



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2012

CHAIRMAN

After 5 years as the Society's Chairman it seems rather strange to be providing a Report to Conference. This will be the first and last time that I will do so. My successor has asked that I should give you this report and I have willingly agreed to do so. You will have to forgive me if I look back over rather more than the last twelve months, and maybe touch on a few questions that the new Committee may wish to consider in the next few months and years.

I was asked to take on the job 5 years ago. I would suggest that this period is about as long as anyone should carry this office. Edgar Hunt was chairman for 25 years. I do not know how he did it and live to tell the tale. Over the last 5 years growth, such as it is, has been incremental rather than dramatic. Apart from the normal Branch activities the Society offers excellent resources for members which were, and remain, underused.

Moira Usher has put together an excellent programme of Workshops covering topics such as playing unbarred music to conducting. The Society is prepared to meet substantial parts of the costs, but this resource remains underused. All that is required is for someone at a Branch to take on the organisation of each individual workshop. It should be remembered that Workshops are available both to members and non-members alike.

The Society supports NYRO, a venture which has developed very well in its ten years. It seems extraordinary that this is the first Festival at which some of its members have made an appearance. I am most grateful for the time and effort these players have made to be with us and to play for us. In mentioning NYRO the Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Colin Touchin who approached my predecessor, Andrew Short, and together they have developed the orchestras and the way they play. Compare one of the early CD's with one of the more recent offerings, and listen to what has been achieved. It does behove us, the ordinary members of the Society, to support NYRO even if this is only by attending one of the Concerts at the end of a course or even joining one of their Taster Days. Colin Touchin will be standing down as Musical Director and I would like to thank him for his support and enthusiasm over these past 10 years.

The Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Playing Competition is held biannually. The Society should feel immense pride that it is co-sponsor of such a major international competition. There is a separate Report about the Competition. Following Andrew Collis' resignation the Society is seeking a replacement. However I would urge any members within reach of Greenwich to attend the recital to be given later this year by the most recent winner (Eva Fegers). As soon as the date and times have been established all branches will be notified.

The Treasurer's Report will follow in a few moments and I do not want to tread on any issues that she may wish to raise. All I can say is that she has very successfully kept our finances on a proper footing and ensured that funds have been protected and used effectively. By keeping the national subscriptions at the levels they currently are I believe that the Society is providing its members with quite incredible value for money. Our main objective is to provide members, who are mainly in the geographical Branches, opportunities to meet fellow recorder players and to make music. It is my fervent hope that in so doing we are raising the standards of playing. It is the usual old adage that it is more fulfilling to do something well, and that there is much enjoyment in feeling that progress is being made however limited that may be.

A major part of the national subscription goes towards producing The Recorder Magazine. It keeps us all informed about what is going on in the Society and in the wider recorder world. It must also be remembered that the magazine is the prime means of communication with all those members who do not, for whatever reason, belong to a geographical Branch.

Over the last 12 months a review has been instigated as to where the SRP and the recorder in the UK will be in 10 years time. This, as far as I am aware, is the first time that the Society has attempted to look so far forward. Those who have prepared the Report, Enid Homes, Steve Marshall, Tessa Rolph and Naomi Wellings, are to be both thanked and congratulated on producing such a challenging document. It has only been available in the last two or three weeks, and has just reached the Committee. It will be discussed, I hope, at the Committee meeting which will follow this Conference. I really do commend the Report to every member of the Society. It should have the widest possible distribution, not just throughout the Society, but elsewhere where the recorder is played and taught. I would not expect that everyone will agree with all its contents, but the recommendations, and there are over 80 of them, need to be thought about, discussed, argued over and implemented if possible and practical. If this Report does not become a major working document to enable the Society to review and make policy decisions over the next few years, I would be very disappointed indeed. I would hope that somewhere around 2018 the then Committee will decide on a major review of progress, but that is for another day.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the current Committee for their support over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank all those who have been members of the Committee and Officers who have provided such loyal and enthusiastic support over the last 5 years. I wish the Society every good wish in the years ahead. It will be good to watch from the sidelines, although I have been asked to continue to look after Gift Aid and the Society's insurances in the future, and I am delighted so to do.

SECRETARY

Since the last Conference I have authorised the attendance of 38 visiting conductors to Branches and currently 40 visits will take place 2011-2012. These numbers are slightly up on last year. 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 still 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. The Foreword in the latest edition of the Panel of Visiting Conductors List makes clear what can and cannot be claimed from the Society.

