



SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

President : Jonathan Dove

ANNUAL CONFERENCE : Sunday 15th April 2018

Officers' Reports

This document consists of reports by Officers to the SRP Annual Conference 2018. There are reports from:

- the Chairman
- the Secretary
- the Treasurer
- the Membership Secretary
- the Country and Overseas Secretary
 - the Web Editor
- the Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund
- plus an update on publication of Alex Ayre's music
 - the Training Co-ordinator
 - the SRP/Moock Competition Administrator
- plus a report on Society's commissioned piece for 2018

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Report by the Chairman

Looking Back

2017 was a year to look back and consider what our Society has achieved in the 80 years since it was founded. At last year's festival in Cambridge we celebrated in style with an opening sell out concert that attracted 500 people to the West Road Concert Hall, and 300 people to the weekend festival. We discussed at conference what we had achieved and how the Society had grown to more than 50 branches with close to 1500 members. We have made excellent progress with our goal "to promote the Recorder and its Music". We helped to commission a new recorder concerto with Sophie Westbrooke performing the premiere at the Glamorgan Music Festival, which was broadcast live on Radio 3. Each year we add to the recorder repertoire with new commissions and high profile composers writing for the recorder for the first time. Our commitment to the *Recorder Magazine* has firmly established the magazine as the leading recorder magazine in the world. With young recorder players consistently reaching the finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, we're beginning to see the recorder recognised once more as a "serious" instrument, and not simply a toy to learn music before progressing on to a "real" instrument. We all derive much pleasure from playing our recorders, and we have much to be proud of, but now is the time that we must start to think about the future.

The issue was raised last year at conference about the lack of funding for music and the arts in schools. As I look at our membership lists it is clear that we are failing to attract younger members on whom the future of our Society will depend.

Looking Forward

When I took on the role of Chairman two years ago, I spent time reviewing the 2020 report that was produced in 2012 which provided a detailed analysis of our Society and how we should continue to support Recorder Playing in the UK up to 2020 with a view to building a robust Society that could continue to flourish and grow in to the 21st century. The report contained many recommendations (83 in total) but now, in 2018 very few of these recommendations have been implemented with only two years till 2020. I know this was very disappointing for the authors who put so much effort in to the report. On taking the chair, I wrote my own shorter paper for the committee entitled "The Way Forward" which I hoped would drive our agenda for the following four years and help to deliver on some of the goals of the 2020 report.

We have made some progress, but there is so much more that we can and should do.

At conference the committee will present several proposals which are intended to address further some key issues that we hope will make the Society more attractive to existing and prospective members. We will be seeking to restructure the way in which our Society is managed by streamlining the committee while introducing new working groups that can focus on very specific functional areas with clear goals and the means to achieve them.

We'll ask you to consider new membership categories that we hope will make the Society more attractive to new members, and especially provide support to younger members and schools. Planning is already underway for new competitions that will help to promote the recorder with younger players, and also the composition of new works by new composers both young and old.

We have made some progress with marketing our society with the introduction of eNews and a new look for the Recorder Magazine, which although not our own publication, is one over which we have considerable input. However, there is so much more that can be done with Social Media and other means of promoting our activities.

Naturally we will want to discuss our finances, and how our reserves could (or perhaps should not) be invested to make membership more attractive to all. Our new membership reporting system has considerably simplified the means by which you can upload member details to us, and we hope that we can also ease the process by which you provide details of your accounts to simplify your responsibilities and those of our Treasurer.

We'll be seeking your views on these initiatives and above all your support, as there is much that can be done, but without willing volunteers ideas are wonderful, but can never be implemented without hands on help.

I'm hoping that this conference will be an opportunity for you to share your views with the committee, but especially to think and plan for the future, and simply not rubber stamp what we have done in the past.

I look forward to meeting with you at conference, but as always, feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss any aspect of the SRP.

Vic Morris

Chairman

Society of Recorder Players

Email: chair@srp.org.uk

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Report by the Secretary

SRP Committee: Since April 2017 Eileen Silcocks, one of the Society's Musical Advisers, has sadly died. Isobel Clarke has stepped down as one of the Society's Publicity Officers and some other Committee members have stepped down, given notice of their intention to step down at Conference, or are reaching the end of their term of appointment. There are further details in the briefing note I have prepared for Conference delegates. Proposals are being considered for major changes in the Society's Committee structure and operational responsibilities with the aim of increasing its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering its services to members and others.

