



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CH CBE

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014 OFFICERS' REPORTS

### (1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*The second year of my Chairmanship has continued to be both fascinating and challenging as the Society continues in its aim of promoting the recorder as an instrument of note. The following are some areas which are not covered in the reports by other Officers.*

**SRP 2020** : The Society continues to work on the many recommendations included in the SRP 2020 report. Improvements have been made to communications and every member should have received a copy of the *Welcome* leaflet, explaining the work of the Society. The website continues to evolve and contains much valuable information, for both members and non-members.

Ideas are always welcomed by the Committee for additional ways in which the Society can achieve its aims by improving its reach to all recorder players and fostering appreciation of the instrument.

**NATIONAL SRP FESTIVAL – DUBLIN** : Many members made the trip across the water to Dublin for the annual Festival, where the varied music was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. As usual there was some wonderful entertainment on the Saturday evening including a fascinating talk about Ancient Irish Horns, followed by some very talented local singers, dancers and players, plus a lively ceilidh.

**LOGO** : As a result of some queries as to whether the Society's logo should be updated, a competition for a possible replacement logo was held in 2013, with some 30 entries submitted for consideration. The existing logo was also included and received a clear majority from the many members who took voted. The Society remains grateful to Mrs Nancy Winters, who designed the logo in the 1970's. The logo is readily available from the website in various formats for use in all Society and Branch publications.

**COMMISSIONS** : *Heading West* was written by Rhona Clarke for the 2013 National SRP Festival in Dublin, 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.

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. Future commissions have been agreed from Paul Edlin in 2014 and Bob Chilcott in 2017.

**BRIAN BONSOR CD** : As reported last year, the Society gave financial backing to a recording of music by Brian Bonsor, following his death in 2011. The CD, *Bravo Bonsor*, has proved very popular and

sales have covered all the recording costs. All additional income is benefitting the Society and further CDs can be obtained via the shop on the Society's website.

**CHILTERN RECORDER CONSORT SERIES :** All this series of Alex Ayre arrangements (bequeathed to the Society on his death) are available to purchase from Recorder MusicMail and the Society receives royalty fees from all sales. There are now over 170 of the arrangements available as computer set versions with the remainder still available in the original handwritten style. Where an arrangement has been computer set, a copy of the original handwritten score can be downloaded from the Society's website to facilitate the study of Alex Ayre's original music markings (subject to the standard copyright restrictions).

**EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL AND EXHIBITION – GREENWICH :** The Moeck / Society of Recorder Players Solo Recorder Competition has been reported on in detail by Dick Pyper (former Competition Administrator) and Sarah Langdon (present Administrator) in the Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 issues of the *Recorder Magazine*.

For the first time in recent years, the Society had a stand at the Early Music Exhibition in November 2013. It proved to be a busy three days and there were a number of compliments on our display with its variety of information and popup banners. Festival visitors stopped to ask about the activities of the Society, where branches are, the dates of NYRO events, the Walter Bergmann fund, commissioned music, the 2014 Festival in Cornwall, how to become a member, etc. We also had the Alex Ayre Chiltern Recorder Consort Series music for sale on the stand, plus the Brian Bonsor, NYRO and I Flautisti's recent CDs (the Society part sponsored the latter CD). The Society hopes to have a stand again this year.

**BRANCHES :** In addition to their regular playing sessions, branches took part in many activities in the wider community. These included playing in public places such as shopping centres and libraries; workshops and performances in schools; concerts in churches, cathedrals, stately homes, residential care/nursing home and drop-in centres, sometimes with other music groups as fundraising for other charities; participation in local music festivals; and the loan of instruments and music to schools. There are also increasing links between branches and the U3A, other adult education groups and university music departments. Additionally, branch members participated in at least 3 local productions of *Noyes Fludde* during the year.

**NATIONAL YOUTH RECORDER ORCHESTRAS :** NYRO has continued with its Easter and Summer residential courses, together with Playing Days in various locations around the country, all aimed to encourage younger players of all abilities. During the year the necessary steps have been taken to set up an independent charity, which will take over all NYRO's activities from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The Society has agreed to an initial grant of £5000 for its first year of operation (with the possibility of other grants in future years) and will loan the necessary recorders for its operation.

The Society is extremely grateful to both Colin Touchin and Andrew Short (amongst others) for all the work they have put into NYRO since its inception. It is hoped that it will now have the ability to access grants from other sources, in addition to the Society.

**75TH ANNIVERSARY :** As part of the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, each branch was invited to apply for a £150 grant which could be used towards the cost of an Anniversary Playing Day. This offer was available until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and many branches took advantage of the

opportunity to invite a Conductor that they may not otherwise have been able to afford, combined with some festive refreshments!

