



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 3rd April 2016

in the Old Hall, Christ's Hospital School,
Wragby Road, Lincoln LN2 4PN

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Ciara Flanagan	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Sarah Langdon	SRP/Moeck Competition	Vic Morris	Committee
Anthony Hall	Web Editor	Frances Tuffery	Committee

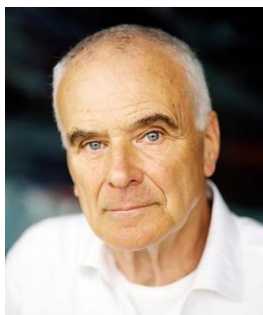
Branches

Bath	Jean Reynolds	Norfolk	Katherine Gray
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Nottinghamshire	Trevor Brown
Bristol	Karen Caisley	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cambridge	Tricia Perrin	Orkney	Caroline Melody
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Diana Knight	Oxford	Anthony Hall
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Cornwall	Jenny Orpwood	Sheffield	Joanne Simmie
Cumbria	George Thorp	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Dorset	Sue Tipping	South Staffordshire	John Hammersley
Durham	David Rollason	Suffolk	Christine Westren
Edinburgh	Graeme Jefferies	Wales	Joan Stacey
Glasgow	Jane Mallinson	Warwick	Helen Jones
Guildford	Andrew Duncan	Weald of Kent	Ian Jutting
Ireland	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Wessex	Mary Steele
Leicester	Simon Aley	West Riding	Jennie Hall
Lincolnshire	Rodney Callow	York Guildhall	Fiona Kemp
Manchester	Jenn Stanley	Country & Overseas	Sandra Foxall
Mid Herts	Enid Holmes		

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.30am by welcoming Delegates, Committee Members and Musical Advisers to the Conference. She also took the opportunity to thank Rodney Callow, Linda Hepburn-Booth and their team for the excellent Festival they had arranged.

1.2 In Memoriam: Conference noted with sadness the death of the Society's President, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CH CBE, on 14th March 2016, at the age of 81. He had been appointed as the Society's fifth President in 1998, following Arnold Dolmetsch (1937-40), Percy Scholes (appointed 1947), Benjamin Britten (1958) and Sir Michael Tippett (1977). The Chairman said that in due course the Committee would be considering the future role of the President and seeking views on who might be invited to become the sixth holder of that office.



Later on Sunday 3rd April, in memory of Sir Peter, a group of Festival conductors gave the first performance of an arrangement for recorders by Mirjam Morat of his *Farewell to Stromness*. This had been written in 1980 as a piano interlude in his *Yellow Cake Review*, composed to support ultimately successful protests against the mining of uranium on Orkney. It was particularly fitting that a representative of the newly-formed Orkney Branch of the Society was present for this performance. Sir Peter and his publishers, Boosey & Hawkes, had given permission for the arrangement to be made available for use by the Society, and copies would be given to Branches and affiliated Orchestras in due course.

1.3 Conference also noted with sadness the passing of the following members since the last Conference:

- Vernon Baker, a former member of Wessex Branch, at the age of 100
- Bernard Barton, Guildford Branch and a generous donor to the Walter Bergmann Fund
- Dennis Bloodworth, conductor of the London Recorder Orchestra for 20+ years, an SRP Vice President since 2011, and member of the Conductors Panel, died 23rd January 2016, age 88
- Dr Gwilym Beechey, COS & Peterborough Branch, died December 2015
- Mabel Cluer, London and South London Branches, died in March 2015, age 103
- Josephine Gaylard, West Dorset Branch, died 19th January 2016, age 103
- Alexandra (Nancy) Melrose, Glasgow Branch, died October 2015
- Nick Southern, Durham Branch, died July 2015
- Marion Sturgeon, Newcastle Branch, died January 2016
- Auriol Summers, Nuneaton Branch, died on 19th April 2015, age 78.

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from Committee/Office Holders/Musical Advisers: Emily Bannister, April Munday, Madeline Seviour, Eileen Silcocks, Colin Touchin and Ross Winters; and from the following Branches: Aberdeen, Beds & North Herts, Devon, East Berkshire, Essex, Hillfoots, Kent, London, Macclesfield, Mid Herts, Newcastle, Norfolk, North Cotswold, North London, Peterborough, South Downs, South London and West Dorset.

2. Minutes of Conference 2015

2.1 The Minutes of Conference held in Wolverhampton on 19th April 2015 were approved.
Proposed: Alyson Lewin Seconded: Helen Hooker

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

3.1 Gift Aid (minute 4.1): The Chairman reported that she still retained her "temporary" responsibility for submitting Gift Aid claims to HMRC and was continuing to work on the claim for 2013/14. She reminded Branches that they should exclude the value to members of any specific benefit such as tuition when claiming Gift Aid on their Branch subscriptions, and that subscription payments 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. The Society continued to look for a volunteer to take over the Gift Aid role on a longer term basis.

