



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2013

CHAIRMAN

This last year has been a very busy but enjoyable one for me in my first year as Chairman and as I have become involved in the many facets of the SRP, whilst attempting to still find the time to play my recorders! I shall mention here some areas which have not been covered in the reports by other Officers.

SRP 2020

The SRP 2020 Working Group was set up *“to consider how the Society should serve its members and the wider community and support the continuation and development of recorder playing in the UK up to 2020”*. It reported in March 2012 with 83 recommendations and the Report continues to be a working document with many thought provoking ideas and suggestions. It has also given rise to many additional comments from members on its contents, for which we are very grateful.

During 2012, the Committee held detailed discussions on the Report's content and has begun to implement some of the recommendations, particularly in relation to the website and other methods of communication. As an example, the post of Publicity Officer has been resurrected and a “Welcome” leaflet explaining the work of the SRP will be available very soon to all members. In terms of communications, branches are also well-placed (and many do) to take the initiative in advertising the existence of the SRP, its branches, courses and workshops etc to local music Festivals/competitions, U3A groups, the WEA, other music groups, universities, colleges and schools.

The Secretary is always pleased to hear of any initiatives which have proved particularly fruitful and these can also be widely communicated to other branches via the SRP News section of the Recorder Magazine.

Commissions

In 2012, to celebrate the Society's 75th birthday, Jonathan Dove was commissioned to write ‘Light-dance’ for recorder octet. The first performance was given in November 2012 by Zero Gravity in the Fitzwilliam College Auditorium, Cambridge.

“Surrey Leaves” was written by Anne Martin specifically for the 2012 National SRP Festival in Guildford, where it had its first performance in the massed playing session. A copy of all Festival commissions is given to each branch to add to its music library.

Brian Bonsor CD

Many members will have been familiar with the music of Brian Bonsor. Following his death in 2011, it was decided, in consultation with Mary Bonsor, that a recording of his many compositions and arrangements would be an appropriate tribute to him and his music. With the financial backing of the SRP in 2012, Helen Hooker masterminded the recording of a CD

“Bravo Bonsor” in collaboration with the Amici Recorder Ensemble and James Letham, a pianist with whom Brian played regularly. All of the performers gave their time and skills free of charge. Since then, over 450 CDs have been sold and further copies are available via the SRP website or various other sources. The recording was made with the kind permission of Mary Bonsor and once the substantial cost has been recouped any additional income will come to the SRP.

Chiltern Recorder Consort Series

During his lifetime, Alex Ayre arranged over 500 pieces of mainly English Renaissance and Baroque music, for recorder ensembles and these meticulously handwritten arrangements were published as the Chiltern Consort Recorder Series. When he died in 2009, these arrangements were bequeathed to the SRP and the Committee decided to set the arrangements on computer for publication. Moira Usher and many friends have now computer set approximately 100 of these pieces, to be published in an agreement with Recorder MusicMail from May 2013. The existing stock of the handwritten arrangements will continue to be available from Recorder MusicMail so long as a computer set version is not on sale. The SRP will receive royalties from all sales and from the Performing Rights Society for all performances.

Website

The website continues to evolve into a resource that is available to anyone with an interest in the recorder. In particular, it gives up to date information for members on the various workshops, playing days, courses and concerts. Even if you don't have a computer at home, you may find it useful to explore the SRP website from a friend's or a public library's computer.

There are currently particular areas of the website where volunteers would be welcomed to ensure that information is kept up to date, as this is an impossible task for the web editor to manage on his own. If you have an interest in a particular area (e.g. recorder makers) and are able to help, please contact the Secretary or web editor.

SRP News in The Recorder Magazine

The SRP News section of The Recorder Magazine and the SRP website are our primary means of communication with members but there is inevitably a time delay where the Magazine is concerned. Additional information is emailed to branch secretaries from time to time and the SRP relies on secretaries to pass this on to individual branch members where it may be relevant, either by email or by direct communication at a branch meeting.

The Editor of The Recorder Magazine is always happy to consider suggestions for topics for the general, non-SRP pages of the Magazine.

National Youth Recorder Orchestras

The National Youth Recorder Orchestras continue to provide opportunities for younger, talented and keen recorder players through the provision of NYRO Days scattered throughout the UK and residential courses at Easter and in the Summer. These have been run under the auspices and with the financial backing of the SRP for over 10 years. Unfortunately, this has been at an increasing financial cost to the SRP whose Committee has decided, reluctantly, that it will no longer be able to support NYRO in this capacity from September 2014. It is hoped that NYRO will continue as an independent body and it is expected the SRP will still be able to provide future support, albeit in a more limited capacity. The SRP's Walter Bergmann Fund will still be available as a possible source of grants for those attending NYRO courses. Any offers of additional future support for NYRO, in whatever form, would be welcomed by their Chairman.

