



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2010

SECRETARY

Since the last Conference I have authorised the attendance of 40 visiting conductors to Branches. Currently 41 visits are planned for, or have taken place during, 2009-2010 but since we currently have 52 Branches in the Society, excluding the Country & Overseas Branch, this suggests that some Branches are not taking advantage of the opportunity to invite a visiting conductor which is one of the benefits of them being in the Society. I urge them to contact me if they need further information.

May I 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, although last year the Society gained two Branches, it does happen that from time to time a Branch struggles to maintain viability possibly because of a lack of players in its immediate vicinity or for other reasons. It is therefore with regret that I announce that the Northampton Branch has told me that they will be unable to continue after the end of August this year.

Bob Whitmarsh

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Over 500 e-mails, nearly 400 changes to *The Recorder Magazine* mailing list, about 100 cheques, over 50 Branch membership lists and updates, and dozens of telephone calls – all to be logged, checked and processed. These are the basic statistics for a year's tenure of the post of Membership Secretary. I again thank Branch Secretaries, Treasurers and others for all their work in collecting subscriptions and helping to keep the membership records up to date. The task of transferring current membership records to a Microsoft Access database is nearly complete. During May and June I will be sending each Branch a copy of its entries for checking and as the starting point for 2010-11 returns.

Membership data : To date 1,281 people in 52 geographical Branches have paid £22,949 in subscriptions for 2009-10: 1,128 individuals, 63 households covering 132 people, and 21 students. This compares with a total of 1,297 for 51 Branches in 2008-09. So the 2009-10 figures show a fall of 16, or 1.2%, compared with 2008-09. The longer term trends in membership, for the geographical Branches and with COS and NYRO, since 1987 are shown in the grid and chart which are being circulated separately. Membership of the geographical Branches peaked at 1,481 in 1996-97 and has since fallen by an average of 1.1% per year.

The Recorder Magazine : Following discussions with Jeremy Burbidge of Peacock Press, I have reviewed arrangements for issuing *The Recorder Magazine* to anyone who joins the Society or renews their membership after November in any SRP year (September to August). The aims are to link membership and Magazine subscription periods, enable most new members to start their subscription with the Winter issue in the year they join, and simplify record keeping. In the past, members joining after November were just sent the next 4 issues. In future, anyone joining for a specified membership year (e.g. 2010-11) will be entitled to receive the 4 issues of the Magazine linked to that year (e.g. those dated Winter 2010, Spring 2011, Summer 2011 and Autumn 2011). If they join or rejoin after the end of November, when the mailing list for the Winter issue is finalised, they will be sent the Winter issue and any others they may have missed soon after they join or rejoin, and thereafter future issues when published. Any member who has not rejoined by the end of November will be suspended from the Magazine mailing list, but reinstated if and when they do rejoin, and then sent any issues they have missed. These arrangements will benefit new members who join in the first 3 months of the membership year and will not affect members who rejoin in that period – these categories together covering nearly 80% of members in 2009-10. The arrangements are on trial in the first instance and I would welcome any comments that members may have about them.

Branch music libraries : I have taken over the role of updating the information about Branch music libraries that can be consulted on the SRP website. The aim of this project is to facilitate inter-Branch loans. I will be contacting the 8 Branches with items already listed (Aberdeen, Cornwall, Devon, Edinburgh, Manchester, Suffolk, Wessex and West Riding) to check that their entries remain up to date. If other Branches have catalogued or are cataloguing their music libraries and wish to join this project, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Mike Wilkinson

SRP NEWS EDITOR

Last year I reported that the flow of contributions from Branches was uneven, resulting in some thin issues and others where I could not fit everything in. Since writing to Branches the problem has eased: during the past year around 10 items per issue have been received, and there has been space more often for photographs.

During the past year 28 Branches have submitted items. As ever I would welcome contributions from Branches which have not contributed for a while – 6 have not reported for more than 5 years.

I have not been aware of any production problems with the Magazine in the past year.

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from April 2009 for comparison)

| | Ordinary | Household | Student | Life | Total |
|----------------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| UK | 72 | 10 | 43 | 7 | 132 (160) |
| Rest of Europe | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 (17) |
| Rest of World | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 (12) |
| Totals | 93 (107) | 12 (20) | 43 (55) | 8 (7) | 156 (189) |

NYRO members, included in the above, 41 (51)

Corporate Members: 4 (5)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 15 (14)

Sandra Foxall

WEB EDITOR

The Website continues to be used quite a lot (180 – 200 visits per day), 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. In fact, lots of people come to the site from search engines.

