



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity Nos. 282751, SC038422

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2008

SECRETARIES

Bob Whitmarsh writes; I was co-opted by the Committee during 2007 to take over from Alistair Read as Honorary Secretary of the Society from 1 December 2007 at least until Conference 2008.

Since Conference 2007 exactly 50 Pastoral Visits have been authorised, 3 (two retrospectively) for 2006-07, 39 for 2007-08, 7 for 2008-09 and 1 for 2009-10. All the applications that I received were handled on-line which makes for speed of response and saves the Society postage. I am trying to encourage Branches to apply at least one month ahead of the proposed visit to cover periods when I might be away.

Society Secretaries today are always grateful to handle correspondence by email and I am glad that only a few Branches and no Committee members still prefer paper communications. This also saves the Society money, in the face of increasing postal costs, and my time, because it is laborious to print off double-sided paper, fold it and stuff and address envelopes.

Would Branch Secretaries and others please note that the Society is now a registered charity in Scotland; with effect from 31 March 2008 the Society is obliged to include that registration number on all documentation as set out above. The number is SC038422 (the third character being a zero not an alpha O).

I am grateful for continuing help and guidance from Alistair Read in my baptism of fire but any mistakes are entirely my own fault. How true, as he said in his last report, that the devil is in the detail.

Alistair Read writes; My last job as the Society's Honorary Secretary has been to revise the *Panel of Visiting Conductors*. Sadly, seven conductors declined to be listed in the 2008 edition and thanks are extended elsewhere for their services to the SRP and its members. There has been a net loss of conductors over several editions of the *Panel of Visiting Conductors* and it is very much hoped that members, through their branches, will make suggestions to the Committee for inclusion in the future.

On a personal note, I would like to say a big thank you to all the branches and individuals who have contacted since my retirement from post; it certainly made 14 years' work worthwhile - and I miss you all.

Bob Whitmarsh and Alistair Read

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Most branches sent their lists and cheques by 30th November.

I would like to thank all branch secretaries / treasurers who used my guidelines for the new format of membership lists. I am really grateful to you. This speeded up my work.

Sadly there have been five deaths since the last conference.

Richard Davies – Guildford
Anne Blackman – London (Honorary Life Member)
Valerie Elliott – Essex
Sally Crispin – Devon
Ella Washington - Kent

Margaret Shearing

SRP NEWS EDITOR

I had been aware for some time of a decrease in the number of contributions being submitted by branches. This fell to an all-time low in the Autumn 2007 edition, with just three. Fortunately reports from three recorder orchestras and contributions from the committee relating to Gift Aid and Training helped to fill our pages.

I sent a circular to all branches and the response was magnificent - it was particularly pleasing to hear from a branch which had not contributed for more than ten years. However, this created a problem - for the Winter and Spring issues I received far more reports than could be accommodated, and regrettably it was necessary to edit contributions. I hope branches will not be discouraged by this and that the present level of contribution will be maintained.

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

Madeline Seviour

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current membership figures: (with figures from March 2007 for comparison)

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	84	22	60	6	172 (177)
Rest of Europe	14	5	0	0	19 (17)
Rest of World	9	0	1	1	11 (10)
Totals	107 (107)	27 (26)	61 (64)	7 (7)	202 (204)

NYRO members, included in the above, 56 (59)

Corporate Members: 5 (5).

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 14 (11).

Gift Aid: 58 current members have signed the form.

Jim Rowley

WEB EDITOR

Our web site has a considerable amount of information about the Society: branch contacts and programmes, recorder orchestras, NYRO, Walter Bergmann Fund, Competition, Society documents, Festival and publications, concerts, notices (recorders for sale or wanted) as well as links to various other relevant sites (other recorder groups, suppliers/publishers etc).

Visitors are from all over the world (only about 15% being from the UK). Some of this traffic is accounted for by US-based search engines, but we are probably used widely as an information source about the recorder.

We are well-known to search engines so it is very likely that relevant searches will lead to our site. Also, other relevant sites have links to ours.

Visitors view a wide variety of pages, but the Branches page, which lists branches, and from which details of branches and their programmes can be found, is particularly well visited.

I get a number of enquiries on recorder-related subjects as Web Editor, and I believe branches also receive inquiries as a result of the web site.