75th Anniversary

The 75th Anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the SRP fell on 7th October 2012. All branches were invited to an Anniversary Reception, held at Royal Greenwich on 10th November, following Eva Feger's recital as winner of the 2011 Moeck/SRP solo recorder competition. We were also joined by Eva and members of her ensemble, together with representatives from the National Youth Recorder Orchestra, Moeck, Mollenhauer, the Early Music Shop, The Recorder Magazine, Trinity Laban, Early Music Today, the Flanders Recorder Quartet and others. An additional guest was recorder player Charlotte Barbour-Condini, BBC Young Musician 2012 finalist, who was presented with a von Huene treble recorder, chosen by her with a grant from the SRP.

Displays, articles and photographs from the last 75 years were also on show at the 2012 Festival, the 75th Anniversary Reception and in The Recorder Magazine. Some members have identified themselves from many years ago!

The Future

Overall, I am always pleasantly surprised by the numbers of people joining our branches each year, whether as novices or seasoned recorder players. Although there are a significant number who also cease to be members each year, a survey by the SRP 2020 working group found that a major reason for this was due to being unable to attend meetings on a regular basis, but that many still attended as visitors. Nearly all leavers noted that they would recommend the SRP to others – we just need to let more people know that we exist and that we can provide a welcoming and enjoyable playing environment!

Tessa Rolph

SECRETARY

Since the last Conference I have authorised the attendance of 34 visiting conductors to Branches and currently 36 visits will take place in 2012-2013. These numbers are both four down 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.

I regret to report that the Isle of Man closed during the year principally for lack of numbers. On the other hand I am glad to tell you that a new branch has sprung up in Macclesfield. The Society is a dynamic organisation and such changes are to be expected.

As I hope everyone will realise by now, the past year included the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Society on 7th October 1937. This was celebrated in several ways. I am grateful to Peacock Press and the Editor, Laura Justice, for agreeing to devote a large part of the Summer issue of The Recorder Magazine to articles and photographs looking back over the last 75 years and a music centre-fold for our own version of Happy Birthday. It was a pleasure to have been able to bring together this special issue. In addition the Society has been giving special awards to branches which arrange a Playing Day within calendar years 2012 or 2013. Twenty six branches have availed themselves of this opportunity but unfortunately so far not one has been able to tie up, at least partially, with a NYRO Taster Day which was one of the objectives of the award.

The Committee is still working on how to respond to the 83 recommendations of the 2020 Working Group which reported just over a year ago. I conducted a thorough analysis of the report's recommendations last summer and concluded that the majority of the substantial ones concerned communication, or the lack of it, between the Society and its Committee, branches

and the public. The Committee concurred with this analysis and, as a result, it has already drafted a detailed information leaflet for all, and particularly new, members. A publicity leaflet, introducing the Society to interested members of the public, is also being prepared. The web site continues to be updated regularly and there are plans afoot to expand its content. These actions will go a long way to address the concerns of the Working Group but other actions are required as and when resources are available.

Finally, and perhaps appropriately in our 75th year, the Society is seeking a new logo for the 21st century. A competition was arranged and as I write this almost 30 entries have been received. I hope that you will all seek out the display of the entries during the Festival and cast your vote.

This will be my last report to Conference as Secretary.

Bob Whitmarsh

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership data : Although sadly we said farewell to the Isle of Man Branch at the end of 2011/12, we are about to welcome the new Macclesfield Branch, so the number of geographical Branches remains unchanged at 51. The Macclesfield Branch and its members are included in the data that follow.

By 26th April 2013, 1,242 people in the 51 geographical Branches had paid, or undertaken to pay, subscriptions totalling £26,383 for 2012/13. This compares with a final membership of 1,270 for the same number of Branches for 2011/12. So the 2012/13 membership to date shows a net decrease of 28 (2.2%) on the previous year. This is an average net loss of about 1 person per 2 Branches, though changes in individual Branch numbers range from +8 to -12. The net decrease of 28 is the result of about 188 leavers (15% of the membership) and 160 joiners. This level of turnover has been roughly the same for several years.

| | Branches ex COS | individual | household | student | total | subscriptions |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|
| 2011/12 final | 51 | 1,110 | 64 (132) | 28 | 1,270 | £24,530 |
| 2012/13 to 26/4/13 | 51 | 1,103 | 58 (121) | 18 | 1,242 | £26,383 |
| change | 0 | -0.6% | -8.3% | -35% | -2.2% | +7.6% |

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 as Excel worksheets. A graph showing membership trends since the formation of the Society in 1937 can be seen on the 75th Anniversary page of the website at www.srp.org.uk/srp-anniversary.