**GRANTS** : A grant was awarded to Charlotte Barbour-Condini, BBC Young Musician 2012 Finalist, which she used for a von Huene treble recorder. A grant was also awarded to I Flautisti to assist in the production of their debut album *Sound Clouds*. I Flautisti, the London Recorder Quartet, supports the creation and production of new music by premiering new works in performances.

**RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE** : The Society very much appreciates the work of long-serving Branch Musical Directors and officials, without whom the branches would not function. As a result, 25, 40 and 50 year awards will now be available in recognition of their service. Branch Secretaries are invited to let the Secretary know of candidates. I was particularly pleased to be able to attend Norfolk branch's Playing Day, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the baton of Ron Skins, their founder member.

**THE FUTURE** : The Society was delighted to welcome a new branch this year – Macclesfield – and we wish them well in their music making. There must be many more recorder players around the UK who would also appreciate the opportunity for group playing and there is plenty of support available to set up a new branch. The Secretary is always happy to discuss this in more detail.

We were also very pleased to see that another young recorder player, Sophie Westbrook, has won through to the woodwind finals of the BBC Young Musician 2014 competition, which will be broadcast on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May on BBC Four and Radio 3. Contrary to some predictions, it is good to see that there are younger people still interested in pursuing the study of this fascinating instrument. We should do everything we can to encourage both them and those of more mature years!

*Tessa Rolph*

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## **(2) WALTER BERGMANN FUND REPORT**

The WBF 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 committee.

We have had a number of donations this year including a bequest of music and recorders from the late Dorothy Grey. As last year, a lot of music has been donated which has been sold and some recorders which are in the process of being serviced by Julie Dean in London and will be offered for sale.

Money raised from donations and the sale of music helps considerably 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 music or instruments to donate, or our National Treasurer (Ulli Burchette) if you wish to donate money.

*Moira Usher* for WBF

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### (3) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Membership numbers** : The total number for all categories of member for 2013-14 is 1,373. This is encouraging in that it represents a small increase over the 2012-13 figure of 1,342. However, that figure marked a decline over the 2011-12 figure of 1,384, which was itself one of a sequence of almost continuously declining figures from a high-point of over 1,700 members in the mid-1990s. So, encouraging as the present figure is, it must be emphasised that the Society's membership is only at the level it was in 1978-9 (1,367).

**Branch membership numbers** : Another encouraging sign, however, is the fact that the majority of Branches (26) have seen an increase in their membership over 2012-13, with a further 11 holding their membership numbers stable, and only 14 experiencing losses. There have been particularly encouraging increases at, for example, Cornwall, Glasgow, Suffolk, and South Staffordshire, with the new Macclesfield Branch showing significant growth. COS has also had a substantial rise in its membership. Although the present membership secretary has not been able to do the detailed assessment of the turnover of members undertaken by his predecessor, it is clear in broad terms that the turnover is very significant across the Society as a whole.

**Processes** : The membership secretary regrets that there have been a number of glitches in the distribution of *Recorder Magazine*, especially to new members. For all his predecessor's excellent work, there remain inefficiencies in the operation of the spreadsheets and in the interface between the membership secretary's records and those of Recorder MusicMail, the distributors. The membership secretary is holding discussions with Recorder MusicMail, and with the SRP webmaster, Anthony Hall, who has offered his assistance, to see what further steps could be taken to improve efficiency and obviate glitches. The membership secretary is keenly aware, however, of the need not to introduce gratuitous change or to make their work more difficult for Branch secretaries.

*David Rollason*

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### (4) SRP NEWS EDITOR'S REPORT

In the past year 21 Branches have contributed, a slight drop on previous years. Five branches have not reported for four years or more, in one case nine years. An exceptional amount of material was received for the Spring 2014 issue which resulted in a tribute to Paul Clark by Ron Skins being held over until Summer, and Branch reports being edited to fit the space. Full texts of Branch reports appear on the SRP website at the time the Magazine is published.

The report of this year's Conference will appear in the Summer issue but the Festival report will be in the Autumn issue.

*Madeline Seviour*

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## **(5) WEB EDITOR'S REPORT**

The new-look website was launched shortly after the 2013 SRP Conference. Reaction has been generally favourable. The main new features are:

1. Improved navigation : The site is now organised according to what the user might be looking for and is less SRP-centric. In addition news, quick links and SRP branches are visible from any page as well as the page-specific menu.
2. Better look and feel : The new theme is more attractive and less aggressive in appearance. There are more pictures, giving a brighter look.
3. Mobile devices : The site works on tablets and smartphones as well as computers, and adjusts to the size of the browser window to make best use of space.
4. Connection to Facebook : All news, including updates to the site, goes to a Facebook page so people can be notified of any news by Liking that page.

