



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2009

SECRETARY

This is my first report after a full year in the job. I am grateful for the help and advice given to me by other Committee members and in particular by the Chairman and Alistair Read, my predecessor.

My principal bread and butter occupation is to issue approval letters for members of the Panel of Visiting Conductors to visit Branches. I am pleased to tell you 47 requests from Branches to avail themselves of this facility were received since last Conference. In the past such visits were described as pastoral, in the sense of providing guidance to the Branch, but as far as I can tell this objective has fallen by the wayside. However, during the last 12 months it was suggested that Branches use the opportunity of submitting a claim for the conductor's expenses as an opportunity to comment, if they wished, on the conductor. In a similar vein, some visiting conductors have expressed the view that they would appreciate being able to rely on a certain standard of hospitality from Branches during their visit. Those of you who deal with such things will have noticed therefore that changes have been made in the text of the approval letter.

I would like to take this opportunity too to remind Branches, and affiliated orchestras, that instruments owned by them, but not personal instruments, can be covered by insurance that the Society has arranged centrally. Please let me know if you wish to take advantage of this cover.

May I also make a plea for those very few Branch Secretaries that do not yet use email to seriously consider doing so. It makes my job much easier and, as the postal service diminishes in many areas, I can provide you with a better and faster service. It is also cheaper for the Society.

Finally, I would like to mention a very pleasing recent development and that is the creation of two new Branches of the Society, subject to ratification by Conference. One is based in Lechlade (the South Cotswold Branch) and the other in Hullavington between Swindon and Bristol. I wish them well and hope that they will grow and prosper.

Bob Whitmarsh

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I received almost all Branch subscriptions and membership lists on time. Since some subscriptions were sent to the Treasurer, I would like to remind Branch Treasurers that they should send cheques for subscriptions to the Membership Secretary.

We welcome two new branches, South Cotswold (SCO) and Hullavington (HLV), subject to ratification by Conference.

Analysis of Membership Grid 2008-2009

| Membership | 51 Branches | Number of Members |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Same | 8 | |
| Increased | 17 | 55 |
| Decreased | 25 | -77 |
| Lapsed branch | 0 | 0 |
| New branch (SCO) | 1 | 12 |
| Overall difference | | - 10 |

Sadly there have been fourteen deaths since the last conference.

Judy Bailey – Cambridge
 Elizabeth Beauchamp – Lincolnshire
 Dorothy Brown - Cheltenham & Gloucester
 Maurice Cunnington – Suffolk
 Reg Evans – Peterborough
 Arthur Humphrey – Cheltenham & Gloucester
 Judy Hyde – Birmingham
 Olga McCann - West Riding
 Fred Mitchell – Isle of Man
 Flora Pitt – Durham
 E. Price – Birmingham
 Rita Roberts – Mid Herts
 Irene Smith – South London
 Ella Washington – Kent

Margaret Shearing

SRP NEWS EDITOR

It is a problem, and I don't have a solution, how to achieve a constant flow of Branch reports for SRP News. Three reports were received for the Winter issue, and sixteen for Spring. Six of these had to be held over until the Summer issue, and those which were published in Spring had to be edited to fit the space available. For the Summer issue only five new reports were received, so had it not been for those held over from Spring, it would have been a thin issue.

Most Branches manage to submit at least one report per year; however, there are five branches which have not contributed for more than five years, one of which is approaching the tenth anniversary of its last appearance in SRP News!

This year the reports of the Festival and Conference will be in the Autumn edition.

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from March 2008 for comparison)

| | Ordinary | Household | Student | Life | Total |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| UK | 83 | 18 | 53 | 6 | 160 (172) |
| Rest of Europe | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 (19) |
| Rest of World | 9 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 12 (11) |
| Totals | 107 (107) | 20 (27) | 55 (61) | 7 (7) | 189 (202) |

NYRO members, included in the above, total 51 (56), Corporate Members: 5 (5) and orchestras and affiliated groups: 14 (14).

