

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, 1 April 2007

The Mount School, Dalton Terrace, York YO24 4DD

PRESENT:

Officers, Committee & Musical Advisers:

Andrew Short	Chairman	Beryl Craven	Committee
Alistair Read	Secretary	Sandra Foxall	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Helen Jones	Committee
Margaret Shearing	Membership Sec.	Dick Pyper	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Mary Steele	Committee
Mary Tyers	Competition Administrator	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser

Branches

Aberdeen	Edward Friday	London	Bob Horsley
Bath	Katie Walker	Manchester	Janice Ormerod
Beds & N Herts	Ian Farquhar	Newcastle	Sheila Ryan
(Observer	Barbara Farquhar)	Norfolk	Charles Levien
Birmingham	Wendy Pettit	Northampton	Sheila Marlow
(Observer	Caroline Jones)	Nottinghamshire	Patsy Fletcher
Bristol	Dick Little	Nuneaton	Helen Jones
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Oxford	Helga Bogisch-Francis
(Observer	Geoff Walker)	Peterborough	Jane Theedom
Cornwall	Carol Raines	Sheffield	Jane Ellin
Cumbria	David Beare	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
(Observer	Andrew Fellerman)	South Downs	Patricia Civita
Devon	Sue Watson	(Observer	Phoebe Williams)
Dorset	Noreen Johnson	South London	Margaret Crocker
Durham	David Rollason	(Observers	Paula Marsh and
East Berks	Andrew Challenger		Denis Bloodworth)
Edinburgh	Eileen Finlayson	South Staffs	Penny Cook
Essex	Janet Holt	Suffolk	Chris Westren
Glasgow	Bill McCormack	Wales	Penny Thomas
(Observer	Frank MacKenzie)	Warwick	Helen Jones
Guildford	Rosemary Whisson	Wessex	Lorraine Curtis
Isle of Man	Suzanne Rose	(Observer	Shirley Batterley)
Kent	Ulli Burchette	West Riding	Jane Sellek
Leicester	Beryl Craven	York	Ann Grosvenor
Lincolnshire	Diana Knight		

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the Committee and Delegates to the Conference and congratulated York Branch on the success of the Festival.

In Memoriam

It was with sadness that Andrew Short noted the deaths of Peter Sturgeon (Nottinghamshire); Eric Chapman (Devon); Michael Uridge (South Downs MD); Margaret Roach (Bristol); Pamela Levisieur (Cornwall); Nell Frampton (Lincolnshire); John Higgitt (Edinburgh); Ralph Hall (Guildford) and Colin Martin (Manchester branch vice president and SRP Musical Adviser).

Apologies for absence were received from the following Officers/Committee: Andrew Collis; Jim Rowley; Madeline Seviour; Colin Touchin; Evelyn Nallen; Helen Hooker; Eileen Silcocks; and Petrina Lodge; and from the following branches: Hillfoots; Ireland; and Weald of Kent.

2. Minutes of last Conference

Once the apology of Dorset Branch had been added, Sandra Foxall (Committee) proposed and Alyson Lewin (Musical Adviser) seconded the motion that the Minutes of Conference 2006 be adopted as a fair record of those proceedings. Carried *nem con*.

3. There were no Matters arising

4. Election of Officers and Committee

4.1 Andrew Short said all Officers were prepared to stand for re-election with the exception of himself as Chairman. The current Officers (except Andrew Short) were proposed *en bloc* by Alyson Lewin (Musical Adviser); seconded by Dick Pyper (Committee) and ELECTED *nem con*. by Conference for a term of one year. Dick Pyper (Committee & Guildford) was elected Chairman, proposed by Denis Bloodworth and seconded by Margaret Crocker (South London Branch)

4.2 Committee Members: Sandra Foxall (Cleveland) and Dick Pyper (Guildford) were due to retire this year. The following nominations had been received to fill two three-year term posts:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Proposed and seconded by</i>
David Beare (Cumbria)	George Thorp & Julia Pittman Cumbria Branch
Caroline Jones (Birmingham)	Central Committee
Debbie Nicholas (Bath)	Central Committee
Jane Sellek (West Riding)	Central Committee

In the ensuing election, Caroline Jones and Jane Sellek were ELECTED to serve on the Committee for three years.

Four nominees declined to stand for election.

The Chairman thanked the retiring members of the Committee for their work and welcomed the new members.