4. Officers' Reports

These minutes record points in addition to those in the Officers' reports or raised in discussion of those reports. The reports themselves, which had been circulated in advance, are on the SRP website at www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference.

4.1 Chairman: Tessa Rolph, who was standing down after 4 years as Chairman, gave an oral report reviewing recent events and developments. She particularly noted that public awareness and appreciation of the recorder had been enhanced by the achievements of recorder players in the BBC Young Musician competition in 2012, 2014 and 2016, and in the Jazz section of the competition in 2016. The Moeck/SRP Competition continued to discover great talent, with the 2015 winner, Laura Schmid, due to give her recital at the Greenwich Early Music Festival (to be held this year at Blackheath) on Saturday 12th November. The cost of the Society's resumed presence at the Greenwich Festival was a good investment, helping to make the Society's existence and activities more widely known to a receptive audience. The SRP website had been greatly enhanced in recent years thanks to the work of Anthony Hall and, together with the Facebook page set up by Sheila Richards, was now a major source of information and regularly updated news, and a key recruitment tool. Anthony had also developed, and was continuing to refine, the membership database to help Society and Branch officers transact business accurately and efficiently. The work of Moira Usher and her team in type-setting the handwritten music bequeathed to the Society by Alex Ayre was bringing his arrangements to a new audience, and in a new form to existing devotees. The appointment of four new Vice Presidents in 2015 had strengthened the Society's links with outstanding advocates of the recorder. And while sustaining the Society's membership was now a perennial issue, with the occasional Branch closure, it was satisfying to see the formation of new Branches extending the Society's work to new areas.

4.2 The Chairman concluded her remarks by thanking all members of the Committee, and the wider membership, for their support during her term of office.

4.3 Secretary: Mike Wilkinson announced that Peter Bowman, Musical Director of Weald of Kent Branch, was joining the Society's Panel of Conductors. While Mike issued updated printed versions of the list of Conductors only every two years or so, the version on the website at www.srp.org.uk/visiting-conductors was updated quickly whenever new conductors joined or stepped down and could be downloaded for printing if required.

4.4 Web Editors: Anthony Hall noted that one of his next tasks was to improve the Branch Music Library system to make it easier for Branches to upload their Library lists and to search the system for items they might wish to borrow. He invited Branches interested in joining the scheme or updating existing entries to contact him for details. He also noted that Branches could specify more than one recipient to whom e-mails to the generic [[branch](mailto:branch@srp.org.uk)][@srp.org.uk](mailto:branch@srp.org.uk) address would be forwarded.

4.5 News Editor: Madeline Seviour, who was standing down as News Editor, had sent a message thanking those Branches that had contributed regular (or irregular) reports for the SRP pages of the *Recorder Magazine* during her tenure of the role. She encouraged Branches to continue, or in a few cases to start, submitting reports to her successor. Conference asked for its thanks and good wishes to be conveyed to Madeline for her sterling work over 20 years as News Editor.

4.6 Training Co-ordinator: April Munday's report encouraged Branches which had not yet done so to consider organising a workshop. The one on Tudor Dance hosted by Nottingham Branch in February 2016 had proved especially popular. There was no financial risk to a Branch: the Society would underwrite the costs, which should be accounted for separately from Branch finances. A guidance note was being prepared to clarify the details.

4.7 Walter Bergmann Fund: Moira Usher, Chairman of the WBF sub Committee, reminded Conference that the maximum grant that the Fund normally awarded was £600 per person, though the Fund had discretion to award higher grants in very deserving cases. Individuals and groups meeting the Fund's criteria were eligible to apply. The main reason for refusing awards was that the applicant(s) had provided insufficient evidence of financial need. The Fund had resources available to support worthwhile applications and Conference attendees were encouraged to bring it to the attention of young people up to the age of 30 who might need and benefit from some financial assistance in their development as recorder players.

5. Election or re-election of Honorary Life Members, Chairman, Officers, Committee and others

5.1 Honorary Life Member: 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 one new HLM: Andrew Collis, who had served for many years as Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund and as administrator of the Moeck/SRP Competition (having been a finalist twice) and who continued to be a member of the Panel of Conductors. Conference was invited to confirm this nomination.

