



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2011

SECRETARY

Since the last Conference I have authorised the attendance of 37 visiting conductors to Branches and currently 34 visits are planned for 2010-2011. These numbers are down on last year and since we currently have 51 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. Some Branches seem to be unaware that, although the Society will cover the travel and subsistence costs of approved visiting conductors, it will not pay the fees that some conductors charge. I hope that the Foreword in the new edition of the Panel of Visiting Conductors List, to be available at Conference, will make clear what can and cannot be claimed from the Society.

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, email can provide you with a better and faster service. It is also cheaper for the Society.

As predicted at last year's Conference, the Northampton Branch was disbanded at the end of August 2010. I thank the former officers of this Branch for handing over their entire sheet music library to the neighbouring Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire Branch. This will ensure that the library continues to benefit members but also that the contents of the library will now be searchable via the Society's web site.

Finally, it is with great regret that I have to tell you Ashley Allerton, who was the Society's webmaster for 10 years, has had to relinquish this post for health reasons. He had the satisfaction of knowing that he managed to complete a major revision of the Society's web site which I strongly commend to you. I would personally like to thank Ashley for the excellent service that he provided me with by making changes and additions to the web site so promptly.

Bob Whitmarsh

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Nearly 900 e-mails, over 600 changes to the *Recorder Magazine* mailing list, about 100 cheques, over 50 Branch membership lists and updates, and dozens of telephone calls plus, this year, a new edition of the Membership List to produce - these are the basic statistics for another 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, and Jeremy Burbidge and his colleagues in Mytholmroyd for their patience and efficiency in dealing with amendments to *The Recorder Magazine* mailing list. The task of transferring membership records to computer in a standard format is now complete, and should make future maintenance of the records less onerous. I will be issuing guidance by September 2011 on producing membership returns for 2011/12.

Membership data : By 1st April 2011 1,299 people in 51 geographical Branches had paid £23,895.50 in subscriptions for 2010/11. This compares with a final total of 1,289 for 52 Branches in 2009/10. Further details are in the table below. So the 2010/11 figure shows a net increase of 10 (0.8%) on 2009/10 despite the resignation of Northampton Branch, which had 18 members. The longer term trends in membership for the geographical Branches and Country & Overseas Branch since 1987 are shown in the grid and chart which are being circulated separately.

	Branches (ex COS)	individual	household	student	total	subscriptions
2009/10	52	1,134	63 (132)	23	1,289	£23,096.50
2010/11	51	1,147	62 (131)	21	1,299	£23,895.50
change	-1	+1.1%	-1.6%		+0.8%	+3.5%

Membership List 2011 and Membership Cards : Copies of the 2011 Membership List and a new supply of Membership Cards for use in 2011/12 and 2012/13 should be available at Conference. I would be grateful if as many Branch representatives as possible could collect their copies, and sign to indicate that they have done so, to minimise the number of copies that have to be posted. Please note that the Membership List is for use by Society members only. Corrections and updates to the List should be sent to me at memsec@srp.org.uk.

Mike Wilkinson

SRP NEWS EDITOR

During the past year there has been a small decline in the number of branches contributing to each issue, and the number of contributions per issue. It was good to hear from one branch which had not sent a report for several years; there remain six branches which have kept quiet about their activities for more than five years. There has been only one contribution from a recorder orchestra.

A special feature was included in the Winter issue in celebration of Theo Wyatt's 90th birthday.

2012 will be the SRP's 70th birthday. I would be pleased to receive suggestions for any special features which might be included in the SRP News.

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from April 2010 for comparison)

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	64	7	43	6	120 (132)
Rest of Europe	11	1	0	0	12 (17)
Rest of World	5	0	0	1	6 (7)
Totals	80 (93)	8 (12)	43 (43)	7 (8)	138 (156)

NYRO members, included in the above, 42 (41)

Corporate Members: 5 (4).

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 17 (15).

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Workshops organised for SRP

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
May 2010	Intm. Conduct	MD	Edinburgh	M. Cooney
June 2010	French Baroque	ES	Devon	P. Fitzpatrick
Sept 2010	French Baroque	ES	Wessex	M. Steele
Nov 2010	Unbarred	ES	Kent	U. Burchette
April 2011	Technique	HH	Devon	P. Fitzpatrick
May 2011	Technique	ES	Wales	M. Hay
Sept 2011	Technique	HH	Bath	D. Nicholas
Sept 2011	Unbarred	ES	Exeter	P. Fitzpatrick
Oct/Nov 2011	Technique	HH	Suffolk	M. Usher

I am really pleased that interest in organising the workshops is increasing. All the feedback I have had so far is positive and we have therefore extended the range of workshops available. The following are new workshops which are being offered from now. All the previous favourites are still on offer.