4.3 Under the Society's amended Rule 5.9, Eileen Silcocks succeeds Helen Hooker as Musical Adviser on Committee.

5. Officers' Reports

5.1 *The Secretary* said that he wished to retire at Conference 2008 and would welcome any enquiries from anyone interested in applying for the post. It was suggested that electronic receipts be requested for all email correspondence in view of the increasing loss of messages sent by this method. The Secretary AGREED to adopt this procedure.

5.2 *The Membership Secretary* had nothing to add to her written report but requested that delegates take away with them the 2007 Membership List and supplies of membership cards.

5.3 The Chairman read out Andrew Collis's *Walter Bergmann Fund* report: "The Walter Bergmann fund has assisted applicants for the NYRO/NYTRO courses and Woodhouse Recorder week 2006. The Philip Cole bursary for 2007 has been awarded to the Edinburgh Young Musicians to help their Easter Course. The Bursary for 2006 was not awarded due to lack of applicants. The information flyer is being updated. An advert about the fund will be appearing in the York Festival brochure.

5.4 *The Training Co-ordinator* said she had nothing to add to her written report. In answer to a query she confirmed that training sessions would be held at next year's festival but it was up to festival organisers to make a request to her for such facilities.

5.5 The Chairman expressed his thanks to Ashley Allerton, *Web Editor*, for his considerable hard work and asked Conference to join with him in congratulating Ashley in his management of the website. Following discussion it was AGREED that the onus for removal of out-of-date information of branch web pages was the responsibility of the branches themselves and not Ashley Allerton.

5.6 Mary Tyers tabled her report as *Competition Administrator* (copied attached).

5.7 *Treasurer's Report*

5.7.1 Accounts for 2004-05 were approved by Conference. Proposed: Joyce Ruddall (Somerset); seconded: Rosemary Whisson (Guildford).

5.7.2 Accounts for 2005-06 were approved by Conference. Proposed: Mary Tyers (Competition Administrator); seconded: Alyson Lewin (Musical Adviser).

5.7.3 There was one correction to her report (appended). Total expenditure (p5) should read £24,895.94.

5.7.4 It was confirmed that 'Making Music' would undertake Child Protection checks for branches at about £11.00 per application; these could be successfully carried out in a matter of weeks. The Chairman confirmed that the 'Making Music' password would be recirculated so that branches could use this and their other services.

5.7.5 Thanks to Ulli Burchette were proposed by Diana Knight (Lincoln-shire) and seconded by the Chairman for the monumental job achieved in getting back on track final accounts within due date and admiration for the way in which she tackled the steep learning curve to achieve this. In response, Ulli said she had been considerably aided by Mr Keith Varney who had acted as independent examiner and had been a good teacher.

5.8 Gift Aid

Dick Pyper reported that little progress had been made in looking at the expenses of the Society. He was delighted to report, however, that Gift Aid Status had been granted by HM Revenue and Customs (HMR&C). Gift Aid declarations had been issued to all eligible branches: the Isle of Man and Ireland being the only exceptions. Forms had been also been issued to the Country & Overseas Secretary. Forms had been returned by all but eight branches. Work was progressing on a claim for the year 2005–06. An initial trial claim had been submitted to HMR&C and just over £700.00 had been received. A further £1,800.00 could be anticipated. It was hoped that claims could be submitted for the Tax years 2003–2004 and 2004–05, once a full claim a full claim for 2005–06 can be submitted.

5.9 Charity Commission Annual Report/Payments to charity trustees

The Chairman advised Conference that in 2008 there would be a test of educational charities. Accordingly, the Society would need to demonstrate that the Arthur Ingram Fund (AIF) was used for public benefit. Further, it would be advisable to transfer some of the costs set against Central Funds to AIF. This in turn would necessitate a definition of this fund. In future it would be necessary for branches to report their charitable activities, e.g. visits to schools, old peoples' homes, etc. He further stated that, under present CC Rules, it was necessary to disclose payments made to trustees of the Society for professional services. Andrew said he had written to the Charity Commission for guidance on this matter but to date had not received a response. It was therefore **PROPOSED** by Dick Pyper; **SECONDED** by Jane Sellek that Conference did not object to Trustees earning fees as musicians when undertaking professional commitments within the Society. Resolution carried *nem. con.*

Alyson Lewin (MA) proposed and Suzanne Rose (Isle of Man) seconded a motion that the Officers' Reports be approved. Carried *nem con.*

6. National Youth Recorder Orchestra

Andrew Short, as Chairman, NYRO, reported that the 2007 Summer course would be held at Pocklington School, Yorkshire from 22 to 28 July and the concert at The Sage, Gateshead (Hall 2), on Saturday 28 July at 3.00 pm.