The purpose of the new site is to be a resource for everyone in the UK interested in the recorder and the intention is that it should have more material than the old site. Some of the general information, to be provided by expert volunteers rather than the web editor, is now available but some is still to be supplied or is under development.

The site was used to solicit votes and comments from members about the proposal for a new logo: this seems to have been successful, attracting over 300 voters and over 100 comments.

There is an improved page listing all the Alex Ayre publications, including music in manuscript and the computer-set music. You can browse it by number of players or by composer, and look up an item in the Recorder MusicMail catalogue directly from the page. If you buy music from Recorder MusicMail you can download the original handwritten score from the site if it is not supplied by RMM.

While I do most of the updates to the site, fifteen branches manage at least some of their own pages, and fourteen have their own websites.

I am currently working on improvements to make the branch music library listings on the site more useful. I will mail out details to branch secretaries when these are working.

As always, I am happy to receive any suggestions for improvements to the site.

*Anthony Hall*

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## **(6) REPORT BY CHAIRMAN, NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE**

Since the last Conference, the 2013 Summer residential course and concert were held once again at Howell's School, Denbigh, North Wales, with 26 young players tutored and conducted by Chris Orton and Michelle Holloway. The concert featured soloist and BBC Young Musician 2012 finalist Charlotte Barbour-Condini in Colin Touchin's *Wynd-Wind* in addition to two solo items. Charlotte was resident for a couple of days at the end of the week and she proved a very approachable young player who made a valuable contribution to the course.

The 2014 Easter residential course is taking place at Rugby School concurrently with Conference and expects 30 young players, showing a rise for the second year running. Once again the tutors are Adam Dopadlik and Chris Orton. The regular NYRO Recorder Days around the country continue to enable us to reach as many young recorder players as possible and help fulfil our aims to be an advocate for high quality recorder playing throughout the country and to bring together like-minded young people to develop their skills and benefit from top tuition.

The 2014 Summer residential course moves to Bootham School in York from 27 July to 2 August in anticipation of a group of young German recorder students from Baden Württemberg joining the course and the need for more accommodation than Howells could provide this year. The course will be tutored by Colin Touchin, Chris Orton and Michelle Holloway, with Conservatoire students and former NYRO players assisting as house staff and coaching chamber groups for a small fee. All are invited to the concert in the afternoon of Saturday 2 August at the school – please see the website for details nearer the time.

Recent Playing Days have taken place in Oxford and Hertfordshire, with others planned for dates in April – June in Exeter, London, Edinburgh and Birmingham.

This is both my first and last report to Conference for NYRO as the organisation becomes independent from the Society on 1 September 2014. From that date, NYRO will be *The National Youth Recorder Orchestras of Great Britain*, Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1153705. The website [www.nyro.org.uk](http://www.nyro.org.uk) will be updated to reflect the changed status and our new email address will be [admin@nyro.org.uk](mailto:admin@nyro.org.uk).

The trustees of the new charity have been assured that the SRP will continue to support NYRO and the committee has approved a grant for 2014-2015. However it is less than the regular support provided while NYRO has been part of the SRP, leaving a shortfall that needs to be made up by other contributions. The trustees are currently fundraising to keep NYRO's activities at current levels; should individuals also wish to support NYRO, details can be found on the website.

*Naomi Wellings*

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## **(7) TREASURER'S REPORT**

A copy of the 2012/13 accounts, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, should be received with this report. The Society's accounts are divided into 5 different funds:-

1. The **Central Fund** is the fund used for the everyday 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 13 years ago, is the main means by which the Society supports its charitable activities – training workshops, the Moeck/SRP competition, NYRO management and funding for compositions. Its main income is gift aid from members' subscriptions and bank interest.

4. The **Branch Accounts** are a consolidation from 52 or so individual branch accounts.
5. The **National Youth Recorder Orchestras Fund** again 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 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 has been received.