Membership List : I am in the process of asking Branches to check proofs of their membership details for inclusion in the 2013 printed Membership List and am grateful to those which have already responded. The List will be going for printing soon after Conference and copies for issue to members should be dispatched to Branch Secretaries, or other nominated Branch members, towards the end of May or early in June. Different arrangements (to be confirmed) will apply for distribution of copies to COS members and others who are not members of a geographical Branch. Please note that the Membership List is for use by Society members only.

Amendments to membership details – new members, changes of address etc – and any queries about distribution of the *Recorder Magazine* should continue to be sent to memsec@srp.org.uk, which will always find whoever is the Membership Secretary.

Membership cards : The Society could have a new logo ready to be launched before long. While I do not wish to delay the Membership List, which will use the existing logo, significant need for new Membership Cards will not arise until September 2013. We are therefore deferring the printing and distribution of new Membership Cards for the moment. In the meantime, we still have some Cards in stock, so if you need any please e-mail memsec@srp.org.uk.

I was elected as Membership Secretary at Conference in 2009 and this is likely to be my last Report in that capacity. I would therefore particularly like to thank all those Branch Secretaries, Treasurers and others who have been diligent in collecting subscriptions and helping me to keep the membership records up to date for the last 4 years. Special thanks as always also go to Jeremy Burbidge and his colleagues in Mytholmroyd for their patience and efficiency in dealing with amendments to the *Recorder Magazine* mailing list.

Finally, I wish my successor well in a role that I have enjoyed and which has enabled me to get to know, if sometimes only electronically, so many helpful and friendly recorder players.

Mike Wilkinson

SRP NEWS EDITOR

At the start of our 75th anniversary year I made a plea to branches for at least one report from each of them during 2012. It was gratifying that four branches which had not contributed to SRP News for a long time - in one case twelve years - produced reports, but overall the number of branches reporting remained the same as usual at around 50%. However, there are now fewer branches which do not write regularly, which is encouraging.

During 2012 we began placing branch reports on the SRP website. This came about as there was one issue in which I received more than twice the number of words which could be accommodated in our pages. In most issues it is necessary to edit reports to fit the space available, but the full text can go on the website.

During the anniversary year I included extracts from SRP News from the past, as far back as 1963. These are also on the website. I hope readers found them interesting.

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from April 2012 in brackets for comparison)

| | Ordinary | Household | Student | Life | Total |
|----------------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| UK | 48 (56) | 10 (14) | 0 (1) | 10 (9) | 68 (80) |
| Rest of Europe | 12 (10) | 2 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 14 (12) |
| Rest of World | 10 (5) | 2 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (1) | 13 (6) |
| Totals | 70 (71) | 14 (16) | 0 (1) | 11(10) | 95 (98) |

Corporate Members: 3 (4)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 17 (17)

The totals are very similar to those of April 2012, having lost a few members and gained a few.

Sandra Foxall

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

SRP workshops are underwritten by the Arthur Ingram Fund. Since their inception in 2003, 32 workshops have taken place all over the country. They are gradually increasing in popularity as it seems that when a branch has hosted one, they find it's easy to organise, useful and often exciting, so they want to do more. Write-ups for The Recorder Magazine also help to spread their popularity.

One-day workshops available with the number of each that have been run

| | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| Baroque Dance | 0 | Gabrieli Canzonas | 1 |
| Basic Music Theory | 1 | Technique | 11 |
| Bass clef workshops for beginners | 0 | Tudor Day - exploring English music | 0 |
| Conducting - beginner or intermediate | 10 | Tudor/Stuart Dance | 1 |
| English Baroque ornamentation | 2 | Unbarred Renaissance music; | 4 |
| French Baroque (style and ornamentation) | 2 | | |

Full details are on the SRP website under Courses > SRP Training. If you wish to run a workshop, please contact me first and I will assist you in setting one up.

If anyone has any ideas for more topics, then please let me know.

