orchestra Sub-Committee*

Delete: 5.19 *The Chairman of the NYRO Sub-Committee shall be nominated by the Committee and shall take office when the nomination is endorsed by a Resolution passed at an Annual Conference. The Chairman of the NYRO Sub-Committee may be removed by Resolution of the Annual Conference at any time.*

Amend: 5.15 *replace an auditor by an independent financial examiner.*

Proposed: Tessa Rolph, Chairman

Seconded: Mike Wilkinson, Secretary

Carried unanimously

6.2 Visiting Conductors' expenses: Roxburgh Branch had expressed concern at changes made several years ago when Rule 10.4 was amended to reduce from 12 to 6 the number of members needed to establish a new Branch and at the same time to withdraw from Branches with under 12 members the right to have an annual subsidised visit from a member of the Panel of Conductors (Rule 9.1.1) or to send a delegate to the annual Conference (Rule 9.1.2). The main reason was to avoid the possibility that the sums paid by the Society towards a conductor's and a delegate's expenses would exceed the subscription income from the Branch concerned. Roxburgh Branch had therefore proposed a Resolution which entitled all Branches, irrespective of size, to send a delegate but retained the bar on expenses for small Branches. However, in discussion there was general support for the principle that, if the Society accepted a group of members as a Branch, it should give that Branch the same rights as all other Branches. The proposed Resolution was therefore amended.

* **Resolution G** (as amended):

Delete: 9.3 At any time during which the number of members of a Branch is below twelve that Branch shall not be entitled to the privileges referred to in paragraphs 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 of this Rule.

Proposed: Vic Morris (Cambridge)

Seconded: Pamela Flanagan (Glasgow and Ireland)

Carried unanimously

Action: SECRETARY

6.3 Financial Resolutions: In introducing the financial resolutions the Treasurer was pleased to report that the Society's financial position was sufficiently healthy for her not to propose any increase in central subscriptions for 2015/16. This could be particularly helpful at a time when many Branches were facing significant increases in their own venue and other costs and so in the Branch subscriptions they had to charge.

* **Resolution H**: That the Society's Accounts for 2013-14, circulated prior to Conference, be received.

Proposed: Alyson Lewin (South Staffordshire)

Seconded: Vic Morris (Cambridge)

Carried unanimously

* **Resolution I**: That Keith Varney be reappointed as the Society's Independent Financial Examiner for a further period of one year.

Proposed: Moira Usher (Suffolk)

Seconded: Joyce Rudall (Somerset)

Carried unanimously

7. Future Festivals

7.1 Linda Hepburn-Booth said provisionally [*and later confirmed*] that **Lincolnshire** Branch would be pleased to host the 2016 Festival at Christ's Hospital School, Wragby Road, Lincoln LN2 4PN on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April 2016. She was glad to be able to draw on the experience of Alyson Lewin, Sandra Foxall and others who had hosted previous Festivals. Sue Eades (Cornwall) suggested that Festival organisers should consider the need for using a Public Address system in the main hall.

7.2 **Cambridge** Branch, assisted by Beds & North Herts, Peterborough and Suffolk Branches, would host the Society's 80th anniversary Festival on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April 2017. **Suffolk** Branch would host the 2020 Festival, 10 years after hosting the 2010 Festival in Felixstowe. Any Branches interested in hosting the Festival in 2018 or 2019 should contact the Secretary.

8. Other Business

8.1 RecorderFest: Sandra Foxall reminded Conference that, following the successful event in 2014, a further *RecorderFest* at Benslow Music Trust, supported by the Society, was scheduled for 25th – 28th September 2015. There were 2 and 3 night options and, in addition to Sandra, the tutors were Alyson Lewin, Jean McCreary, Caroline Radcliffe and Rae Strong.

8.2 Students: To date, student membership of the Society was available, at a reduced subscription, to those “in full-time education up to first degree level”. Given the increasing diversity of further and higher education courses, it was suggested and agreed that in future student membership should be available to all full-time students. The integrity of the process would still rely on applicants giving correct information, but there was no evidence this was not already the case.

8.3 Playing Days: It was suggested that, to avoid competition for the same participants, Branches arranging Playing Days should consult or inform other Branches about their intended dates. There was a list of Playing Days on the website, and Branches should inform the Web Editor to ensure this was kept up to date.

8.4 Recorder Magazine music: Members continued to enjoy the copyright-free music printed in *The Recorder Magazine* but requested that the publishers be asked always to print it on the centre pages for ease of removal or copying.

Action: SECRETARY

8.5 A concerto for the 21st Century: Evelyn Nallen informed Conference that she and Barbara Law (see minute 5.3) had commissioned Graham Fitkin to write a concerto for recorders, with the first performance in 2017. Graham (see www.fitkin.com) is a prominent composer working in Cornwall and one of his recent compositions was a cello concerto premiered by Yo Yo Ma at the BBC Proms. A new work was being commissioned because, when Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke were preparing for the BBC Young Musician competition, it was realised that there was a paucity of repertoire for virtuoso recorder playing with an orchestra in a modern concert hall. The fund-raising target for this initiative is £25,000 and the Society and some individual members had already made contributions to help launch the project, for which Evelyn and Barbara were most grateful. Details of how to make further donations were at www.srp.org.uk/a-concerto-for-the-21st-century. It was agreed that an option to contribute when paying subscriptions should be added to the membership form for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Action: SECRETARY

There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 11.15am. The next Conference will be at Christ’s Hospital School, Wragby Road, Lincoln LN2 4PN on Sunday 3rd April 2016.

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