Jim Rowley

WEB EDITOR

The Society's website continues to be used quite a lot, both by members and by others apparently seeking information about the Society or the recorder in general.

We have been indexed by the major search engines, so people often come to our site from them.

The map of Branch locations (which was originally created about 10 years ago) is now too crowded, and I have made a start on a new version which can be maintained by individual branches, but am in the process of informing them of how to do this. Progress so far can be seen at: <http://www.srp.org.uk/meetingplaces>.

I have tidied up some of the pages, but am keen to make further changes to make maintenance of the site easier. Unfortunately I have been busy with other things and haven't yet been able to get on with this.

I have re-written the code that runs the Branch music library listings, and these can now be maintained by those individual Branches that choose to do so.

Ashley Allerton

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Table of Workshops

| Date | Course | Tutor | Branch | Organiser |
|------------|----------------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| Feb 2003 | Intm. Conduct. | MU | Edinburgh | A Short |
| Nov 2004 | Intm. Conduct. | MU | Bristol | S. Davies |
| Sept 2005 | Intm. Conduct. | MU | Wessex | R. Whitmarsh |
| Jan 2006 | Intm. Conduct. | CT | Edinburgh | A Short |
| June 2006 | Technique | HH | Bristol | S. Davies |
| March 2007 | Technique | HH | Essex | S. Walker |
| Nov 2007 | Theory | MU | Suffolk | M. Usher |
| Sept 2008 | Technique | HH | Leicester | B. Craven |
| May 2009 | Technique | ES | Lincoln | D. Knight |
| June 2009 | Unbarred | ES | Cambridge | J. Sinclair |
| Sept 2009 | Technique | HH | Wessex | M. Steele |

Since the article promoting the workshops appeared in the main body of The Recorder Magazine, I have had five email enquiries, two of which I am hopeful will result in the organising of a workshop.

Three workshops are already booked this year, which is the most there has ever been in one year. I do hope that others will take the opportunity to organise a day of learning with some of our best tutors at an affordable rate - currently a mere £10 per person for a day's tuition.

M Usher

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2008

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2007-08 and a forecast of the figures for 2008-2009.

| INCOME | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions | 25,200.15 | 25,200 |
| Kent Festival 2008 Surplus | 638.01 | |
| Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus | 10.20 | |
| IR gift aid (allocated to AIF) | 0 | {3,820} |
| Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received) | 1,446.33 | 900 |
| Royalties | | 20 |
| Total | 27,294.69 | 26,120 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Magazine | 12,358.00 | 12,500 |
| Annual Conference | 3,504.50 | 4,000 |
| Conductors Visits | 2,917.32 | 3,600 |
| Committee Expenses | 1,891.08 | 2,500 |
| Printing, Stationery & Membership List | 271.28 | 650 |
| Phones & Postages | 346.13 | 500 |
| Publicity | 200.00 | 350 |
| Ex-gratia payments to York, and WBF | 535.40 | 400 |
| Ex-gratia payments to Edinburgh– Scottish Festival 2007, WBF | 66.66 | 10 |
| Competition (contents of account allocated to AI fund) | 915.79 | 0 |
| Subscription to Making Music | 399.87 | 390 |
| Audit | 150.00 | 190 |
| Internet Presence | 47.00 | 57 |
| Liability Insurance | 1,105.00 | 1,105 |
| Employers Liability Insurance | 162.50 | 135 |
| Trustee Insurance | 215.25 | 267 |
| Miscellaneous | 17.99 | 25 |
| Total | 25,103.77 | 26,679 |

The surplus for the year was £2,191 leaving the fund at £26,913 on the 31st August.