In 2012-2013 the Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary. I would like to mention here the very generous offer of a £150 award by the Society to each branch arranging a playing day in 2012 or 2013. Ideally such playing days should be arranged in conjunction, at least in part, with a NYRO Taster Day but obviously that depends on the branch location. So far only seven branches have informed me that they plan to claim the award. Another way that the Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary is in a special summer issue of The Recorder Magazine. This issue will contain some birthday music, and photos and articles which look back over recent decades and even further. I thank the Editor for agreeing to make space for this special issue.

I am delighted to note that all 52 branch secretaries can now be reached by email. This makes the Secretary's job easier and obviously saves the Society the cost of postage.

I would like to thank Anthony Hall, the web editor, for providing an excellent service with maintaining and updating the Society's web pages. He was a great help in designing and putting together a series of pages commemorating the Society's 75th anniversary year. As well as biographies of the four principal Musical Directors in the early days there are also some pages with chronological information about the first few decades of the Society.

I shall not be standing for re-election at Conference 2013. After over 5 years in the job I think that it will be time for a change.

Bob Whitmarsh

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership data : By 1st April 2012, 1,271 people in the 51 geographical Branches had paid £24,535.00 in subscriptions for 2011/12. This compares with a final membership total of 1,303 for the same number of Branches for 2010/11. So the 2011/12 membership to date shows a net decrease of 32 (2.5%) on 2010/11, the net change being the result of about 182 leavers (14% of the membership) and 150 joiners.

	Branches (ex COS)	individual	household	student	total	subscriptions
2010/11 final	51	1,151	62 (131)	21	1,303	£23,971.50
2011/12 to 1/4/12	51	1,109	65 (135)	27	1,271	£24,535.00
change	0	-3.6%	+3.1%	+29%	-2.5%	+2.4%

Detailed data on membership of the geographical Branches and the Country & Overseas Branch since 1975 are in the grid and chart which are being circulated separately. A graph showing membership trends since the formation of the Society in 1937 can be seen on the 75th Anniversary page of the SRP website at www.srp.org.uk/wp/anniversary.

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.

Membership List and Cards : The next printed Membership List is due in 2013. If any Branches need further copies of the 2011 List, or more Membership Cards, I can supply them at Conference or at any time on request. Please note that the Membership List is for use by Society members only. Amendments to membership details – new members, changes of address etc - should be sent to me at memsec@srp.org.uk.

Mike Wilkinson

SRP NEWS EDITOR

During the past year 25 branches have contributed to SRP News – I am grateful to those who take the trouble to write regularly. As usual there are some six branches which have been keeping their activities secret for more than five years – in the case of two branches it is more than ten years since we heard from them. On average there are nine or ten reports per issue, though as usual there has been one issue for which I received more than double the number of words needed to fill our pages.

In this our 75th anniversary year the Summer issue of The Recorder Magazine will contain special SRP features coordinated by the Secretary, including photographs submitted by branches. In the SRP News throughout the year there will be brief extracts from SRP News from the past.

Reports of this year's Festival and Conference will appear in the Autumn issue.

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from April 2011 for comparison)

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	56 (64)	14 (7)	1 (43)	9 (6)	80 (120)
Rest of Europe	10 (11)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (12)
Rest of World	5 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	6 (6)
Totals	71 (80)	16 (8)	1 (43)	10 (7)	98 (138)

The UK student figures included 42 NYRO members last year but NYRO members are now no longer counted in COS numbers. Therefore, excluding the 42 NYRO members, the COS membership has increased by 2 from April 2011.

Corporate Members: 4 (5)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 17 (17)

Sandra Foxall

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

So far 23 workshops have been organised by various branches with overwhelmingly positive feedback. They are open to the general public (to comply with the Society's charitable status) and are easy to organise. I am happy to give advice and assistance where required. The most popular topic has proved to be the technique days, but branches who have tried other topics have enjoyed them and always feel that they have learnt a lot from the experience. Leaflets explaining the topics on offer are at the Festival and are listed on the website. New for this year is the bass clef day for both new players and old hands.

Topics available are :

Tudor/Stuart Dance; Baroque Dance; Gabrieli Canzonas; French Baroque ornamentation; English Baroque ornamentation; Music Theory; Unbarred music; Technique; Conducting (beginner and intermediate); Tudor music day; Bass Clef workshop.

All the tutors' expenses are paid from the Arthur Ingram Fund and participants make a small contribution.

Moira Usher

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2011

A copy of the 2010/11 accounts should be received with this report. The Society moneys are divided between five different funds.