Tudor/Stuart Dance

An opportunity to try the dances that you may have been playing, such as the Pavan, Galliard, Almain, Canaries, and Branles. There would be the possibility of playing for the dancing, but please discuss this with the tutors first. **Tutors – Chris and Jo Saunders**

Baroque Dance

We'll be looking at the character of all the main dances in the suite - Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Gigue, Gavotte, Minuet, Chaconne & Pasacaille. Not only will we play a little of each of these, we will learn the basic steps of some of them and watch on video a couple of super-star dancers. All music is provided - just bring a treble recorder and some soft-soled shoes. If you think you can't dance, just get involved in some rhythmic walking! **Tutor - Evelyn Nallen**

Gabrieli Canzonas

Gabrieli's two- and three-choir Canzonas are masterpieces of polychoral music full of light and shade, grandeur, dancing rhythms and singing melodies. During the course of the day, we will study, in depth, some of the finest of these. As well as conducting, Philip will give some historical and musical background to this fascinating repertoire. **Tutor - Philip Thorby**

Tudor Day - the English scene

A chance to play, sing and dance music from the 1500s following England's transition from a Catholic to a Protestant state, from Henry to Elizabeth. We will follow the strands of church music, madrigals and basic dance steps through the century

Moira Usher

TREASURER

A copy of the 2009/10 accounts should be received with this report. The Society accounts are divided into five different funds.

1. The **Central Fund** is the fund used for the every day running of the Society. The main income is the national subscriptions from members.
2. The **Walter Bergmann Fund** is a restricted fund and provides grants to young recorder players (up to age 30). Its main source of income is donations.
3. The **Arthur Ingram Fund**, received as a bequest about 10 years ago, is the main means by which the Society supports its charitable activities – training workshops, the Moeck competition, NYRO management and funding for compositions. The main income is gift aid from members subscriptions and bank interest.
4. The **Branch Accounts** is a consolidated fund from the individual branch accounts.
5. The **National Youth Recorder Orchestra** is a restricted fund and can only be used for the youth orchestra.

As national treasurer I look after the first three of these accounts but have to collect all the data for funds 4 and 5 to include in the Society's return to the Charity Commission. For this reason I always ask for early returns (by middle of October) – a lot of work has to be done once the data have been received.

The following table is a summary of the **Central Fund** accounts for the year 2009/10 and a forecast of the figures for 2010/11.

INCOME	2009-2010 (actual)	2010-2011 (forecast)
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	25,904.55	26,000
Festival 2010 Surplus	713.36	
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	506.53	
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)		{4,927}
Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received)	157.55	150
Royalties	53.15	20
Music Sale	534.00	
Total	27,869.14	26,170
EXPENDITURE		
Magazine	12,546.75	12,750
Annual Conference	4,691.05	4,500
Conductors Visits	3,522.80	3,600
Committee Expenses	2,139.45	2,900
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	238.18	600
Phones & Postages	186.50	200
Publicity	150.00	160
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches, and WBF	0	813
Subscription to Making Music	399.60	430
Audit	150.00	200
Internet Presence	46.00	57
Insurances	1,282.31	1,280
Miscellaneous	0	30
Total	25,352.64	27,520
Income less Expenditure	+2,516.50	-1,350

There was a surplus of £2,517 leaving the Central fund at £29,237 on the 31st August 2010. Subscription income rose by about £310 compared with 2008/9. The cost of the Annual Conference was £4,690; the cost of conductors' visits increased by £440; committee expenses were down by about £280. We also had a better deal on Insurance thereby saving about £220. Printing costs were low as we didn't issue a new membership list.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £2,060 in donations, £270 share of bank interest (18.52% of total), and £1,000 from the Arthur Ingram Fund for transferring two large bass instruments to NYRO. The Fund made grants totalling £3,635, spent £180 on repair of the transferred instruments, and provided £250 as the 3rd Prize at the SRP Moeck competition. The year's shortfall was £733 leaving its fund at £39,800 on 31st August 2010.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £1,037 share of bank interest (70.73% of total). Gift aid for 2008/9 had not been received during the accounting period but has now come in; about £4,600 will go into the Arthur Ingram Fund. The Fund's main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,550), an ex-gratia payment of £1,000 to the WBF for transfer of two large bass instruments to NYRO, commission of a composition for Recorder Ensemble by Jim Sutherland (£1,000), and support of festival music (£850) and workshops (£698). The cost of the competition was £1,527 and £650 was contributed to the prize money. We have now received £904 from Trinity College for the 2008 competition Winner's Recital. (Ticket sales at the most recent winner's recital were £1,120). The overall expenditure from the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £11,680, a loss of £10,680. The overall fund amounts to £174,742 on 31st August 2010.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of £1,350 for the central fund; printing costs will be fairly high due to the issue of a new membership list. 2009/10 produced a surplus due to profitable festivals; any surplus from festivals is unpredictable and I have not included any in the budget. If a surplus is produced in 2011 this will help fill the gap.

Low interest rates are a matter of concern as in the past income from bank interest bolstered the income of the central fund, was a major source of income for the Walter Bergmann Fund and the main source of income for the Arthur Ingram Fund. The cost per copy of the Magazine will go up 15p per copy from September 2011, an increase of 6.82% (to £2.35 per copy), or £856 for the year.