Subscription income rose by £1,622 compared with 2006/07. The cost of the Annual Conference was down by almost £200, the cost of conductors' visits down by almost £317 as some visits did not take place due to illness. However, these may be added to the present financial year. Committee expenses were down by £146. Also, presumably due to lower membership numbers, the cost of the Magazine was down by £378. The competition has now been placed into the Arthur Ingram Fund, so the balance left in the competition account at the end of the year has been transferred into the AI fund and the separate competition account closed. – The increase in mileage we agreed last conference is likely to add around a sixth to pastoral visitors, committee and conference costs in the current year.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £1,533 in donations, and £2,492 share of bank interest, £301 share of the 2007 SRP festival surpluses. It made grants totalling £5,204 and awarded the Philip Cole Prize of £300 at the Moeck Competition. The year's loss was £1,178 leaving its fund at £41,345.

The Arthur Ingram Fund received £9,516 share of bank interest and £1,000 from Anne Blackman's legacy. In addition the balance held in the competition account were added to its funds. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,000), a contribution of £5,000 towards the purchase of bass instruments for NYRO (to be used by SRP during the rest of the year), the competition including prizes (£1,658), commission of a piece of music by Gavin Bryars (£581, with the remainder falling into the present financial year) and a workshop (£106). The overall fund amounts to £178,616, down by £1,912. – Gift aid for 2006/7 was difficult to work out as some branches had paid old, others the increased subs; but an amount of £3,820 has now been received and added to the fund in the current financial year.

Although the year's surplus looks healthy I predict a loss of about £570 for the current financial year as income from bank interest will be considerably less due to falling interest rates; on the other hand costs for travel expenses will rise by about one sixth and add to the cost of Conference, committee and pastoral visitors. The price of the Magazine will remain stable for the current financial year but will go up 10p from September as the cost of paper has risen sharply due to unfavourable exchange rates. If interest rates stay at the present level the income from bank interest will be considerably lower again in 2009/10 than in the current year, quite possibly as low as £500.

In order to prevent a large increase of subscriptions next year I again propose a modest increase of 50p person. This means the rates would rise to £18.50 per full member, £28.50 per household membership and £14.00 for students; last year I indicated that a further rise of £1 may be necessary this year but in view of rising costs everywhere and this year's surplus I would prefer to keep the increase as low as possible.

I received most branch accounts by 30th November and almost all on the official return form, which made my task of collating them a lot easier. So, thanks to branch treasurers. Branches should aim to hold reserves equal to a year's expenditure in their accounts. – When compiling my report for the committee meeting in February some late payments of branch subscriptions made the forecast for the current financial year quite difficult and I had to amend my original report. I would really appreciate if the bulk of branch subs could be in by the end of November or at least in December.

I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts.

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

The NYRO website at www.nyro.org.uk has been re-launched in a new format with up-to-date information and historical records, photographs and full details of all CDs and newsletters.

The 2008 NYRO summer course was in Abbots Bromley School, Staffordshire from the 27th July to the 2nd August followed by the concert at The Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire in the afternoon of Saturday 2nd August. There were 50 players (15 boys and 35 girls), 37 in NYRO and 13 in NYTRO (training orchestra). Colin Touchin as Musical Director conducted NYRO and the combined orchestra; Eileen Silcocks conducted NYTRO. BlockWork, the élite one-to-a-part chamber orchestra of 13 players, was directed by Ross Winters. Ross, Helen Hooker and Chris Orton returned as tutors and Janet Forbes was assistant tutor. This was the first opportunity to use the new contrabass and great bass instruments bought with the support of the Arthur Ingram Fund; these were supplemented by the usual loaned instruments and contributed to a fine overall sound. The concert in Birmingham was well reviewed in *The Recorder Magazine* and is now available on a double CD. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. The cost to participants was £420. Some were assisted by the Society's Walter Bergmann Fund.

There was a playing day at James Allen's Girls' School, London on 4th May 2008 and another at the Priory School, Birmingham, on the 19th October 2008 directed by Colin and Ross.

In July 2008 BlockWork entered the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham, playing *Tryptich* by Paul Richards directed by Ross, and achieved a Highly Commended Award.