Committee meetings: In 2016 the SRP Committee decided that, with increasing use of e-mail to conduct business between meetings, it will now meet 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 helps Committee members who have many other commitments and Society members who may have issues for the Committee to consider. If you do, just let the Secretary know by about a month before a Committee meeting date. In 2017 Committee meetings were held at Hughes Hall, Cambridge, while the meeting in February was at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire during their International Recorder and Early Music Festival.

Visiting Conductors: During the year we have been pleased to welcome two new members to the Panel of Conductors – WILLIAM SUMMERS and VINCENT TUMOSAS. Their details have been circulated to Branches and will be included in the forthcoming update of the booklet listing all Panel members – see www.srp.org.uk/visiting-conductors. We are also reviewing the process for appointing members to the Panel, which at present can sometimes be rather lengthy, and considering other changes to the scheme to make it more attractive to Branches and Panel members.

In 2016/17, 42 (of 50) Branches used the Visiting Conductors scheme, with the Society reimbursing Branches an average of £91 per visit. For 2017/18 I have so far approved 33 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. More feedback from Branches after visits, and on the scheme in general, would be welcome. When considering invitations, please look carefully through the complete list of Conductors, not just those you are familiar with, since there is a wealth and variety of talent from which Branches can benefit.

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.

Since this is my final report to Conference, I conclude with thanks to all who have valiantly responded to my many demands over the last 8 years and wish the Society and its members a prosperous and harmonious future.

Mike Wilkinson
March 2018

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Report by the Treasurer

This Report should be read in combination with the accounts for 2016/17.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2017

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for 2016/17 and a forecast for 2017/18.

INCOME	2015-16 actual	2016-17 forecast	2016-17 actual	2017-18 forecast
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	31,697.45	31,000	32,212.54	31,700
Festival Surplus	7,053.98		7,050.24	
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	995.05		0	0
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)				25
Bank Interest (24% of Total Received)	267.81	300	357.20	250
Donations			158.50	507
Royalties	5.76			37
PRS fees Orchestras and branches	67.10		54.28	
Total	40,435.15	31,300	39,832.76	32,519
EXPENDITURE				
Magazine	13,808.25	14,000	14,093.85	16,000
Annual Conference	3,294.04	4,000	3,058.96	3,500
Committee Expenses	4,685.61	5,000	5,113.11	5,400
Conductors Visits	3,240.60	4,700	3,838.28	6,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	40.00	1,700	1,353.98	200
Phones & Postages	19.74	100	711.26	50
Publicity	507.60	1,800	598.56	1,000
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches & WBF	1,136.74	5,366	10,066.19	
Subscription to Making Music	383.33	450	416.67	450
Audit	200.00	200	200.00	200
Internet Presence (incl. Publicity)	96.00	110		
Insurances	1,828.29	1,857	1,856.68	2,500
Bank charges	0	60	50.00	60
Miscellaneous	48.97	100	151.77	50
PRS fees Orchestras and branches	67.17		54.26	
Total	29,356.34	39,443	41,814.57	35,910
	11,078.81	-8,143	-1,980.81	-3,391