* **Resolution C**: That, in accordance with Rule 5.6, **ANDREW COLLIS**, having been nominated by the Committee for distinguished service to the Society, is endorsed by Conference for appointment as an Honorary Life Member of the Society. **Carried unanimously**

5.2 Chairman: As Vic Morris explained in his CV, he had been Chairman of Cambridge Branch for 5 years and an SRP Committee member for 3 years, so he felt he was very familiar with the operation of the Society. His overall aim, if elected as Chairman, would be to make SRP membership attractive for all recorder players, young and old, amateur and professional.

* **Resolution F**: That **VIC MORRIS** (Cambridge Branch) be elected as Chairman of the Society.

Proposed: Michael Sharman (Country and Overseas Branch)

Seconded: Anthony Rowland-Jones (Cambridge Branch and an SRP Vice President)

Carried unanimously

5.3 New Committee members: Rule 4.8 provides that the Committee of the Society shall include between 5 and 7 members in addition to those with specified roles. Two of these must retire each year but are eligible for re-election unless they have served two consecutive terms without a break. Those retiring this year were Vic Morris and Frances Tuffery. Vic had just been elected Chairman, and Frances was eligible and standing for re-election. Other nominees were Rodney Callow, Secretary of Lincolnshire Branch and a key member of the team organising the current Festival, and Caroline Jones, Musical Director of Birmingham Branch and previously a Committee member until 2015.

* **Resolution G**: That the following, having been nominated, indicated willingness to serve, and confirmed they are not disqualified from acting as Trustees, be elected or re-elected as members of the Committee:

* **RODNEY CALLOW** (Lincolnshire Branch)

Proposed: Linda Hepburn-Booth (Lincolnshire Branch)

Seconded: Michael Bassett (Lincolnshire Branch)

* **CAROLINE JONES** (Birmingham Branch)

Proposed: Alyson Lewin (South Staffordshire Branch)

Seconded: Sandra Foxall (Cleveland Branch)

* **FRANCES TUFFERY** (Ireland Branch)

Proposed: Genevieve Mullins (Ireland Branch)

Seconded: Nuala O'Neill (Ireland Branch)

Carried unanimously

5.4 News Editor: Under Rule 5.17 the News Editor is nominated by the Committee and takes office when the nomination is endorsed by Conference. Following the retirement of Madeleine Seviour (see minute 4.5), Allyn Richardson (Nottingham Branch) had volunteered and been nominated by the Committee to fill the post.

* **Resolution H**: That Conference endorses the appointment of **ALLYN RICHARDSON** (Nottingham Branch) as the Society's News Editor. **Carried unanimously**

5.5 Re-election of other Officers: Under Rule 5.7 all other current officers must be elected or re-elected annually. All those concerned were willing to serve for a further year, until Conference 2017, and no new nominations had been received.

* **Resolution I**: That the following be re-elected or reaffirmed to serve as indicated until Conference 2017:

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

Proposed: Wendy Pettit (Birmingham Branch)

Seconded: Josée Beeson (Corporate member)

Carried unanimously

6. Other resolutions to Conference

6.1 New and closed Branches

* **Resolution A**: proposed by the Committee

That, under Rule 10.4, Conference ratifies the acceptance of **ORKNEY BRANCH** as a Branch of the Society.

Carried unanimously

* **Resolution B**: proposed by the Committee

That, under Rule 10.5, Conference notes the closure of **HULLAVINGTON BRANCH** as a Branch of the Society.

Carried unanimously

6.2 Financial Resolutions: In introducing the financial resolutions the Treasurer was pleased to report that the Society's financial position was sufficiently healthy for her again not to propose any increase in central subscriptions.

* **Resolution D**: That the Society's Accounts for 2014-15, circulated prior to Conference, be received.

Proposed: Simon Aley (Leicester Branch) Seconded: Frances Tuffery (Ireland Branch)

Carried unanimously

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

Proposed: Frances Tuffery (Ireland Branch) Seconded: Anthony Hall (Oxford Branch)

Carried unanimously

7. Future Festivals

7.1 Vic Morris reported that arrangements for the 80th anniversary Festival in **Cambridge** on 7th-9th April 2017, hosted jointly by Cambridge, Beds & North Herts and Peterborough Branches, were proceeding well. Flyers giving some details were already available and the website at www.srp.org.uk/national-festival was being regularly updated. Early booking was advised. **Suffolk** Branch, which hosted the Festival in 2000 and 2010 in Felixstowe, would continue the sequence by hosting the 2020 Festival.

7.2 Any Branches interested in hosting the Festival in 2018, 2019 or 2021 onwards should contact the Secretary. Ample guidance from previous Festival organisers was available. Those who needed to plan their future commitments carefully found it helpful if Festival dates were announced as far ahead as possible, and organisers were encouraged to avoid clashes with other events seeking to attract a similar clientele if possible. Booking a venue was usually the first key task, though it was noted that some schools were increasingly reluctant to accept bookings more than a year ahead.