The table below gives a summary of the **Central Fund** accounts for the year 2012/13, a forecast for 2013/14 and estimates for 2014/15:-

	<b>2012-2013 actual</b>	<b>2013-2014 forecast</b>	<b>2014-2015 estimate</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	£29,047	£29,500	£30,000
Festival 2013 Surplus	£213		
<i>HMRC gift aid £4,331 - allocated to AIF</i>			
Bank Interest (11.88% of total received)	£134	£160	£150
Royalties		£6	£5
Branch handover	£31		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,425</b>	<b>£29,666</b>	<b>£30,155</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Magazine	£13,502	£13,500	£13,750
Annual Conference	£5,168	£5,000	£5,000
Conductors' Visits	£3,137	£3,600	£3,600
Committee Expenses	£3,263	£3,500	£3,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	£1,268	£200	£1,200
Phones & Postages	£362	£200	£200
Publicity		£1,100	£400
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches, and WBF	£210		
Scottish Recorder Festival Loss	£142		
Subscription to Making Music	£416	£450	£450
Audit	£200	£250	£250
Internet Presence	£58	£120	£120
Insurances	£1,747	£1,800	£1,850
Miscellaneous	£116	£100	£100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,589</b>	<b>£29,820</b>	<b>£30,420</b>
<b>Profit/loss</b>	<b>-£164</b>	<b>-£154</b>	<b>-£265</b>

Subscription income rose by about £1,940 compared with 2011/12. The cost of the Annual Conference was £5,168, £300 more than in the previous year (similar to the conference in Somerset in 2012); the cost of conductors' visits was £3,137, up £100; committee expenses were in line with previous years with 2 committee meetings (£3,263). Membership lists and their posting meant high

printing and postage costs (£1,239 and £362). Overall the loss (£164) was less than I had anticipated due to higher income and lower expenditure.

Last year I was wondering whether the festival in Ireland may make a loss but it actually made a profit whereas the Scottish festival made a loss of £142 – without this we would have almost broken even.

The **Central Fund** held £27,283.78 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £4,048 in donations, and £178 share of bank interest (15.88% of total), £191 in Gift Aid, £105 from festival surpluses (Guildford and Dublin). It made grants totalling £3,737, spent £135 on repair of instruments to sell, and spent £126 on committee expenses. The year's surplus was £523, leaving its fund at £30,701.52 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £813 share of bank interest (72.27% of total) and £4,331 in Gift Aid. It also received £25 in donations plus royalties of £374 from Alex Ayre's music. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,600), and a grant of £7,000 (£3,000 plus the loan write-off of £4,000). The cost of the **Competition** was £2,117, but in a year leading up to the competition there was also the income from the competition entries - £2,329. I still have not received any proceeds from ticket sales from the recital in 2012. Expenditure on the **Brian Bonsor CD** amounted to £2,375 in 2012/13. Together with the previous year's cost this adds up to £4,335 overall – leading to a profit of £454. We spent £5,100 on **commissioned music** (in addition to the Festival) – this covers the commission of *Light-Dance* and an advance payment to Bob Chilcott. Other expenditure was in support of festival music (£1,765) and workshops (£1,800). We also paid Anne Ayre a small sum to help with her solicitor's costs in connection with Alex's music. **Jubilee playing days** cost £2,850. The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £30,014, a loss of £18,898. The overall fund amounts to £145,243.73 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of around £150 for the central fund. I would like to propose a small increase in subscription in order to prevent a large increase of subscriptions subsequently. A 50p or £1 increase in subs, 50p for students should be acceptable to most.

Most branches sent me their accounts by middle of October, but a couple did not come in until December causing quite a delay in sorting the accounts. There is a continuous problem with branches not being aware of the necessity to use last year's final figure as starting point and the necessity to record payments from other SRP accounts clearly, making my cross checks at times quite difficult; this also applies to workshops that should be neutral to branch accounts. The NYRO accounts were again examined by our Independent Examiner, which has proved very helpful in consolidating the accounts.

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 lastly, I have decided to step down as Treasurer. I have enjoyed doing it but it does involve a lot of time and as I will be relocating to Germany I will need to hand over the task to someone else.

*Ursula Burchette*

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**(8) PUBLICITY OFFICER’S REPORT**

A Society of Recorder Players Twitter account has been set up - @recorderSocUK. This is beginning to generate a small number of followers. It would be greatly appreciated if this information could be passed on to Branches, so any members with access to Twitter could follow us! As numbers of followers grow, I hope to tweet more (using news items from the SRP website).

Work has begun on the design of posters, to which Branches can add their own information, in order to create a more unified national image of the Society. Work has also begun on a publicity proposal which will work to further improve the public image of the Society to both recorder and non-recorder players.

*Emily Bannister*

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**(9) COUNTRY & OVERSEAS SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Current membership figures, with figures from April 2013 for comparison:

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	48 (48)	10 (10)	0 (0)	10 (10)	68 (68)
Rest of Europe	13 (12)	2 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (14)
Rest of World	6 (10)	6 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	13 (13)
Totals	67 (70)	18 (14)	0 (0)	11 (11)	96 (95)

Corporate Members: 3 (3) [1 more hasn’t, as yet, responded to reminders]

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 16 (17) [1 more hasn’t, as yet, responded to reminders]

*Sandra Foxall*

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