1. The **Central Fund** is the fund used for the every day running of the Society. The main income derives from members' national subscriptions.
2. The **Walter Bergmann Fund** is a restricted fund; this means that this fund can only be used in a specific way and for a specific purpose. The WBF provides grants to young recorder players (up to age 30). Its main source of income is from donations.
3. The **Arthur Ingram Fund**, received as a bequest about 12 years ago, is the main means by which the Society supports its charitable activities – training workshops, the Moeck competition, NYRO management and funding for commissioned musical works. Its main income is gift aid from members' subscriptions and bank interest.
4. The **Branch Accounts** are a consolidation from the 52 individual branch accounts.
5. The **National Youth Recorder Orchestras account** again is a restricted fund and can only be used for the youth orchestras.

As national treasurer I look after the first three of these accounts but have to collect all the data for the last two accounts to include in the Society's return to the Charity Commission. For this reason I always ask for early returns (by mid-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 2010/11 and forecasts of the figures for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

INCOME	2010-2011 (actual)	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012- 2013
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	26,690.80	26,000	26,500	28,000
Festival 2011 Surplus	599.80			
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	226.40			
HMRC gift aid (allocated to AIF)	{9,388.75}	{4,927}	{4,800}	
Bank Interest (10.75% of total received)	144.38	150	145	250
Royalties	0	20	10	10
Music Sale	0		15	
Branch Handover	224.15			
Total	27,885.53	26,170	26,670	28,260
EXPENDITURE				
Magazine	12,660.40	12,750	13,000	13,500
Annual Conference	5,226.22	4,500	5,300	5,500
Conductors Visits	3,141.44	3,600	3,600	3,600
Committee Expenses	3,557.57	2,900	4,500	4,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	1,274.57	600	200	1,300
Phones & Postages	81.62	200	240	240
Publicity	0	160	100	160
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches, and WBF	813.20	813	540	
Subscription to Making Music	418.14	430	350	350
Audit	200.00	200	250	250
Internet Presence	104.99	57	60	60
Insurances	1,278.98	1,280	1,665	1,700
Miscellaneous	30.98	30	40	40
Total	28,788.11	27,520	29,845	31,200
GRAND TOTAL	-902.58	-1,350	-3,175	-2,940

There was a loss of £902.58 leaving the Central Fund at £28,334.36 on the 31st August 2011.

Subscription income rose by about £785 compared with 2009/10. The cost of the Annual Conference was £5,226, up £535, the cost of conductors' visits was down by £410; committee expenses increased by about £1,420. Insurance remained stable at around £1,250. Printing costs were high due to issuing a new membership list.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £2,278 in donations, and £249 share of bank interest (18.52% of total), £472 in gift aid and £407 from festival surpluses (Suffolk and Scottish). It made grants totalling £5,128, spent £271 on printing and administration. The year's shortfall was £1,994 leaving its fund at £37,806 on 31st August 2011.

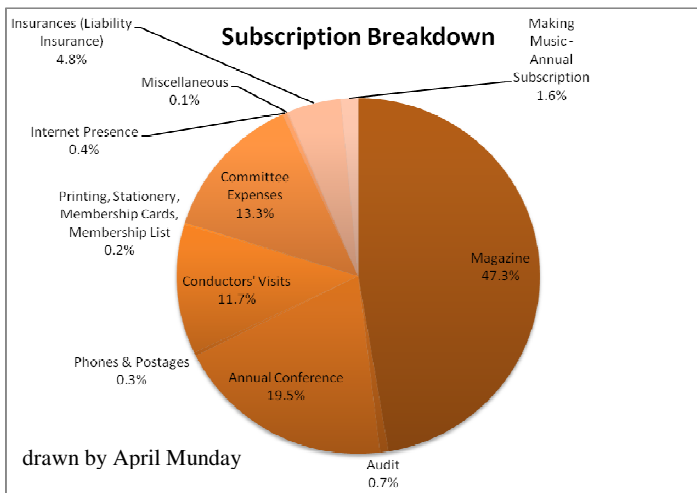
The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £950 share of bank interest (70.73% of total) and £9,389 in Gift Aid. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,600), £4,850 for the NYRO website design, Ethel Allan's bass recorders for NYRO, commission of two ensemble pieces by student composers (£500), support of festival music (£500) and workshops (£882). The cost of the **competition** (reception after Winner's recital and administration) was £904.

Ticket sales at the 2009 winner’s recital were £1,112. The overall expenditure from the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £12,645, a loss of £2,307. The overall fund amounts to £172,436 on 31st August 2011. A loan of £4,000 was extended to NYRO, repayment is likely to take a while, at present I am not passing on donations to NYRO that come in with subs.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of £3,175 for the central fund. Any surplus from festivals is unpredictable and I have not included any in the budget. If they produce a surplus 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 for the Arthur Ingram Fund. Rising postal rates and petrol prices are likely to affect our costings. I think we will have to look at our mileage rate.