In 2016/7 the income from subscriptions was £415 more than in 2015/16. As in the previous year, committee members' Conference expenses are included in the general cost of the committee, the Conference cost (£3,294) reflecting only the branch delegates' expenses. Committee expenses increased by £430 to £5,113 (this includes two committee meetings with £2,040 in travel expenses and £670 in venue hire, conference expenses of committee members and musical advisers of £2,380, and other travel expenses of £445). The large festival surpluses from 2016 and 2017 were shared out equally between the General Fund, WBF and the festival organising branches (2016: Lincoln and Edinburgh, 2017: Cambridge, Peterborough and Bed & North Herts). The Central Fund held £45,858 on 31st August 2017.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £4,146 in donations, £298 share of bank interest (20% of total), £5,033 as share of the 2016 and 2017 national festival surpluses, and £156 in gift aid. It made grants totalling £4,020; paid out £40 in repairs of donated instruments before putting them up for sale, and £162 in committee expenses. The year's surplus was £5,410, leaving its fund at £39,362.22 on 31st August 2017.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £4,452 in gift aid from subscriptions (2013/14) and £833 in bank interest (56% of total). It also received £126 in royalties from Alex Ayre's music (after deductions of Anne Ayre's share) and £127 in PRS fees for Alex Ayre's music. Income from the sale of Bonsor CDs brought in £423. Entries to the SRP/Moeck competition amounted to £2,010 (competition held in November 2017), expenditure in connection with the 2015 prizewinner's recital were £535. The fund's main expenditure was a grant to NYRO (£5,000) and to a young professional for help with a CD recording (£750). The fund also provided a loan to the Concerto Fund of £5,000, most of which has now been covered by further donations. Workshops brought in £969 in entrance fees but incurred costs of professional fees and expenses (£1,438), venue hire (£415) and refreshments and printing (£140), resulting in overall support from the Arthur Ingram Fund of £1,066. Other costs incurred were for setting of the Alex Ayre music (£30) and the printing and distribution of the festival music (£571). The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £11,035, a reduction of £7,155. The overall fund amounted to £116,360.71 on 31st August 2017.

The **Concerto Fund** received £1,044.10 in donations. When the payment of the Fitkin Concerto was due in May 2017 we decided on a loan to the fund from the Arthur Ingram Fund as well as to advance a small sum that will be due as Gift Aid on the donations received from its inception till May 2017 (£293.50). A further £3,344 of the loan has since come in as donations as well as £83.83 in gift aid for 2015/16. I gather this leaves the fund short of around £900 to cover the repayment of the loan to the Arthur Ingram Fund.

Looking at the current year I predict a deficit of almost £3,400 for the central fund compared to a loss of £1,980 in 2016/17 despite a financially successful festival. I indicated last year that for 2018/19 a small increase in the subscription rate might be advisable. In order to reduce the call on the Central Fund and to avoid a repeat of the situation in 2006 when we had to raise subscriptions by £3.50, I propose an increase in subscriptions for 2018/19 of £1.50 (12½p per month) to £25 for individual members, and household subs to £36, the first increase since 2014.

I am grateful that most branches sent me their accounts by the middle of October as requested, but a couple of late submitters always make my life difficult, especially if I then find that there are discrepancies between what branches declare in their accounts and what I have recorded in my transactions with them. I repeat my request to branch treasurers to look at their branch accounts in June or July to check whether they have reclaimed pastoral visitors' travel expenses, passed on donations etc. 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, again caused a delay and extra work for both the auditor and myself. Most branches do not have any activities in August, so it may be helpful to prepare the branch accounts after the last meeting in July, leaving plenty of time to check for any outstanding transactions. If no further donations come in during August, the accounts can then be finalised and examined at the beginning of September.

My request to branch treasurers: please, keep a careful record of monies paid to the 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 a mail to each branch, stating these amounts. From my point of view it will be easier if Branch Treasurers check with me towards the end of financial year. Also, please, do get someone to check the 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 the end of November at the very latest, not in January!

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
15th March 2018

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Report by the Membership Secretary

1. **Process**

Membership renewal and registration has proceeded smoothly, thanks as ever to Anthony Hall’s database and his meticulous attention to its working. Some eighteen branches are now registered to enter membership data on-line and most of these are using this facility very successfully.

2. **Numbers**

The total membership of branches and COS is now 1377 as compared with 1391 at the end of the membership year in 2017. There has currently been a diminution of 17 in total branch membership and an increase of 3 in total COS membership. The membership cannot be described more optimistically than as being in steady state.

3. **NYRO complimentary membership**

The membership secretary has now received contact details for the last NYRO cohort from the NYRO administrator and has registered the students concerned for a complimentary year’s membership of SRP. He has circulated a message to them via the NYRO administrator encouraging them to participate fully in SRP’s activities.

4. **Magazine distribution**

The membership secretary is in discussion with Recorder Music Mail about ways of avoiding error in the despatch of magazines to members.