8. Other Business

8.1 *RecorderFest*: Sandra Foxall reminded Conference that, following successful events in 2014 and 2015, a further *RecorderFest* at Benslow Music Trust, supported by the Society, was scheduled for 23rd-26th September 2016. There were 2 and 3 night options and, in addition to Sandra, the tutors were Andrew Collis, Alyson Lewin, Jean McCreary and Rae Strong. The attractions of other events, including the 2016 Scottish Recorder Festival in Edinburgh on 18th June and the Irish Recorder and Viol Course in Termonfechin, about 30 miles from Dublin, on 13th-20th August were also noted.

9. Membership Benefits

9.1 To conclude the 2016 Conference, the Chairman initiated a discussion on the benefits for individuals, Branches and Orchestras of being part of the Society of Recorder Players. Her aim was to seek members' opinions and priorities to help inform the Committee in its future deliberations, under the Chairmanship of Vic Morris, on the future direction and development of the Society. These deliberations would also continue to take account of the report issued in March 2012 by the 2020 Working Group – see www.srp.org.uk/srp-future.

9.2 The discussion produced a wide range of views on what members valued as benefits of membership and what other benefits they might appreciate. These included:

- ✓ access to the Society's Panel of Visiting Conductors, whose visits to Branches were subsidised, and to others also experienced in teaching and conducting recorder groups, so helping to raise standards;
- ✓ the *Recorder Magazine*, including the SRP News pages and especially the centre spread (though sometimes the off-centre spread) of music without copyright restrictions and accessible to players of most abilities;
- ✓ the ability to locate other individuals and groups of recorder players;
- ✓ the opportunity to play the recorder with groups of different standards and sometimes with instruments, especially larger basses, not previously experienced;
- ✓ the opportunity to experience different styles and type of music;
- ✓ the social aspects of SRP membership, with opportunities to meet and get to know like-minded people, which in some cases could be just as beneficial as the actual music;
- ✓ Branch Music Libraries and the ability of one Branch to borrow items from another Branch, for example because they were out of print or to try an unknown piece;
- ✓ the annual Festival, with the chance to meet fellow players and work with new conductors and tutors;
- ✓ the music commissioned by the Society and by the annual Festival, of which Branches and affiliated Orchestras were usually given a score and sets of parts paid for from central funds;
- ✓ the support given by the Walter Bergmann Fund to assist young people in their development as recorder players;
- ✓ the Public Liability and other insurances arranged by the Society and paid for from central funds and which provided the cover required by Branches and affiliated Orchestras, for example when hiring venues, at significantly lower overall cost than would be possible if each Branch or Orchestra had to arrange a separate policy;

- ✓ the instrument insurance arranged by the Society for Branches and affiliated Orchestras on a rechargeable basis, at a cost lower than might be possible for many separate policies, and saving Branches and Orchestras much of the effort of purchasing appropriate cover and handling any claims;
- ✓ the SRP website, which had been expanded and updated extensively in recent years to become an invaluable resource for news and information about the recorder world, for communicating with members, for managing membership, and a key recruitment tool;
- ✓ less tangible, but equally important, the satisfaction in being part of a large organisation of people with shared aims and interests.

9.3 Suggestions for possible new or expanded initiatives included:

- “taster” sessions for groups of people considering whether to set up new Branches;
- greater use of the services provided by Making Music, of which the Society was a member;
- more promotion of the workshops offered by the Society, and possible new workshop topics, with some workshops perhaps being organised centrally for Branches and others in particular areas;
- increased effort on the development of links between the Society and other organisations with similar interest and objectives, including schools, colleges, conservatoires and the U3A;
- an area of the website available only to Society members, using a password, giving access to music and other resources;
- continuing monitoring of developments in music education and where possible objection to public funding cuts and the growing exclusion of music and other arts subjects from the core curriculum and syllabuses.

9.4 Piers Adams, a Vice President of the Society, joined the discussion and spoke about the work that he and his colleagues were doing to promote the recorder in schools. This included children’s workshops, school concerts and events at music festivals designed to stimulate interest in music, to provide opportunities for children to rehearse and sometimes perform with Piers at public concerts, and to enable them to consider whether to choose the recorder as an instrument to enjoy playing and study in future. There is more information about Piers’ community programme, which he started in 1995, and his Recorder Roadshow on his website at www.piersadams.com/education-projects.

9.5 Summing up the discussion, the Chairman thanked participants for their many helpful ideas and suggestions, which would inform the Committee’s thinking on the future direction and development of the Society.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 11am. The Society’s next Conference will be at Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge CB2 8PX, on Sunday 9th April 2017.

- o - o - o - o - o - o - o - o - o -