As in previous years I propose a modest increase in subscription rates: £1 per full member and households to bring it up to £20 for individuals and £30.00 per household membership (up by £1), and £15.00 for students (up by 50p).

I would very much appreciate it if I could receive all branch accounts by the middle of October and the NYRO accounts by 31st October. Collating the branch accounts takes up a lot of time as does the filling in of the Charity Commission Return. This year the accounts were only just ready in time for the February committee meeting.

Recent changes mean that the Society's income from Gift Aid has now been reduced from 28% to 25% of any gifted amount. Bearing in mind that the Society depends on donations to support its several charitable activities I would ask members, and even Branches, to consider making an occasional donation to the Society.

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

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

The redesigned NYRO website at www.nyro.org.uk includes online enrolments with payment and a shop currently stocking CDs, which is likely to expand to include other branded items. The first CD sale occurred within an hour of the announcement on Facebook. There are also a discussion forum and links to social networking sites Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Control of the content will be with us by the date of Conference and we expect to develop it regularly.

The 2010 NYRO summer course was in Rossall School, Lancashire, from 25th July to 31st July, followed by the concert in Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester in the afternoon of Saturday 31st July. There were 29 players, a disappointingly low number. We understand that other similar youth groups also declined in numbers, possibly in part because of the financial outlook. Our experience is that courses in the north have always recruited fewer students. Numbers were insufficient to have an orchestral conductor for NYTRO (training orchestra); instead the eight NYTRO players were directed by Chris Orton and Helen Hooker while 21 players were in NYRO. 12 members of NYRO were selected for BlockWork, the one-to-a-part chamber orchestra directed by Ross Winters. The remaining players from NYRO and NYTRO formed a new orchestra Sinfonia. Including the combined orchestra, there were five different ensembles rehearsing and performing. Two pieces included as soloists the tutors Helen Hooker, Chris Orton and Ross Winters; in addition Eileen Silcocks visited to take part. NYRO, Sinfonia and the combined orchestra were conducted by Colin Touchin, the Musical Director. The CD is available at the Festival and can also be bought through the website. The 2011 Easter course (not auditioned) in Rugby is from 12th April to 16th of April, partly coincident with the Festival.

Since the concert there have been Playing Days in Oxford (twice), Birmingham (twice), Bristol, London and Manchester. Others are scheduled for London, Manchester and Edinburgh in May and June. These are open both to young players and recorder teachers; feedback has been excellent from both and a number of the players have enrolled for the residential courses.

The 2011 summer course, with the same tutors as in 2010, will be at Epsom College, Surrey from 24th July to 30th July, with the concert on the 30th in the school concert hall. After 10 years of moving around the country we now plan to settle in one or two permanent locations in the South or Midlands. In 2012 the summer course will be in Rugby to avoid the Olympic season.

In 2009-2010 the lower recruitment resulted in a deficit that consumed most of the accumulated reserve. The SRP Committee has provided a loan to pay the deposit to Epsom College.

Three contrabasses in F and three great basses in C are available for loan to other orchestras from August 2011 until July 2012. Applications should be received by Dianne Charles, NYRO Administrator (nyro@srp.org.uk) by 1st June 2011. A contribution towards insurance and maintenance of £100 per instrument is requested.

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

Andrew Short, Chairman NYRO Sub-Committee

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

The Sub-Committee considered twenty applications in 2010. Of these eight were for the Woodhouse Recorder week. Most of these had gained bursaries from Woodhouse so we assisted two of them. We assisted one applicant to attend the NYRO Course. We assisted two in their fees to attend recorder lessons/classes at the Centre for Young Musicians in London. We were also able to assist four applicants in the purchase of recorders. Other applicants asked for assistance to attend Junior Music Schools and courses abroad and to make CD recordings which we felt we could not support due to the total cost of these enterprises.

We had three applications in February 2011 and assisted one applicant with funding to attend the Centre for Young Musicians.

The Fund is giving £300 as third prize in the Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Competition 2011.

The Sub-Committee is sending out flyers to all Music Services in the UK and will have flyers available at the SRP Festival in April 2011.

We have amended the application form to be more specific about the deadlines for applications and are putting together a guide for referees to describe what we are looking for in applicants.

Andrew Collis

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

We had a hugely successful Winners Recital in November with a sizeable audience. Pernille and her ensemble gave a great performance and the reception afterwards was a success.

The 2011 competition is in hand with the adjudicators being Matthias Maute, Emma Murphy and Ibi Aziz. Prize money has been increased this year, to try to fall more in line with other major competitions, to £600 First, £400 Second and £300 Third. The set piece for the first round is Big Baboon by Paul Leenhouts and the set piece for the finals will be Fantasia no.8 in G minor by Telemann.

Nearly 20 entries were received by the deadline of 31st March 2011. The finalists will be announced in May/June.

Andrew Collis