Moira Usher

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2012

A copy of the 2011/12 accounts should be received separately with this report. The Society accounts are divided into 5 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 compositions. Its main income is gift aid from members' subscriptions and bank interest.
4. The **Branch Accounts** represent a consolidation of 52 or so individual branch accounts.
5. The **National Youth Recorder Orchestra** is again 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 fourth and fifth accounts to include in the Society's returns to the Charity Commission of England and Wales and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. For this reason I always ask for early returns (by middle of October) – a lot of work has to be done once the data has been received.

The following table is a summary of the **Central Fund** accounts for the year 2011/12 and a forecast of the figures for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

| INCOME | 2011-2012 (actual) | 2011-2012 (forecast) | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions | 27,109.75 | 26,500 | 28,800 | 29,900 |
| Festival 2012 Surplus | 101.16 | | | |
| Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus | 0 | | | |
| IR gift aid (allocated to AIF) | {4301.69} | {4,800} | | |
| Bank Interest (11.88% of Total Received) | 177.15 | 145 | 170 | 180 |
| Royalties | 0 | 10 | 10 | |
| Music Sale | 13.30 | 15 | | |
| Branch Handover | | | 30 | |
| Total | 27,409.91 | 26,670 | 29,010 | 30,080 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Magazine | 12,637.40 | 13,000 | 13,500 | 13,800 |
| Annual Conference | 4,864.67 | 5,300 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Conductors Visits | 3,038.40 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Committee Expenses | 4,649.92 | 4,500 | 3,000 | 3,300 |
| Printing, Stationery & Membership List | 113.08 | 200 | 1,300 | 250 |
| Phones & Postages | 214.22 | 240 | 240 | 250 |
| Publicity | 0 | 100 | 160 | 150 |
| Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches, and WBF | 544.20 | 540 | 65 | 50 |
| Subscription to Making Music | 382.83 | 350 | 450 | 450 |
| Audit | 200.00 | 250 | 200 | 250 |
| Internet Presence | | 60 | 60 | 70 |
| Insurances | 1,662.40 | 1,665 | 1,700 | 1,800 |
| Miscellaneous | 42.68 | 40 | 40 | 50 |
| Total | 28,349.80 | 29,845 | 29,815 | 29,520 |
| | -939.89 | -3,175 | -805 | 560 |

There was a deficit of £939.89 leaving the Central Fund at £27,447.97 on the 31st August 2012.

Subscription income rose by about £420 compared with 2010/11. The cost of the Annual Conference was £4,865, £260 less than in the previous year, the cost of conductors' visits was

down by £103; committee expenses increased by about £1,092. Insurance costs increased by around £400. Printing costs were low as we did not print a membership list.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £1,584 in donations, and £236 share of bank interest (15.88% of total), £352 in gift aid and £272 from festival surpluses (Somerset). It made grants totalling £9,719, spent £67 on administration, and provided the third prize for the SRP/Moeck competition (£300). The year's shortfall was £7,628 leaving its fund at £30,178.35 on 31st August 2012.

The Arthur Ingram Fund received £1,078 share of bank interest (72.27% of total) and £4,301.19 in Gift aid for 2011/12. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,600), the production of the Bravo Bonsor CD (£1,961), workshops (£1,355), support of festival music (£485), a grant to the Dolmetsch conference (£500), and 75th anniversary playing days (£300). £270 was spent to complete the digitisation of SRP documents. The Arthur Ingram Fund provided £750 in prize money for the SRP/Moeck Competition. The cost of the Competition in November 2011 amounted to £1,452, leaving around £755 in the competition account. However, we have not yet settled all the cost with the Early Music Shop and Moeck for this competition. The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £14,374, a deficit of £8,294. The overall fund amounted to £164,142 on 31st August 2012.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of £800 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. We have put £20,000 into a One Year Bond with Barclays and £80,000 into a Business Bond with Nationwide, both at a slightly better rate of interest than our other accounts.

As in previous years I propose a modest increase in subscription rates to bring them up to £23 for individuals and £34.50 per household membership, and £16.50 for students (up by 50p). Corporate rate will be £69.

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 Returns.

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 HMRC.