I have changed the format of some of the Branch pages, which I hope is more attractive and accessible, and am gradually rolling this out to more Branches as I find time.

Ashley Allerton

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Below is a table of all the workshops since the training scheme started. There are a couple more that are in the planning stage but not yet booked - as far as I know! I am pleased to report that Marion Doherty has agreed to have her name added as a conducting tutor. I am more than happy to add topics to the list if there is a demand from Branches - just contact me and I will try to find a tutor.

All workshops have an outline "syllabus", so you should know what will be covered, and must be open to anyone who wishes to attend, not just your Branch members. Attendees do not have to be members of the SRP. Anyone can organise a workshop, it doesn't have to be a Branch official. Once you have a date, venue and tutor, you must post details on the training section of the SRP website and send out fliers to neighbouring Branches. There is a set attendance fee (currently £10 for members, £12 for non-members) from which you take your expenses. The tutor's fees and expenses are paid for by central SRP funds. Minimum and maximum numbers are at the discretion of the tutor.

Topics currently on offer are :

Theory, conducting (beginner and intermediate), general baroque ornamentation, French baroque ornamentation, unbarred music, recorder technique, jazz and swing-style.

Table of courses

| 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 | Winchester | 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 |
| June 2010 | Intm. Conduct | MD | Edinburgh | M. Cooney |
| June 2010 | French Baroque | ES | Devon | P. Fitzpatrick |
| Nov 2010 | Unbarred | ES | Kent | U. Burchette |

Moira Usher

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2009

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2008-9 and a forecast of the figures for 2009-10.

| INCOME | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions | 25,593.02 | 25,540 |
| 2009 Festival Surplus | 0.00 | |
| Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus | 0.00 | |
| IR gift aid (allocated to AIF) | 0 | |
| Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received) | 910.15 | 150 |
| Royalties | 20.01 | 53 |
| Music Sale | | 500 |
| Total | 26,523.18 | 26,243 |
| | | |

| EXPENDITURE | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| Magazine | 12,358.50 | 13,000 |
| Annual Conference | 5,025.47 | 4,500 |
| Conductors Visits | 3,082.06 | 3,600 |
| Committee Expenses | 2,422.56 | 2,500 |
| Printing, Stationery & Membership List | 610.26 | 350 |
| Phones & Postages | 183.51 | 250 |
| Publicity | 154.00 | 160 |
| Ex-gratia payments to Kent Branches, Dunorlan & WBF (2008 F) | 398.70 | 0 |
| Ex-gratia payments to Glasgow– Scottish Festival 2008 | 10.20 | 0 |
| Subscription to Making Music | 389.20 | 400 |
| Audit | 190.00 | 150 |
| Internet Presence | 56.99 | 50 |
| Sheet Music Insurance | | 175 |
| Liability Insurance | 1,105.00 | 1,105 |
| Employers Liability Insurance | 135.08 | |
| Trustee Insurance | 267.00 | |
| Miscellaneous (Sheet music) | 300.00 | 25 |
| Total | 25,103.77 | 26,265 |

The deficit for the year was £192.35 leaving the fund at £26,720.44 on 31st August.

Subscription income rose by almost £400 compared to 2007/08, but income from bank interest has declined (down by 30% or £535). We received royalties from Forsyth covering 3 years (£20). As predicted the 5p increase in mileage rate has had an effect on the cost of conference, committee and conductors' visits: the cost of the Annual Conference was up by about £1,520, the cost of conductors' visits up by £165, committee expenses were up by £530. The cost of The Recorder Magazine remained the same. All other expenditure remained fairly stable, the higher expenditure on printing is due to the cost of the biennial membership lists. Expenditure for phones and postage has gone down by about £150. The deficit was due to the purchase of second-hand sheet music, the cost of which has now been recovered and even brought in a slight profit.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £1,612 in donations, and £1,568 share of bank interest, £199 share of the 2008 SRP festival surplus and £129 in Inland Revenue Gift Aid. It made grants totalling £4,290; it had £30 operating cost. The year's loss was £812 leaving its fund at £40,533.

