



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

OFFICERS' REPORTS

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Introduction: Since my election as Chairman at Conference last year, the Committee has reviewed the report produced by the 2020 Working Group in March 2012. The report included many recommendations to ensure that the Society could continue to grow and attract new members, by ensuring that we can provide useful benefits to our members while continuing to focus on our charitable goal of promoting the recorder and its music.

While the 2020 report contained a large number of recommendations, it was decided to take a simpler approach, and address four key areas: Publicity, Recruitment, Membership Benefits and Governance. I produced a paper entitled "The Way Forward" which has provided a framework for Committee discussion and direction.

I am pleased to say that, while there is still much to be done, we are making good progress in many areas, and the following outlines recent developments.

Honorary President: The committee agreed a process to identify and recruit a new Honorary President to succeed Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Our Secretary produced a paper outlining the optimum profile of our new President and what we might expect from him. This was agreed by Committee and, in order to have a recommendation in time for this Conference, it was also agreed that we would immediately send the paper to all Branches and ask for suggestions. The Committee further agreed that the term for the President would be seven years subject to renewal by mutual agreement. The Committee reviewed the Branch suggestions and a shortlist was produced.

I am delighted to say that **JONATHAN DOVE** subsequently agreed to accept the role, subject of course to ratification at Conference. Following my discussions with Jonathan I am confident that he will not just act as a figurehead for the Society but will engage with us and provide occasional advice and guidance. He has an excellent and growing profile in the music world and, while not a recorder player, he is familiar with and has composed for the instrument. His agent is also very supportive and may be able to help us with further publicity.

Email Newsletter: *SRP eNews*, our new monthly email newsletter, has proved to be popular with many of our members. Allyn Richardson, our News Editor, took on the task of setting up the newsletter. The initial circulation included approximately 1,300 names, with only one member choosing to unsubscribe. The first *eNews* went out in October and was opened by 70% of recipients, which is an extremely good result. The following two newsletters have maintained that same level of interest with "Click Through" in the latest email at 30%, which confirms the high level of interest in the content. We shall seek to grow the email list to include other affiliated groups, and anyone with an interest in the recorder as a way of extending our reach and improving the awareness of our Society.

Publicity: Given the increasing importance of publicity for the Society, the role of Publicity Officer was advertised on our website, in eNews, by emails to Branch secretaries and also on the SRP Facebook group. I spoke with two candidates and the Committee has since appointed **ISOBEL CLARKE** as our new Publicity Officer and **LOUISE FINDLAY** as deputy Publicity Officer. Our new Publicity Officers are now working on a plan to increase our publicity in traditional and social media.

Recruitment: This is another key area that we discussed as part of our “Way Forward” initiative. There is still much to be done here in order to grow membership and in particular to attract younger members. I have spoken with Richard Chester, Chairman of the NYRO Trustees, about ways in which we can co-operate further with NYRO in order to agree and achieve mutual goals. We continue to seek further synergies with NYRO to ensure that the SRP benefits from our relationship with them and that it remains consistent with our goals as a Society and also as a charity.

David Rollason, our Membership Secretary, has also had further thoughts about our relationship with other organisations with similar goals to our own, and how we might better cooperate with them.

We are also looking in to other areas where we may attract new members. For example, there are many members of affiliated groups who are not members of the SRP. It would be useful to find a way to make it attractive and possible for them to become SRP members in their own right. I am also very aware that throughout the UK there are many small recorder groups that meet to play who could also perhaps join us as affiliated groups. I would welcome any suggestions in this area, but our goal is to target all recorder players and recorder groups with a view to finding ways to encourage them to become members.

Membership Benefits: The Committee continues to explore further benefits that may be provided to members in order to make membership more attractive to existing and future members. We are exploring options with regard to private areas on the website providing access to music and on line forums, but we would be grateful for any further suggestions from our members. It is felt that some existing benefits, including pastoral visits and workshops, are not fully utilised by some Branches. Through our Branches we also have an extensive library of music which could be attractive to new groups that wish to join.