David Rollason

March 2018

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Report by the Country and Overseas Secretary

Current membership figures: (with figures from April 2017 for comparison)

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	69 (63)	12 (11)	7 (0)	2 (2)	90 (76)
Rest of Europe	10 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (9)
Rest of World	4 (7)	6 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (13)
Totals	83 (79)	18 (17)	7 (0)	2 (2)	110 (98)

Corporate Members: 4 (4)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 23 (20)

Sandra Foxall

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Report by the Web Editor

Progress this year

The main development this year has been the conversion of the website to a more modern look and feel, together with a complete reorganisation of the site navigation. The new site is far more flexible than the previous one and we are continuing to add new images and more dynamic content.

You can now keep in touch with news and changes to the site on the SRP Facebook Group, our Twitter feed, or by email.

We have installed software to allow discussion forums and private areas on the site. So far there is a forum for committee business, but we can set others as needed.

The membership system now has more automation of the gift aid process, including on-line storage of gift aid declarations.

Future Plans

We will update the content of the site in response to requests we've received, such as providing a page of summary information about branch meeting dates. We hope other content authors will update and add content taking advantage of the advanced features of the new site.

The membership system will be extended to allow people who want to join the SRP without necessarily joining a branch to do so on-line.

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

Web Editor Role

Finally, now that the new website is complete, I am stepping down as web editor. Sara plans to remain as deputy web editor. So we are looking for someone to take over the overall direction of the website and the maintenance of the online systems including membership software. Do please contact us if you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested.

Anthony Hall

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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. We agree to provide funds if there is enough financial detail to prove the need for a grant and we deem them to have a case worth supporting within our remit.

Since the last conference we have had 18 applications, of which 16 were agreed. Those agreed were as diverse as requests for support for lessons, money for buying instruments, money to support recorder festivals, for a weekend course for gifted players, for support for recorder work in Cornish schools and 3 applications for support to attend international music festivals. We would welcome ideas for spreading the word and reaching young players who would benefit from a grant. The money is not only for young professionals but for all recorder players under the age of 30. If you know of a youngster at school who cannot afford lessons or a decent instrument, or to attend a course then point them our way.

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 donate money to purchase these. Many people help with raising money for the fund. A member of one branch makes and sells preserves from her own orchard – and raised over £200 last year by selling them. Mark Usher sorts all the music donated and organises paying in the money for which I am truly grateful. Evelyn Nallen organises the donated recorders – Yuzuru from Cambridge Recorder services them and helps with the valuations.

We are very grateful to all of you for helping to raise money. What we need to do now is spend it!

Moira Usher

For WBF March 2018

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Update on publication of Alex Ayre's music

Alex Ayre left the SRP nearly 500 handwritten arrangements in his will. It was decided that these should be set on computer and a body of volunteers has been doing this for many years. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of work both to set the music and edit each piece for publication. This process is reaching the last stage largely thanks to the heroic efforts of Keith Martin who stepped into help me a few years ago. We are now checking through the lists of those pieces that have been published or are ready for publication to find those that were missed from the initial list.

Everyone involved in the project has done it on a voluntary basis which has to be fitted around work and life in general. Peacock Press publish the pieces and every piece sold brings royalties to the SRP. Many thanks to everyone who has assisted and to those who still do. The end is in sight!

Moira Usher, March 2018

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Report by the Training Co-ordinator

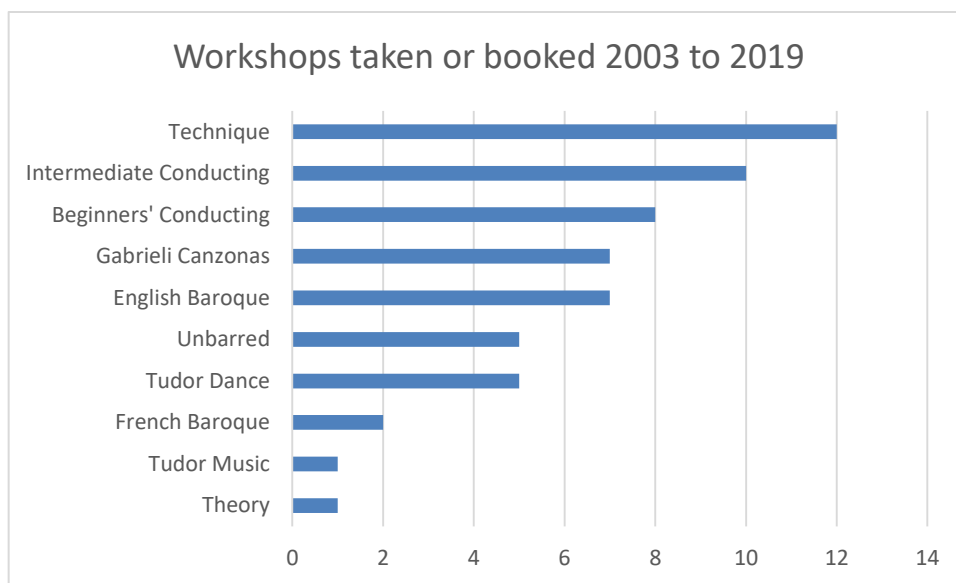
The SRP workshops are underwritten by the Arthur Ingram Fund.