The Arthur Ingram Fund received £5,988 share of bank interest and £7,931 in Inland Revenue Gift Aid (this is for 2006/7 and 2007/8). Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,000), the competition recital (£260), the remaining cost of the commissioned piece of music by Gavin Bryars (£575) and workshops (£318). The overall fund amounts to £185,383, up by £6,767.

The falling income from low interest rates is a matter of concern as in the past income from bank interest has bolstered the income of the central fund, has been a major source of income for the Walter Bergmann Fund and the main source for the Arthur Ingram Fund. The cost per copy of the Magazine has gone up 15p per copy from September 2009, an increase of 7.38% (to £2.20 per copy), or £912 for the year.

Although at present it looks as though the current year may finish more or less even, I again propose a modest increase of 50p per Society membership subscription in order to prevent a larger increase in subscriptions next year. This means the rates would rise to £19 per full member, £29.00 per household membership and £14.50 for students.

I would very much appreciate it if I could receive Branch accounts by the middle of October; last year some Branches simply forgot to send them to me once they had dealt with them. Collating the Branch accounts takes up a lot of time; the auditor, my family and myself would very much appreciate the earlier deadline so as not to have to spend Christmas over accounts. NYRO accounts came in extremely late this time; I would really like to receive them no later than 31st October.

I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts, and Dick Pyper for his work in claiming gift aid from the Inland Revenue.

This concludes my report.

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

The NYRO website at www.nyro.org.uk shows up-to-date information and historical records, photographs and full details of all CDs and newsletters.

The 2009 NYRO summer course was in Oundle School, Peterborough, from 26th July to 1st August, followed by the concert in The West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge in the afternoon of Saturday 1st August. There were 41 players (7 boys and 34 girls), 28 in NYRO and 13 in NYTRO (training orchestra). 11 of the NYTRO players were in BlockWork (the elite chamber orchestra). Colin Touchin as Musical Director conducted NYRO and the combined orchestra; Eileen Silcocks conducted NYTRO and also the combined orchestra. BlockWork was directed by Ross Winters. Ross, Helen Hooker and Chris Orton returned as tutors. The contrabass and great bass instruments bought with the support of the Arthur Ingram Fund and others previously donated by Jeanette Hipsey were supplemented by the usual loaned instruments and contributed to a fine overall sound. The concert in Cambridge was well reviewed in *The Recorder Magazine* and is now available on CD. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. The cost to participants was £430. Some were assisted by the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund.

There was a playing day at the Priory School, Birmingham, on 18th October 2009 directed by Colin and Ross with 20 players attending. Another playing day will be at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire on Sunday 30th May 2010.

In 2008-2009 income was £29,002 and there was a deficit of £2,607, owing to a reduced number of participants compared to previous years.

The 2010 spring (not auditioned) course, tutored by Colin and Ross, was at Rugby School, Warwickshire, from 6th to 10th April with 19 players (13 girls and 6 boys).

The 2010 summer course with the same music tutors will be at Rossall School, Lancashire, from 25th to 31st July. So far 31 applications have been received; late auditions will be in London on 13th June. The concert will be in the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, at 2.30 pm on Saturday 31st July.

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

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

Andrew Short

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

The Sub-Committee received fifteen applications since the last report to Conference and we were able to assist seven. We advised some candidates to apply at a later date as they had benefited from us in the recent past and some needed more advice on the purchase of instruments. Others were not able to offer sufficient financial details for us to make a decision. We have raised the maximum amount awarded to £600. The contra and great basses we had were serviced and given to NYRO after they agreed a £1000 donation to the fund.

We gave £250 as Third Prize in the Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Competition 2009.

We are expecting a large number of applicants in the coming months as the Woodhouse Recorder Week and NYRO benefit from our financial assistance.

Andrew Collis

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

Ten entries were received for the 2009 competition all from continental European countries or conservatoires. The judges selected three finalists: Pernille Petersen (Denmark), Leonard Kwon (Korea) and Per Gross (Sweden). The finals in November were a great success with an extremely high standard of performance from the three finalists. There was a good audience and enthusiastic response to the hard work of the performers. The finalists played a 40 minute programme including the set work Telemann's C minor Fantasia. The adjudicators worked well together and had a difficult decision to separate the top two places. Pernille Petersen was chosen as the winner and will return in November to perform a recital at the Early Music Exhibition, Greenwich.

Work on the 2011 competition is already underway with a list of possible adjudicators put forward and prize money/sponsorship being looked at.

Andrew Collis