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN, NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

Since the last Conference the 2012 Summer residential course and concert were held at Howell's School, Denbigh, North Wales, with 27 young players, tutored and conducted by Colin Touchin, Eileen Silcocks and Chris Orton. It was gratifying to read the laudatory review of the concert by David Allen in the *Recorder Magazine* of Winter 2012; "...NYRO forced me to rethink what can be achieved by a recorder orchestra when it achieves such professional standards". The 2013 Easter course, tutored by Chris Orton and Adam Dopadlik was recently in Rugby with 26 players, a substantial rise since 2012 when there were 17. The regular NYRO days around the country introduce young players to high quality ensemble playing and increasingly feed players into the residential courses. They have been held in Exeter,

Manchester, London, Edinburgh, Hatfield and Oxford. The 2013 days as well as the 2013 Easter course showed substantial increases in the numbers participating, giving reason to hope that the declining numbers of recent years are beginning to pick up again. The 2013 Summer course will again be in Howell's School, Denbigh, 21 to 27 July, tutored and conducted by Chris Orton and Eileen Silcocks. Conservatoire students and former NYRO players who have assisted as volunteer house staff will this time also coach chamber groups and receive fees. All are invited to the concert in the afternoon of Saturday 27 July at the school. Future NYRO days have been arranged in Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham and London.

As this is my last report to Conference for NYRO, I take the opportunity to look back and glance forward.

In 2002, when I was SRP chairman, the SRP received a legacy from the late Arthur Ingram and I invited suggestions for how it should be used in furtherance of our charitable objectives. The committee followed up the suggestion by Colin Touchin that we should found a National Youth Recorder Orchestra. A subsidy was agreed and the first residential course took place that year in Malvern, associated with a festival organised by Tim Cranmore, with 59 young players and a final concert at Birmingham Conservatoire. The administration was handled by Colin with student assistants, an arrangement that was clearly unsustainable. For the following two years the administration was handled by David and Helen Beare, who in 2003 were successful in attracting a grant from Youth Music; this required us to demonstrate "outreach", requiring some strain in representing an elite activity as such. We have not since then been successful in attracting large external grants. For the third year the fees to participants were raised to make NYRO self-funding and this was successfully achieved for four years, apart from the cost of a part-time Administrator funded by the SRP Arthur Ingram Fund from 2004-2005. Financial viability depended on the number of players in the summer course being around 60. From 2006-2007 a non-auditioned residential course has been held in the Easter holiday, also NYRO days in various locations around the country.

From 2007-2008, when the national finances started to deteriorate, the numbers of young players participating in NYRO declined, necessitating an equivalent reduction in costs. The time lag in achieving this reduction exhausted the NYRO reserves and the SRP committee supplemented these with a loan. The summer course in recent years has typically had less than 30 players.

In October 2012 the SRP committee decided to write off the loan and to add a further subsidy for two years only. After that, from September 2014, the committee wishes NYRO to become a separate organisation. The NYRO subcommittee had no part in the proposal that NYRO should separate. We are grateful for the continuing support for a further two years but regret that the committee wishes to end the position of NYRO as a part of the SRP, which we believe is an important part of the SRP charitable mission to encourage and expand opportunities for talented young players and to promote the perception of the recorder as equivalent in status to other instruments.

We have drafted a constitution for NYRO as an independent organisation with a view to applying to register with the Charity Commission for England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We hope that the SRP will continue to support NYRO after any separation takes place.

I thank our conductors and tutors Colin Touchin, Eileen Silcocks, Chris Orton and Adam Dopadlik also their predecessors (Ross Winters, Helen Hooker, Marion Scott, Andrew Challenger, the late Dennis Bamforth, late Colin Martin and late David Kinsell), our Administrator Dianne Charles and her predecessors (David and Helen Beare and Naomi Wellings), Treasurer Rosemary Bye, subcommittee members Jean Murray and Naomi, Matron Frances Dodd, all house staff and supporters, all those who have made donations, the SRP for its support and the hundreds of young participants. Especially do I welcome Naomi as

the new NYRO Chair and wish her and NYRO well in the future, whatever the association will be between the SRP and NYRO.

Andrew Short, Chairman NYRO Sub-Committee

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

The committee meets three times a year following the deadlines for applications as posted on the SRP website. Mostly those applications that are rejected are through insufficient information - particularly financial - and applicants are reminded to read the form carefully and complete it in full before sending it to the WBF sub-committee.

We have had a number of donations this year including a bequest, a lot of music which has been sold and some very handsome recorders which are in the process of being sold. During the last 12 months the money raised from donations has equalled that given in grants but often more goes out than in and the funds are slowly decreasing. All donations would be very gratefully received. Please contact me if you have anything to donate.

Moira Usher

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

No report yet available.

Dick Pyper