In introducing his paper (previously circulated) on instrument loan and instrument purchase, Andrew Short said it was vital that NYRO had access to big instruments and that plans were made for instrument purchase. NYRO's Küng instruments had been refurbished to an extremely high standard and was recommended. It was **AGREED** that further instruments be purchased with Arthur Ingram funding which would be reimbursed once Gift Aid payments had been received. Proposed: Dick Pyper; seconded Alison Lewin and carried *nem. con.* Andrew confirmed that these instruments would be made available to orchestras and administered by Naomi Winterburn. Arrangements could also be made for branch loan for special use, e.g., pastoral visits where the conductor had asked for such instruments to be available. Andrew urged orchestras and branches to communicate with NYRO Administrator.

7. Future festivals

The following arrangements were noted:

- 2008 Kent/Weald of Kent (19–20 April at The Weald of Kent School, Tonbridge)
[Easter 21–24 March]
- 2009 Cleveland (confirmed) (18–19 April)
- 2010 Suffolk (confirmed)
- 2011 Somerset/Devon (provisional)

8. Resolutions to Conference

8.1 Taking the chair briefly, the Secretary told Conference that Andrew Short, who had been in post 11 years, had given selflessly to the post of chairman and in particular through his guidance, energy and enthusiasm had seen NYRO come into being. Alistair commended Andrew to Conference, moving a resolution that honorary life membership be bestowed on him. Conference was pleased to AGREE and showed its appreciation in the usual manner. Andrew expressed his thanks and thanked all who had worked with him.

8.2 It was PROPOSED by Ulli Burchette, SECONDED by Margaret Shearing and AGREED by Conference that with effect from 1 September 2007 the subscription rates be set at £17.50 for full members; £28.00 for household members and £13.00 for student members. On a vote of 42 in favour; two against; and one abstention the motion was carried.

8.3 Amendment to Rules 2005 (Annual Returns Dates)

8.3.1 It was AGREED that beginning financial year 2007–08 annual branch accounts should be made by 30 November. Accordingly, in Rule 10.2 substitute 30 November for 31 December, delete “... for the purposes of information” and substitute “... for incorporation in the full accounts.” Carried *nem. con.*

8.3.2 It was AGREED that beginning financial year 2007–08 subscriptions and membership returns should be made by 30 November. Accordingly, in Rule 7.9 substitute “30 November for 31 January.” Carried with two against. It was AGREED to review this in twelve months’ time.

8.4 Conference ratified the dissolution of Plymouth and Milton Keynes Branches. The Treasurer said she had received a small cheque from Plymouth but had heard nothing from Milton Keynes. The Secretary confirmed that the latter had been instructed and reminded that funds, music, instruments and any other equipment should be returned to the Society but to no avail. Carried *nem. con.*

8.5 Conference was pleased to ratify Wales Branch which had opened with 16 members. Carried *nem. con.*

8.6 Conference authorised the Committee to take out Indemnity Insurance for SRP Trustees and charge the cost of premiums to the Society, which was AGREED. Carried *nem. con.* Dick Pyper confirmed that £250 for £250,000 worth of cover was deemed to be sufficient in view of the low risk.

8.7 It was proposed by Margaret Shearing; seconded by Alistair Read that the 1982 resolution "...that retirement pensioners in cases of hardship should be allowed to apply through Branch Secretaries to the Treasurer to be treated as students" be rescinded. Instead it was AGREED that branch committees could determine hardship cases and pay any amount of the national subscription from branch funds. Carried with six votes against. (Action: Secretary to write to Branch Secretaries)

8.8 It was proposed by Ulli Burchette; seconded by Helen Hooker and AGREED by Conference that Mr Keith Varney be appointed Independent Examiner for 2006–07. Carried *nem. con.* The Treasurer confirmed that Mr Varney was a qualified accountant.

8.9 A resolution submitted by Lincolnshire Branch that, "In view of the change in the Society's Rules permitting payment for professional services provided to members we wish to submit the resolution for approval that future editions of the Panel of Visiting Conductors include an indication as to whether or not the panel members charge a fee for a Pastoral Visit" was lost with one vote in favour; one abstention and 20 against.

9. Any other business

9.1 The Chairman confirmed that all Society papers were displayed on the Documents page of the website.

9.2 It was AGREED that it was difficult to hear discussion at conferences and that a public address system should be employed. It was pointed out that few schools had such equipment but Ulli Burchette advised that the venue for 2008 did.

Conference closed at 12.15 hr.

ADS/JAR
8.05.07
Conf. Mins (final) 2007