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

Date	Course	Tutor	Branch
Jul 17	Intermediate Conducting	CT	Sheffield
Dec 17	Gabrieli Canzonas	PT	Leicester
Sep 17	Intermediate Conducting	MU	Cumbria
Feb 18	Unbarred	AL	Sheffield
Apr 18	Beginners’ Conducting	MU	Durham

This is one more than in the previous twelve months. A further four have been booked for the next twelve months.

The number of branches having had a workshop or intending to have a workshop over the lifetime of the scheme has increased to 25. It is still the case, however, that no groups external to the SRP have taken advantage of the opportunity to have a workshop.



The chart above sets out the number of each workshop taken or booked during the 16 years the scheme has been in place.

April Munday
 Training Officer
 March 2018

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Report by the SRP/Moeck Competition Administrator

The 2017 SRP/Moeck Competition received 23 entries, with 5 of those entries coming from players from or studying in the UK. The British entries were well received by the judging panel, Daniel Brügggen, Chris Orton and Andy Watts.

This was the first time in recent history that the final of the competition had not taken place in the Peacock Room in Greenwich due to the relocation of the Early Music Festival & Exhibition. I have had mixed feedback in response to the new venue and this will be something to be discussed with the Early Music Shop for the 2019 competition.

The online entry system worked well again this year and I hope this can be streamlined further for the next competition, which cuts down the work of the administrator greatly. Entries came from around the world and the competition is regarded in high esteem by teachers and performers across Europe and other countries which have a high level of Recorder playing. As well as the UK entries previously mentioned, there were entries from Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, Spain, Taiwan and the USA.

Our 3 finalists were Silvia Berchtold (who was also a finalist in 2015), Guillaume Beauloeu and Miriam Munzel with Silvia taking 1st prize after fantastic performances from each of them. Please see the latest issue of the *Recorder Magazine* for a review written by Pallisander's Miriam Nerval. Silvia will return to Blackheath this November to give her winner's recital and it will be wonderful to watch.

Many thanks to Heather and Peter at the Early Music Shop; Marianne Chapman from Trinity; our three excellent adjudicators – Daniel, Chris and Andy; as well as the teachers who continue to encourage their students to participate in the competition, making it truly the most important competition for young recorder players.

Sarah Langdon
April 2018

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SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Commissioned piece for 2018

David Knotts writes:

There's something about being asked write a new piece for the SRP which brings me full circle in my own musical life. My own musical interests were encouraged at a really musical primary school and much of the school's musical life centred around the recorder. I have incredibly fond memories of Mrs Sopp of East Wittering Primary school whose educational beliefs



centred around three things: multiplication tables, Scottish country dancing and the recorder. We all learnt to play the recorder and we all played together every day. These early musical experiences opened the door to the exciting world of making music with other people.

The new work is based on quirky idioms like One fell swoop, Three sheets to the wind, A bird in the hand, and Off to hell in a handcart. There will be 8 pieces for solo, duet, trio etc up to octet — which can be played as a suite, or in sections depending on how many players are available.

David Knotts' commissions include the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Endymion Ensemble, English National Opera, the Composers Ensemble, the Britten Estate (to celebrate the re-opening of Aldeburgh's Jubilee Hall) and a series of pieces for the Schubert Ensemble. For further information see www.davidknotts.co.uk.

The First Performance of this year's SRP commissioned consort piece will be at 3pm on Sunday June 24th at the Bene't Club (Corpus Christi College's Music Society), Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RH. Tickets at the door.

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