80th Anniversary: As you are all aware, 2017 marks the 80th anniversary of the Society and, while celebrating this at our Festival here in Cambridge, we will also announce another benefit for Branches to enjoy in this our 81st year.

I would like thank you all for your continued support of the Society and look forward to seeing you again at our Festival in 2018.

Vic Morris

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

SRP Committee: Since April 2016 **ROSS WINTERS** has stepped down as one of the Society's Musical Advisers and **EMILY BANNISTER** has relinquished the post of Publicity Officer. The Society is most grateful to them for their work. **SARAH LANGDON** will be standing down as the Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator later in 2017 and anyone interested in taking on the role should contact Sarah or me.

Committee meetings: For many years the SRP Committee used to meet at Benslow Music Trust in Hitchin, where we were made very welcome. However, the increasing popularity of Benslow for courses made bookings difficult and so, starting with the autumn 2016 meeting, we have a new venue – Hughes Hall, Cambridge. The Committee has also decided that, with increasing use of e-mail to conduct business between meetings, it will now meet just twice a year - on the third Sunday in February and the first Sunday in October unless in any year there is an overriding reason why these dates are not appropriate. Having predictable dates should help not only Committee members who have many other commitments but also any other Society members who may have issues they would like the Committee to consider. If you do, just let me know by about a month before a Committee meeting date.

Visiting Conductors: We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Panel of Conductors:

* **RUTH BURBIDGE:** As many members will know, Ruth lives in Mytholmroyd in West Yorkshire and, as well as being a well-known conductor, runs Recorder Music Mail, which publishes the *Recorder Magazine* and sells recorder music all over the world.

* **ANNEMARIE KLEIN:** Annemarie is a professional musician from Luxembourg and currently lives in Edinburgh. Recorder is her main instrument and she has tutored and conducted at many recorder festivals and courses.

* **SOPHIE MIDDLEDITCH:** Sophie, who lives near Chichester, has also tutored and conducted at many festivals and courses. She runs recorder and woodwind sections at the Chichester Festival and works with her own baroque period chamber group, the Parnassian Ensemble.

Further appointments to the Panel of Conductors are also in the pipeline. There will be more details of new Panel members, and details of how to contact them to discuss inviting them as pastoral visitors or to conduct Branch Playing Days, in the forthcoming new edition of the Conductors booklet. This will be available in printed form and on the SRP website at www.srp.org.uk/visiting-conductors.

PHILIP EVRY, ANN LYALL, EVELYN NALLEN and **EILEEN SILCOCKS** have stepped down from the Panel of Conductors and we thank them for all their work for the Society. Evelyn remains a Musical Adviser.

About 80% of Branches have used the Visiting Conductors scheme: in 2015/16, 40 (out of 50) took part, including the newly formed Orkney Branch, and in 2016/17 I have so far approved 40 visits. All Branches, irrespective of the number of members, are eligible for a visit, for which they can reclaim the conductor's travelling and, if necessary, accommodation costs. Feedback suggests that Branches find visits instructive, rewarding and enjoyable. If your Branch has not booked a visit this year, there is still time to do so, and remember to consider one when planning your programme for 2017/18.

We are always pleased to consider applications to join the Panel of Conductors. Those on the Panel do not have to be SRP members, though we hope they are or will be. Applicants must either demonstrate their skills by conducting a Branch with which they are not familiar to the satisfaction of one of the Society's Musical Advisers or be recommended by a Musical Advisor familiar with their work. Anyone interested in joining the Panel should contact me in the first instance.

Recognition of long service: Conference is again reminded that the Society is delighted to be able to show its appreciation of the work of long-serving Branch Musical Directors and officials by the award of certificates recognising 25, 40 and even 50 years of service. Many awards have been made, but I suspect there are still unsung heroes, including ones just reaching one of these milestones, who deserve recognition. If you know, or are, one of these dedicated members, please let me know.