I understand that the formation of the Wales branch was assisted by information on the web site, and there was a surge in interest in the Cheltenham & Gloucester branch after a revamp of their page, instigated by their new secretary.

I am asked to do updates fairly frequently, and generally manage to do these quickly, but sometimes there can be a delay if I am very busy.

Ashley Allerton

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Table of Workshops organised for SRP

Date	Course	Tutor	Branch	Organiser
Feb 2003	Intm. Conduct.	M.Usher	Edinburgh	A Short
Nov 2004	Intm. Conduct.	M.Usher	Bristol	S. Davies
Sept 2005	Intm. Conduct.	M.Usher	Winchester	R. Whitmarsh
Jan 2006	Intm. Conduct.	C.Touchin	Edinburgh	A. Short
June 2006	Technique	H.Hooker	Bristol	S. Davies
March 2007	Technique	H.Hooker	Essex	S. Walker
Nov 2007	Theory	M.Usher	Suffolk	M. Usher
May 2009	Technique	E.Silcocks	Lincoln	D. Knight

The first workshop theory day was held on Nov 3rd in Suffolk. 9 people attended, 5 recorder players, 4 singers with good feedback at the end. I would like to run more of these - designed for those who picked up singing or an instrument late in life and have a hazy notion of the dots and their meaning, key signatures, time signatures and exactly what the conductor is doing!

Lincoln Branch (in association with Peterborough Branch) have booked a technique day with Eileen Silcocks on 16th May 2009.

I have printed leaflets to promote the workshops and would be very pleased to see more people setting up workshops days in their area. These are an essential part of our charity remit and people who are not SRP members are welcome to attend.

M Usher

TREASURER

This table contains a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2006-07 and a forecast of the figures for 2007-2008.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2007

INCOME	2006-2007	2007-2008
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	23,577.66	24,500
York Festival 2006 Surplus	803.10	
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	100.00	
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)	(8337.94)	
Bank Interest (10.75% of Total Received)	1214.86	1,200
Remainder of funds from ceased branches	67.41	
Total	25,763.03	25,700
EXPENDITURE		
Magazine	12,507.19	12,750
Annual Conference	3,703.09	4,000
Conductors Visits	3,233.95	3,600
Committee Expenses	2,037.45	2,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	829.13	550
Phones & Postages	489.12	500
Publicity	58.75	100
Ex-gratia payments to Cumbria, and WBF	1,123.86	535
Ex-gratia payments to Aberdeen and – Scottish Festival 2006	58.22	66
Competition	-689.36	0
Subscription to Making Music	382.66	400
Audit	150.00	150
Internet Presence	265.80	200
Liability Insurance	907.07	1,075
Employers Liability Insurance	108.33	325
Trustee Insurance	27.91	215
Miscellaneous	27.47	
Total	25,250.62	26,966

The surplus for the year was £512 leaving the fund at £24,721 on the 31st August. I would like to point out that this “surplus” is due to the competition entry fees in the Competition account. I anticipate a shortfall of £1,400 in 2007/8.

Subscription income rose by £3,166 compared with 2005/06 as many members opted to pay the increased fee voluntarily. I am very grateful for this. The cost of the Annual Conference rose by almost £500, the cost of conductors’ visits increased by almost £800. Committee expenses were down by £230.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £1,955 in donations, and £2,093 share of bank interest, £562 share of the 2006 SRP festival surplus, and £46 from the Inland Revenue Gift Aid return. It made grants totalling £3,366, chairman's expenses were £30. The year's gain was £1,259 leaving its fund at £41,523.

The Arthur Ingram Fund received £7,993 share of bank interest, as well as £8,338 Inland Revenue Gift Aid – reclaimed from subscription for 2003 till 2006. Its main expenditure was the NYRO management fee (£6,000), an *ex gratia* payment to Anthony Rowland-Jones (£500), a grant to Early Music for Youth (£250) and a workshop (£110). The overall fund amounts to £180,386. The cost of the competition is to be transferred into the Arthur Ingram Fund, and Conference 2007 authorised £5,000 towards the purchase of large instruments for NYRO which was paid out in January this year. Anne Blackman's bequest of £1,000 was added to this fund in November 2007.