In 2007-2008 income was £33,240 and there was an operating deficit of £1722, owing to a reduced number of participants compared to the previous year. In addition £1504 was spent from accumulated surpluses to buy the large bass instruments, supplementing £5000 from the Arthur Ingram Fund.

At the time of writing the 2009 spring (not auditioned) course, tutored by Colin and Ross, is planned for Rugby School, Warwickshire, from the 14th to 18th of April with 26 players (19 girls and 7 boys).

The 2009 summer course with the same music tutors (but no assistant tutor) will be at Oundle School, Peterborough, from 26th July to 1st August. There are 47 applications, another slight reduction compared to the previous year, of which 13 are new. The concert will be in the West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, at 2.30pm on Saturday the 1st of August. For 2010 locations in the Manchester area are being investigated.

3 contrabasses in F and 3 great basses in C are available for loan to other orchestras from September 2009 until June 2010. Applications should be received by Naomi Winterburn, NYRO Administrator nyro@srp.org.uk by 1 June 2009. A contribution towards insurance and maintenance of £100 per instrument is requested.

Another deficit is expected for 2008-2009 because of declining participation and increased costs of school accommodation. A major problem has been that the course fees have to be set before the accommodation costs are fully known. The peripatetic summer course regularly has difficulty in finding an available school; other similar organisations normally return to the same place each year. Steps are being taken to reduce costs immediately (hence no assistant tutor) and to try to increase participation in future years.

Thanks are due to Colin, Naomi, all music staff, Rosemary Byde (Treasurer), Frances Dodd (Matron), external subcommittee members, Dianne Charles and Jean Murray, voluntary house staff, helpers and supporters.

Andrew Short

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

The committee received eleven applications to consider at its Summer meeting. We assisted three participants to attend the Woodhouse Recorder Week and an applicant to purchase a new recorder. We also supported a Recorder event at the Finchcocks Museum, involving young players, held in September. The other applicants were not considered suitable as many had received financial help from us on more than one occasion in previous years.

In November 2008 we assisted five out of the seven applicants. The applications ranged from the purchase of recorders to prize money for a festival and to help fund a playing day/workshop for young players in Stoke. The Philip Cole Bursary 2009 has been awarded to Coventry Recorder Academy to sponsor a playing day/workshop to celebrate their diamond anniversary.

We sponsored a recorder event in Worcestershire which included workshops/recital by Chris Orton.

We are giving £250 as third prize in the Moeck/SRP Recorder Competition 2009.

All sizes of donation are being received via the sale of music, recorders or from collections in memory of former SRP members.

An advertisement has been placed in the 2009 Festival brochure.

Andrew Collis

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

The Winner's recital took place on 16 November 2008 at the Early Music Exhibition and was a great success with about 160 in the audience. The post-concert reception, to which the performers, previous winners/finalists/adjudicators and members of the SRP Committee/Early Music Shop/Moeck were invited, proved to be a popular event and will be repeated after future winner's recitals. An article about the winner, Chris Orton, was published in the Autumn issue of The Recorder Magazine and a review of the recital appeared in the Spring 2009 issue.

The 2009 competition will be held in November at the Early Music Exhibition. Adjudicators will be Maurice Steger, Julien Feltrin and Jane Chapman. Prize money will be :1st prize: Winners Recital + £500 2nd prize: £400 and 3rd prize: £250. Details and application forms can be found on the SRP, Early Music Shop and Moeck websites. The deadline is March 2009 when applicants have to send in their recordings, including a set work on their CD, to be adjudicated; finalists will have to include a set work in their programmes. I have had enquiries and all the information can be downloaded from various websites, principally www.srp.org.uk (click on Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Competition). Flyers have been sent out to conservatoires/colleges/music schools both here and worldwide and an advertisement was placed in the latest issue of The Recorder Magazine.

Andrew Collis