National Youth Recorder Orchestras: NYRO has been a separate charity since September 2014 and is able to apply to the Society for grants to support its work for young players. The Society awarded grants of £4,000 and £5,000 respectively to NYRO for 2015/16 and 2016/17 and has agreed a grant of £4,000 for 2017/18. Of this, £2,000 is subject to NYRO raising at least this amount from other sources. The Society is happy to collect donations for NYRO, either separately or as an addition to subscription payments, and eligible donors are encouraged to complete Gift Aid Declarations in favour of NYRO. If you know or meet young players who might be interested, do encourage them to get in contact with NYRO at www.nyro.org.uk.

Mike Wilkinson

REPORT BY THE TREASURER

This Report should be read in combination with the accounts for 2015/6.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2016

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2015-16 and a forecast for 2016-2017.

INCOME	2014-15 actual	2015-16 budget	2015-16 actual	2016-17 forecast
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	£32,003.12	£32,000	£31,697.45	£31,000
Festival Surplus	£597.45 £1,705.11		£7,053.98	
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	£0		£995.05	
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)				
Bank Interest (11.88% of Total Received)	£268.84	£200	£267.81	£300
Donations	£347.00			
Royalties	£0	£10	£5.76	
Branch Handover	41.68			
PRS fees Orchestras and branches			£67.10	
Total	£34,963.17	£32,210	£40,435.15	£31,300
EXPENDITURE				
Magazine	£13,659.70	£13,900	£13,808.25	£14,000
Annual Conference	£2,395.65	£3,000	£3,294.04	£4,000
Committee Expenses	£4,118.12	£5,200	£4,685.61	£5,000
Conductors Visits	£3,375.54	£4,000	£3,240.60	£4,700
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	£1,719.09	£300	£40.00	£1,700
Phones & Postages	£57.07	£200	£19.74	£100
Publicity	£393.60	£600	£507.60	£1,800
Ex-gratia payments to Festival Branches & WBF	£398.30	£1,137	£1,136.74	£5,366
Subscription to Making Music	£450.00	£350	£383.33	£450
Audit	£200.00	£200	£200.00	£200
Internet Presence	£106.20	£105	£96.00	£110
Insurances	£1,768.29	£1,768	£1,828.29	£1,857
Bank charges			£0	£60
Miscellaneous	£44.00	£40	£48.97	£100
PRS fees Orchestras and branches			67.17	
Total	£28,685.56	£30,800	29,356.34	£39,443
Surplus/deficit	£6,277.61	£1,410	£11,078.81	£-8,143

Subscription income was £300 less compared to 2014/15. As last year, Committee members' Conference expenses have been added to the general cost of the Committee, the Conference cost reflecting the Branch delegates' expenses. Both figures are higher than in the previous year as we had an exceptional number of attendees at last year's Conference. There was an overall surplus of £11,079, mainly due to additional income from both the national and the Scottish Festivals of over £8,000 in total. The Festival surplus has since been shared out between General Fund, WBF and the Branches (Lincoln and Edinburgh). The Central Fund held £47,828.39 on 31st August 2016.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £7,574 in donations, a legacy of £1,000 from Mabel Cluer, the final payment of a legacy from Margaret Duff (£196), £286 share of bank interest (16% of total) and £568 as a share from the Wolverhampton Festival. It made grants totalling £6,319; paid out £426 in repairs of donated instruments for sale, and provided the 3rd prize for the SRP/Moock competition (£400). The year's surplus was £2,460, leaving its fund at £33,951.71 on 31st August 2016.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £1,232 share of bank interest (69% of total). It also received gross royalties from Alex Ayre music £184 and PRS fees for Alex Ayre's music £214. Income from the sale of Bonsor CDs brought in £114. The Fund's main items of expenditure were grants to NYRO (£4,000), an instrument for Sophie Westbrooke, BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist, and the SRP/Moock competition: £2,490 in adjudication and expenses, and £800 in prize money. Workshops brought in £1,664 in entrance fees but incurred costs for professional fees and expenses (£1,590), venue hire (£389) and refreshments and printing costs (£61), resulting in overall support from the Arthur Ingram Fund of £376. Other costs occurred for setting of the Alex Ayre music (£56) and the printing and distribution of music (*Joyride* and *Stromness*). The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund was £11,035, a reduction of £7,627. The overall fund amounted to £123,516.13 on 31st August 2016.

