



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 9th April 2017

at Long Road Sixth Form College,
Long Road, Cambridge CB2 8PX

PRESENT:

Committee & Musical Advisers

Vic Morris	Chairman	Louise Findlay	Deputy Publicity Officer
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Rodney Callow	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Ciara Flanagan	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Isobel Clarke	Publicity Officer	Frances Tuffery	Committee

Branch delegates

Bath	Angela Le Grice	North Cotswold	Gwen Klepping
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Nottinghamshire	Alison Wilson
Bristol	Karen Caisley	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cambridge	Christine Stapleton	Orkney	Mary Doyle
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Diana Knight	Oxford	Frances Thompson
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Peterborough	Phil Brown
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Cumbria	George Thorp	Sheffield	Joanne Simmie
Dorset	Stuart Miller	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Durham	Jan Durham	South Staffordshire	Alyson Lewin
East Berkshire	Jim Grant	Suffolk	Mark Usher
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	Wales	Varabhadri Greenland
Ireland	Patricia Flanagan	Warwick	Helen Jones
Leicester	Simon Aley	Weald of Kent	Jane Ward
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	Wessex	Mary Steele
Mid Herts	Sue Cross	West Riding	Roger Hatfield
Newcastle	Joan Reeve	Country & Overseas	Sandra Foxall
Norfolk	Lavinia Ganley		

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.40am by welcoming Delegates, Committee Members and Musical Advisers to the Conference.

1.2 In Memoriam: Conference noted with sadness the passing of the following members since the previous Conference:

- Mary Ashley: South Staffordshire Branch
- Averil Chegwidden: Cornwall Branch
- Dorothy Fenner: Warwick Branch
- Robert Harrison: Dorset Branch and an Honorary Life Member of the Society
- Noreen Johnson: former Dorset Branch Secretary
- Joan Moore: Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch
- Jutta Randall: Wessex Branch
- Diana Reddaway: Mid Herts Branch
- Pamela Southworth: Wessex Branch

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from:

* Committee and Musical Advisers: Caroline Jones, April Munday and Evelyn Nallen (who were involved in Festival activities), and Josée Beeson, Anthony Hall, Sarah Langdon, Allyn Richardson, Sara Scorey, Eileen Silcocks and Colin Touchin;

*Branches: Aberdeen, Beds & North Herts, Devon, Guildford, Hillfoots and Macclesfield.

The following Branches were also not represented: Essex, Glasgow, Kent, London, Manchester, North London, South Downs, South London, West Dorset and York Guildhall.

2. Minutes of Conference 2016

2.1 Subject to the addition of Enid Holmes as the delegate from Mid Herts Branch, the Minutes of Conference held in Lincoln on 19th April 2016 were approved.

Proposed: Diana Knight Seconded: Joyce Rudall Approved.

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

3.1 Walter Bergmann Fund (minute 4.7): Moira Usher, Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund, thanked all those who donated music and instruments for sale to support the Fund. Further donations were always welcome. She also reminded Conference that the Fund wished to encourage the provision of courses for young players, up to the age of 30, and could make grants towards the cost provided applications included a realistic budget and evidence of financial need.

4. Appointment of a new President for the Society

4.1 The Chairman was very pleased to announce that, after detailed consultation, the Society had invited **Jonathan Dove** to be its next President, in succession to the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. The Chairman's report to Conference outlined the selection process, during which Branches and others had suggested many names – though it would not be appropriate to make the list publicly available. There were some details of Jonathan's career to date in the Conference papers and on his website at www.jonathandove.com. Some members would also recall that, to celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary in 2012, Jonathan had been commissioned to write *Light Dance* for recorder octet.



Vic Morris (Chairman) and Jonathan Dove (new President)

4.2 In accordance with Rule 5.2, Conference then unanimously endorsed the appointment of Jonathan Dove as the Society's President for a term of 7 years with effect from 9th April 2017 (**RESOLUTION A**).

Jonathan later addressed Festival participants, saying he was honoured to accept appointment as President and 'looked forward to wo

5. Officers' Reports

These minutes record points made in presentation or discussion of the Officers' reports. The reports themselves, which had been circulated in advance, are available at www.srp.org.uk/annual-conference.

5.1 Chairman: The Chairman said that in his view the greatest challenge facing the Society was the retention and recruitment of members. The numbers attending the present Festival were most encouraging and helped to demonstrate the growing resurgence of the recorder as a "serious" instrument. While the SRP Committee regularly discussed the scope for new initiatives and new forms of membership, all members had a role to play in engaging the interest of new members, including the many ensembles and young professional players that may not have heard of the Society or knew what it might offer them.

5.2 In support of this, Moira Usher reminded Conference of widespread concern that the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), which was the combination of subjects that the Government thought important for young people to study at GCSE level, did not include music or other arts subjects. Starting in 2018 schools were to be assessed on the basis of their pupils' attainment in EBacc subjects and this, together with continuing pressure on funding, meant that the study of music in schools was already in significant decline and likely to decline further. The *BACC for the Future* campaign was seeking to persuade the Government to recognise the importance of creative, artistic and technical subjects not only in the secondary curriculum but also more widely in education. There was more information, and a petition that members were encouraged to sign, at www.baccforthefuture.com. Other campaigns, such as that at www.dontstopthefuture.com, were also pursuing similar objectives.