As in previous years I propose a modest increase in subscription rates to: £21 for individuals (up by £1), £31.50 per household membership (up by £1.50), and £15.50 for students (up by 50p). As we will print a new membership list next year and offer corporate members the opportunity to add an advertisement I propose to raise the corporate subscription to £65. For information, the pie chart shows how subscriptions were spent in 2010-2011.



I would like to reiterate that I would like to receive all branch accounts by the middle of October (branch delegates, please pass this message on to your treasurers!) and the NYRO accounts by 31st October.

Collating the branch accounts takes up considerable time as does the filling in of the Charity Return.

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 Revenue and Customs.

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN, NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

NYRO was founded by the SRP in 2002 at the suggestion of Colin Touchin, who has served as Musical Director since then. At this tenth anniversary Colin has indicated that he will retire shortly. We are delighted that Chris Orton has agreed to take over the role at a date to be agreed. In the past year Ross Winters and Helen Hooker have retired as tutors. We are immensely grateful to Colin, Ross and Helen for their inspiring work over the years. We welcome Adam Dopadlik as a new tutor at the Easter 2012 course.

Attendance at residential courses has declined in the past few years, which we attribute to the general economic situation affecting all similar organisations. The initial impact on NYRO

finances was alleviated by a loan from the SRP committee, still to be repaid. The budget has been rebalanced by reducing the number of tutors, not using public concert halls, not producing CDs and by making other economies. We have increased the number of Taster Days around the country and these have occurred or are planned in Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Exeter, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Oxford and Hertfordshire. These days are much appreciated and although they do not always cover direct costs they do result in some bookings for residential courses. They are most successful (in terms of numbers attending) when arranged in collaboration with a local organisation such as Edinburgh Young Musicians and Hertfordshire Music Service.

The Easter 2011 course at Rugby School had 17 players, tutored by Colin Touchin and Ross Winters. The Summer 2011 course at Epsom College had 27 players tutored by Colin Touchin, Ross Winters and Chris Orton. At the time of writing bookings for the Easter 2012 course are 19 (Rugby School 10-15 April). The Summer 2012 course will be at Howell's School, Denbigh from 23 to 28 July, tutored by Colin Touchin, Eileen Silcocks and Chris Orton with a concert at the school on 28 July.

We thank all our conductors and tutors, our Administrator Dianne Charles, Treasurer Rosemary Byde, subcommittee members Jean Murray and Naomi Wellings, Matron Frances Dodd, all house staff and supporters. I too have been associated with NYRO from its beginning and expect to pass the role of NYRO Chair to a younger person in the near future.

Andrew Short, Chairman NYRO Sub-Committee

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

In November the Fund donated money as the third prize at the Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Competition. We had eight applicants at our November meeting and awarded financial assistance for two in the purchase of instruments, a school in Havering for a workshop by The Flautadors, Recorders Incorporated to stage a workshop for schoolchildren in Woking and one applicant for assistance in taking a diploma examination. I would like to thank the SRP Committee and members for their support of myself and the Walter Bergmann Fund in the years I have been associated with it and hope the Fund will continue to support the younger generations of recorder players in their musical aspirations.

Andrew Collis (January 2012)

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

Conference will be aware that Andrew Collis resigned as Competition Administrator during the last twelve months. This gives me the opportunity to thank him for the way he ran the Competition over the last few years. I have just received all the papers from the Competition and I can well appreciate the enormous amount of work he has done.

One of the main achievements of his time as Administrator is the way that the international profile of the competition has been raised. The Society owes Andrew an enormous debt of gratitude.

As Conference will be aware the Competition is a biannual event. The last Competition was held at the Greenwich Festival of Early Music last November. For the first round over 20 Contenders applied. In this round CD's are submitted, and from these the Adjudicators select

three to perform at the final. Whilst there were a number of UK entrants, none reached the final.

As reported in the Spring 2012 issue of the Recorder Magazine the three splendid finalists were Kertsin Fahr (Germany), Eva Fegers (Germany), and Yi-Chiang Liang (Taiwan). Eva Fegers was declared the winner. She will perform her winner's recital at Greenwich in November this year. All three, as well as those who did not reach the final round are to be thanked for their participation, with congratulations to the three finalists.

Conference should also offer thanks to the Adjudicators who must have been faced with a very difficult task. They were Matthias Maute (Canada), Chairman with Emma Murphy and Ibi Aziz (both UK).

We are also most grateful for the continuing support of Moeck UK as co-sponsor, and the Early Music Shop who provide so much help with the organisation. On a final note may I recommend to all delegates at this Conference and indeed to all members that they should endeavour to attend the winner's recital at Greenwich in November.

A new Competition Administrator is currently being sought. He/she will be co-opted onto the Committee and confirmation of the appointment will be sought at Conference 2013.

Dick Pyper