The **Concerto Fund** received £707.57 in donations during the year, bringing the total to £711.52 on 31st August. It has received a further £160 this year, but more is needed to reach the target.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of over £8,000 for the Central Fund. However, bearing in mind last year's unprecedented surplus due to two profitable festivals, I propose not to increase the subscriptions for the third consecutive year. Perhaps membership will pick up again. If it does not, an increase of a small amount is likely to be necessary next year as the costs for visiting conductors, publicity, Conference and Committee expenses are rising.

Most Branches sent me their accounts by the middle of October as requested, though one account return did not come in until the end of November. I repeated my request to Branch treasurers to look at their Branch accounts in June or July to check whether they have reclaimed pastoral visitor's travel expenses, passed on donations etc., which again resulted in a much cleaner end to the financial year, and I hope that this will continue. However, a cross-check between amounts declared by Branches as transferred to central fund and the amounts actually received by me, which I carried out after the last Branch account came in, caused a delay and extra work for both the auditor and myself. My request to Branch treasurers: please, keep a careful record of monies paid to national SRP (both for subscriptions and donations), and also monies received from the national account (e.g. travel expense reimbursement). These figures need to correspond to the figures in my cashbook. The auditor has suggested that I send out an e-mail to each Branch, stating these amounts. From my point of view it would be easier if you do check with me towards the end of financial year. Also, please, do get someone to check your figures before countersigning, and do not delay this examination. While I am happy to receive provisional accounts by 15th October, I do require the examined accounts by end of November at the very latest. One Branch never sent me the corrected accounts last year.

I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts.

Ursula Burchette

REPORT BY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership numbers: Nearly 50% of branches have lost a few members, some have held steady, a number have increased their numbers. The total losses have amounted to 203, balanced out in part by new recruits. The total number of members for all categories of member for 2016-17 is currently 1,359. This figure once again represents a decrease over the previous year's figure of 1,377.

Processes: The Membership Secretary wishes once again to express his indebtedness to Anthony Hall for his tireless work on, and support with, the database, and also to Ian Davies at Recorder Music Mail for his good-humouredness and his care with the Society's business. The Membership Secretary is also appreciative of the efficiency of Branch Secretaries across the Society, either in sending him data in the form of spreadsheets, or – in the case of an increasing number – in entering their data on-line. Preparations are under way for the 2017 printed Membership List, and Jeremy Burbidge has given the full co-operation of Recorder Music Mail in printing and distributing it at the most reasonable possible cost. Mr Burbidge has informed the Membership Secretary that the easiest and most cost-effective way of distributing the List will be along with the Summer Magazine in June, the additional postage costs amounting to 30p per member for UK members. All members can therefore expect to receive the printed List together with that Magazine. Fresh supplies of Membership Cards, however, will be available directly from the Membership Secretary.

David Rollason

REPORT BY THE COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Current membership figures, with figures from April 2016 for comparison:

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	63 (69)	11 (10)	0 (0)	2 (2)	76 (81)
Rest of Europe	9 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (10)
Rest of World	7 (4)	6 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (8)
Totals	79 (83)	17 (14)	0 (0)	2 (2)	98 (99)

Corporate Members: 4 (3)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 20 (18)

Sandra Foxall

Note: On the next page is a table showing changes in Branch membership numbers each year from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