5.3 In further discussion it was noted that the role of music in schools was often dependent on the attitude of the Head Teacher, that smaller rural schools sometimes had better funding and so more scope to support music than larger schools in towns and cities, and that there might be a role that the Society could play to foster links with schools to stimulate interest in the recorder and music more generally. This was an important issue that the SRP Committee would wish to consider further.

5.4 Treasurer: In presenting her report, the Treasurer reminded Conference of some issues that evidence suggested sometimes caused difficulties with Branch accounts. It was, for example, important that Branch Treasurers checked that the closing balance for one year's accounts was the same as the opening balance for the next year's accounts. It was also essential to use the standard template for Branch accounts correctly since otherwise consolidating these into a single table for the national accounts gave incorrect results. The Treasurer was always willing to advise Branches if they had queries on their accounts and hoped that all Branches would submit their accounts by the end of October each year, if necessary as provisional, pending independent scrutiny.

RESOLUTION B: That the Society's accounts for 2015/16 be received.

Proposed: Simon Aley Seconded: Alyson Lewin Approved.

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

Proposed: Mary Steele Seconded: Sandra Foxall Approved.

5.5 Membership Secretary: The Membership Secretary drew Conference's attention to the fact that, with thanks to Recorder MusicMail, the printed 2017 Membership List would this year be posted to members with the Summer issue of the *Recorder Magazine*. This would ensure prompt delivery and, for 30p per copy in postage, was easier than giving or sending batches of Lists to Branch Secretaries for them to distribute.

5.6 There continued to be some debate about whether a printed Membership List remained necessary when, in theory at least, an up to date list of members derived from the membership database could be made available online to those with the necessary password. However, such suggestions regularly drew comments that many members valued a printed List and that some members could not or did not use computers. In addition, putting members' details online, even in a "members only" section protected by passwords, raised important issues of data protection that would need very careful consideration before deciding whether such action was practicable and viable.

5.7 Web Editor: Conference welcomed the Web Editor's report in his absence and noted the continuing improvements being made to the website and the great benefit of the systems that had been developed to support and manage much of the Society's business, including membership returns, preparing the Membership List and making Festival bookings.

RESOLUTION: That a vote of thanks be given to Anthony Hall and Sara Scorey for their invaluable work on the Society's website and in support of the Society's business.

Proposed: Joyce Ruddall Seconded: Stuart Millar Agreed unanimously.

5.8 **Publicity Officers:** Conference welcomed Isobel Clarke and Louise Findlay as the Society's new Publicity Officers. Conference would be invited to confirm their appointment shortly. The Chairman's report gave some details of their roles, which included considering the scope for press releases to publicise important Society events, and managing the SRP Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/societyofrecorderplayers) and Twitter feed (@SRP-recorder). All members were invited to bear in mind opportunities for publicising the work of the Society and its Branches and to consult the Publicity Officers for advice as appropriate.

6. Election or re-election of Officers, Committee and others

6.1 **RESOLUTION D:** That DEBORAH MARY NICHOLAS (Bath Branch), having been nominated, indicated their willingness to serve and confirmed they are not disqualified from acting as a Trustee, be elected as a member of the Committee until Conference 2020.

Proposed: Robin Lowe (Bath Branch) Seconded: Charlotte Wilkes (Bath Branch) Approved unanimously.

6.2 **RESOLUTION E:** That, in accordance with Rule 5.7, the following, who have signified their willingness to continue in their present roles, be re-elected or reaffirmed in the roles indicated until Conference 2018:

Vic Morris	Chairman
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer
David Rollason	Membership Secretary
Sandra Foxall	Country & Overseas Secretary
Moira Usher	Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund
April Munday	Training Co-ordinator
Sarah Langdon	Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator
Anthony Hall Sara Scorey	Web Editors
Allyn Richardson	News Editor
Isobel Clarke Louise Findlay	Publicity Officers

Proposed: Mark Usher Seconded: Frances Thompson Approved unanimously.

7. Future Festivals

7.1 Conference noted the position as follows:

- * **2018:** Festival hosted by Wessex Branch at Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh, Hampshire.
- * **2019:** It was hoped that a Branch in the North of England would volunteer.
- * **2020:** Continuing its decennial traditional, Suffolk Branch had volunteered for 2020.
- * **2021:** It was possible that Scottish Branches would be able to host the 2021 Festival since that was a year in which no Scottish Festival was planned.

8. Any other business

8.1 80th anniversary vouchers: To mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1937, the Committee had decided to give each Branch a voucher worth £80 to be used for purchases from Recorder MusicMail, which advertised itself as offering “the largest and finest collection of recorder music available in the UK and probably the world!”. The vouchers were valid until 30th June 2018 and included a Branch-specific code to be quoted when they were used. Vouchers were issued to and signed for by members of those Branches present at Conference or the Festival and would be posted to the Secretaries of those Branches not represented.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed Conference at 11.10am.

The Society’s next Conference will be at Barton Peveril Sixth Form College, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire PO50 5ZA, on Sunday 15th April 2018.

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