In view of the very small surplus in the central fund, increasing travel costs, that may necessitate an increase in mileage rate, as well as the uproar surrounding the latest, rather steep increase in subscription rates, I propose a modest increase of 50p per person. This means the rates would rise to £18.00 per full member, £28.00 per household membership and £13.50 for students; a further rise of £1 is likely to be necessary in 2009.

I received most branch accounts by 30th November, and almost all on the official return form which made the task of collating them a lot easier. So, a thank you to branch treasurers. Just a minor moan – please ensure that your examiner takes the time to actually check through the figures to avoid errors in calculation. The auditor pointed out that some branches have very small sums in their bank accounts; the branch reserves should equal a year's expenditure. I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts.

That concludes my report.

Ursula Burchette

CHAIRMAN NYRO SUB-COMMITTEE

The SRP NYRO subcommittee meets about three times each year; the minutes are taken to the SRP main committee and are also published on the SRP website. A newsletter is circulated regularly to participants, supporters and SRP branches. The NYRO website www.nyro.org.uk has full information. Reports appear regularly in *The Recorder Magazine*.

The 2007 NYRO summer course was in Pocklington School, Yorkshire from 22-28 July, followed by the concert at The Sage, Gateshead in the afternoon of Saturday 28 July. There were 55 players (16 boys and 39 girls), 37 in NYRO and 18 in NYTRO (training orchestra). Colin Touchin as Musical Director conducted NYRO and the combined orchestra; Eileen Silcocks conducted NYTRO. An innovation was BlockWork, a one-to-a-part chamber orchestra of 13 players directed by Ross Winters. Chris Orton joined Ross and Helen Hooker as tutor in place of Marion Scott, who was unavailable. We were delighted that Chris subsequently won the SRP/Moeck solo competition. The concert in The Sage, including the première of John Hawke's Symphony No. 2, was agreed to be the best ever and was well reviewed in *The Recorder Magazine* (the CD is available). Pre-concert chamber groups in the lobby were very well received. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive.

The cost to participants was £415. Some were assisted by the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund. From an income around £32,000 there was a surplus of £2691.

There was a playing day at the Priory School, Birmingham on 23 September 2007 directed by Colin and Ross. The standard was good, although the attendance was down at 17. It has not proved possible to arrange a London playing day this year.

The 2008 spring course was at Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire from 1 to 5 April. The dates were tricky to arrange as the early Easter meant that there are no dates when all schools were on holiday together. Probably for this reason the UK attendance was down at 19; fortunately a group of 12 players from South Africa ensured that the course was viable.

The 2008 summer course with the same music staff will be at Abbots Bromley School, Staffordshire from 27th July to 2nd August. The concert will be in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, on Saturday 2 August at 2.30 p.m. Ticket prices are £10 and £7 concession. For 2009 locations in the Eastern region of England are being investigated.

The SRP Committee allocated £5000 from the Arthur Ingram Fund to purchase large instruments for use at the NYRO summer course and by SRP-affiliated orchestras or SRP branches at other times. This sum has been supplemented from the NYRO accumulated surplus. 2 Paetzold contrabasses in F and 2 K ung Superio great basses in C will be received in early May 2008. Applications to borrow these or the K ung contrabass and great bass donated by Jeanette Hipsey from September 2008 until June 2009 should be received by Naomi Winterburn, NYRO Administrator nyro@srp.org.uk by 1 June 2008. A contribution towards insurance and maintenance of £100 per instrument is requested.

Thanks are due to Colin, Naomi, all music staff, Rosemary Byde (Treasurer), Sharon Willerton (website), external subcommittee members Dianne Charles and Jean Murray, house staff, helpers and supporters.

Andrew Short

WALTER BERGMANN FUND CHAIRMAN

We have had a steady number of applicants this year and have been able to assist most of them. Successful applicants have attended NYRO 2007 and the Recorder Makers Weekend at Finchcocks. Funding for recorders and tuition is a popular request. We have had generous donations in memory of Patricia Losty and from the sale of music/instruments from Edgar Hunt's collection. The fund donated a prize to the Moeck/SRP solo recorder final in November.

Andrew Collis

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

Work has started on the prize winners' recital in November at the Early Music Exhibition. Next year's competition is the 25th Anniversary and the appointment of the judges will be finalised in the next few months. The prize money will be more substantial and the whole profile of the event will be looked at.