SRP Branch membership numbers, 2013/14 to 2016/17

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	
ABE	18	15	17	17	ABE
BIR	28	32	29	30	BIR
BNH	19	19	19	16	BNH
BRI	42	45	42	43	BRI
BTH	31	30	29	28	BTH
CAM	25	26	30	25	CAM
CHG	37	40	41	46	CHG
CLE	14	14	15	15	CLE
COR	29	29	29	21	COR
CUM	29	29	27	25	CUM
DEV	20	17	15	20	DEV
DOR	15	11	15	13	DOR
DUR	17	21	21	24	DUR
EBK	30	35	36	41	EBK
EDI	32	42	38	39	EDI
ESX	30	27	26	28	ESX
GLA	30	26	25	24	GLA
GUI	26	26	29	28	GUI
HIL	10	12	13	11	HIL
HLV	14	14	0	0	HLV
IRL	26	27	28	32	IRL
KNT	11	8	7	8	KNT
LEI	32	34	33	32	LEI
LIN	35	35	38	41	LIN
LON	26	27	20	19	LON
MAC	13	21	23	20	MAC
MAN	29	27	26	26	MAN
MDH	35	31	33	33	MDH
NCO	8	13	11	11	NCO

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	
NEW	28	26	29	30	NEW
NFK	27	27	28	28	NFK
NLO	23	29	19	31	NLO
NOT	22	22	21	19	NOT
NUN	17	16	13	15	NUN
ORK	0	0	9	9	ORK
OXF	25	19	26	22	OXF
PET	20	22	19	17	PET
ROX	6	8	7	7	ROX
SCO	9	0	0	0	SCO
SDN	24	26	26	24	SDN
SFK	58	51	52	49	SFK
SHE	28	27	28	24	SHE
SLO	23	18	14	13	SLO
SOM	32	32	29	35	SOM
SST	38	41	44	39	SST
WAL	26	30	29	25	WAL
WAR	21	22	30	25	WAR
WDO	20	22	19	16	WDO
WOK	19	25	28	24	WOK
WRI	21	26	26	31	WRI
WSX	43	42	40	43	WSX
YOR	18	19	20	22	YOR
Subtotal	1259	1283	1271	1264	Subtotal
Branches	51	50	50	50	Branches
mem/br	25	26	25	25	mem/br
COS	84	98	106	95	COS
Total	1343	1381	1377	1359	Total

Note: 2016/17 figures as at March 2017

Web Editor's Report to SRP Conference 2017

Progress this year

There have been two significant developments on the website this year:

Branch Music Libraries

I have made substantial improvements to the branch music library software. It can now be used to produce printable catalogues and to manage loans. I hope this will offer a useful service to any branch needing to manage a library catalogue.

Festival Bookings

For this year's festival, we decided that to develop a re-usable on-line booking system. This seems to be working well. The system is highly configurable and can be used for future SRP and Scottish festivals, and major branch events such as the Schnabel Orchestra event being organised by Devon Branch.

Future Plans

We expect to make small changes to the membership system to improve the handling of donations and the management of gift aid.

The web editors are already working with the new publicity officers and the newsletter editor to improve engagement with members and with the community generally. We plan various improvements.

Facebook

It's become apparent that the SRP Facebook page, although it has over 1,000 followers, is not working quite as intended in disseminating news items from the website. We are therefore looking at sending news items directly to the Facebook group, run by Sheila Richards, instead.

Other channels

Since there are lots of people not on Facebook, we want to find a way of notifying people by email of significant news on the website. We will probably email news items to a mailing list, which anyone will be able to join by clicking a button on the site. This would of course be complementary to the successful email newsletter: it would send out short emails straight away, rather than consolidated news once a month.

Forums and Private Areas

We have identified some candidate software that would allow us to have discussion forums on the site itself. We hope to evaluate these soon.

As always, the web editors would welcome any feedback and suggestions about the website.

Anthony Hall

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WALTER BERGMANN FUND

The Fund Committee meets 3 times a year, usually in February, May and November. At each meeting we discuss all applications and agree them if they have enough financial detail to prove the need for a grant and are deemed to have a case worth supporting within our remit.

Since the last Conference we have had 11 applications, of which 7 were agreed and 4 refused. Those agreed were as diverse as: 2 requests for support for lessons, 2 for buying instruments, one to support a new festival, one for a weekend course for gifted players and one for a day involving nearly 700 young people for a recorder day. We would welcome ideas for spreading the word and reaching young players who would benefit from a grant.



Francesca Clements and Olwen Foulkes
Walter Bergmann Fund Recital
Greenwich Early Music Festival, 12th November 2016

We are very keen to support wider activities organised for young people such as playing days, master classes, short courses etc and would be pleased to have applications to support these. Information and application forms are on the SRP web site.

Many people kindly donate second hand music and instruments to be sold for the Fund and other SRP members kindly donate money to purchase these. Many people help with raising money for the fund – for example, Julie Dean sells pre-owned instruments for us on her website, Ruth Burbidge keeps a box of music at Summer School for people to buy from or add to, I take music round Branches during visits for people to buy and many groups send donations after a concert or other activities. We are very grateful to all of you for helping to raise money.

Moira Usher

REPORT BY THE TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

The SRP workshops are underwritten by the Arthur Ingram Fund.

The following workshops have taken place in the last twelve months:

Date	Course	Tutor	Branch
June 2016	Gabrieli Canzonas	PT	Manchester
Oct 2016	Conducting	MU	Cambridge
Nov 2016	Tudor Day	MU	Leicester
Mar 2017	Gabrieli Canzonas	AC	Wessex

This is the same number as in the previous twelve months.

Although workshops could be organised by recorder players who are not members of SRP, this has never happened.

Just under a year ago the Treasurer and I put together some guidance about how to run a workshop and how to report back to the Treasurer. This should minimise some of the difficulties there have been in the past.

Whilst workshops are popular with those Branches which have had them, the same Branches continue to take advantage of them. Only 20 out of the 51 Branches have ever held workshops. It is to be hoped that, in the future, more Branches will take up the opportunity to run a workshop for recorder players in their area.

April Munday

REPORT BY THE MOECK/SRP COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Playing Competition
Winner's recital, 12th November 2016
Laura Schmid (recorders), Eriko Wakita (harpsichord)



2016-17 was a great year for the Society of Recorder Players/Moeck solo recorder competition! Our fantastic winner from the 2015 competition, Laura Schmid, returned to the UK to give her winner's recital at the 2016 Greenwich International Festival and Exhibition which took place in Blackheath in November.

Laura performed alongside harpsichord player Eriko Wakita, giving a wonderful recital of borrowed music. For anyone who wants to read more about the recital and Laura, there is an article in the Spring *Recorder Magazine*.

Looking forward to the 2017 competition, application forms were circulated to universities and teachers of recorder across the world in the autumn and there have been a small number of enquiries. Interestingly, this year quite a few enquiries were from postgraduate students who have just hit 30 and therefore unable to participate. The closing date was 31st March so, by the time we get to Conference, all entries will have been received.

This year's adjudicators are, accidentally, all male! Chairing the panel is Daniël Brüggén, with Chris Orton, head of the new recorder department at the RNCM, and Andy Watts, Baroque Bassoonist from the wonderful Carnival Band. Chris also works extensively in Spain and Daniël is a frequent visitor to the UK, and the combined knowledge and expertise of the panel should allow full appreciation of the performances of entrants from all countries. I am very grateful to the SRP Committee for allowing me to raise the expenses allowance for the adjudicators from £150 to £200 travel plus accommodation.

This year's competition will take place on Friday 10th November at 1pm, again at Blackheath, followed by what I'm promised will be an excellent recorder ensemble concert.

Alongside the usual organisation for the competition, I am in the process of reviewing all the rules and regulations for the 2019 competition as well as pinning down the proper procedures which can be followed rigorously for years to come.

Sarah Langdon
