



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

## OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2005

### SECRETARY

There appears to have been a record change of branch secretaries this year, 16 in all, the majority of whom are on-line.

I am grateful to our new colleagues for agreeing to their email addresses being published in *The Recorder Magazine* and on the website. As enquiries about the Society by traditional routes, i.e., post and telephone, have now all but dried up, I am pleased to note that the number of hits on the website continues to grow (see the Website Editor's report below).

I have authorised 39 pastoral visits for 2004–05 and seven (7) for 2005-06 already. Regrettably, there is still a tiny hardcore of branches that either omit to tell me of an impending visit or expect that the cost will automatically be reimbursed after the event. With no apology for playing the same old record, would branches please ensure that I get to hear about such visits **beforehand**; to date I haven't been less than helpful but one day...!

No new branch enquiries have been received since last Conference.

A jolly team of helpers assembled at Theo & Kitty Wyatt's in early April to collate, staple, fold and count into bundles some 24,000 sheets of paper (printed by Theo) to produce the 2,000 copies of the Membership List 2005. **Would all delegates please take home with them their branch bundles**—and, if they are able, those for any neighbouring branches unrepresented at Conference.

In view of the number of addenda floating around and other changes in the pipeline, I hope to publish new editions of both the *List of Pastoral Visitors* and of the *SRP Rules* within the course of the next few months.

As in the past, I shall continue to distribute the Committee's paperwork either by email or mail, depending on its complexity.

Alistair Read

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership of the Society in most areas continues to be relatively stable. Of the 51 branches, 17 show a gain (+35 members), 22 show a decline (-62 members), while 12 are unchanged. Gains have been modest, but 2 branches have reported a decline of more than one third in membership. The net change (excluding COS) is -27.

At the time of last year's Conference, figures were incomplete; but as can be extracted from the accompanying spreadsheet, they were: 19 branches +42, 19 branches -88, 13 branches unchanged. This net loss of -46, though larger than for the current year, was easily offset by the advent of 67 NYO members. This year, however, NYO has itself declined to 37 members, so that, together with a continuing contraction in COS membership, the overall total has decreased to levels approaching those of 20 years ago.

Once again a new edition of the Address List has been compiled. We are very grateful to Theo Wyatt for printing and to Bob Horsley and his team for collation, stapling and packing. As I am, after (too?) many years, at last relinquishing this post, any errors or omissions should be reported to my very capable successor. Please note that four of our members have requested that their personal details should not appear in the List. Electronic copies of the complete List can be made available to branch officers on request.

John Allen

#### BRANCH REVIEW EDITOR

Each issue of the Magazine contains on average ten branch reports, and during the past year 23 branches have contributed at least once. Six of these hadn't submitted a report for several years, and responded to a little gentle nagging: they all had something interesting to say. However, there are still seven branches who haven't been heard of for more than four years. Some branches have excellent websites which contain material which could form the basis of a report for the Magazine - remember that not all SRP members have access to the internet.

Madeline Seviour

#### CHAIRMAN, WALTER BERGMANN FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

The Walter Bergmann fund has received 36 applications for the year under review. Eleven of these were seeking assistance to attend the Woodhouse Recorder Week held in August: we were able to help six of them with money totalling £1202.00. Three applicants were to attend the NYRO Course of which one was helped by the fund. Other successful applicants received money to purchase new recorders, have lessons, meet travelling costs for lessons and attend a course abroad. We had applications to assist in paying for college courses but the money requested was too much for our fund to justify (often running into thousands of pounds). We rejected other applicants on the grounds of their financial circumstances or we felt they were too young or lacked the commitment to benefit from a wooden recorder. The Philip Cole Bursary for £700.00 went to the Malvern Recorder Weekend to help fund the *Piers Adams Roadshow*. We also helped ERTA to stage an evening concert as part of their conference in June where some of the performers were of college age. The Reigate and Redhill Music Festival successfully applied for money to fund music vouchers as prize money in some of their recorder classes. The great and contra basses we have were used by NYRO for their Summer course. We awarded three amounts of money to assist the purchase of recorders. We have awarded the Philip Cole Bursary for 2005 to sponsor a Junior day at the Woodhouse Recorder Week in August. We have raised the maximum award amount from £300.00 to £450.00.

Andrew Collis

#### COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS SECRETARY

Current figures: (with figures from Feb 04 for comparison)

UK	154	(199)	Ordinary	106	(109)
Rest of Europe	18	(19)	Family	32	38)
Rest of World	<u>11</u>	<u>(12)</u>	Life	5	(5)
	183	(230)	Student	<u>40</u>	<u>(78)</u>
				183	(230)

The drop in numbers is mainly because there are fewer NYRO members this time – 31 less.

Corporate Members: 5 (5)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 9 (5)

Jim Rowley

#### TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Various courses, as outlined in the papers distributed after the October 2004 committee meeting, continue to be held. I hope to introduce additional courses in the near future.

Moira Usher

#### ADMINISTRATOR, MOECK/SRP SOLO RECORDER COMPETITION

The highlight of the past year must have been the winner's recital, which took place in the sumptuous surroundings of The Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich last November as part of the Greenwich International Early Music Festival. Alexandra Opsahl (winner of the 2003 competition) with ensemble Lupo gave us a feast of Italian Music from the 17th and 18th centuries. To quote from Andrew Mayes' review published recently in *The Recorder Magazine* "the overwhelming impression was of a carefully programmed recital that sparkled with virtuosity and musical energy". Alexander was also interviewed for, and briefly played on Radio 3's Early Music Show, which was broadcast live from the Festival on the Saturday.

Preparations for the 2005 Competition are now well underway. Advertising went out early last autumn and the closing date was in early February this year. We have had entries from home and abroad, these are currently with the adjudicators (Paul Leenhouts, Pierre Hamon and Ian Wilson) and we are awaiting their decision as to who goes through to the finals. Three will be chosen, and the finals will once again take part during the Greenwich Festival. The date for your diary is the afternoon of Sunday 13th November 2005. The last competition proved so popular that we had to turn a few people away whilst others opted to stand in the lobby rather than miss it completely. Judging by the adventurous programming submitted, standards will be high once again, so be there if you can.

Mary Tyers

#### CHAIRMAN ELECT, NATIONAL YOUTH RECORDER ORCHESTRA (NYRO)

The 2004 NYRO course was in Casterton School, south Cumbria from 25 to 31 July, with the concert in Westmorland Hall, Kendal in the afternoon of Saturday 31 July. The main staffing was the same as 2003: Colin Touchin as Musical Director, Helen Hooker, Marion Scott and Ross Winters as tutors and David Beare as Project Manager. Ross conducted one of the pieces in the concert. The school facilities were excellent and the concert was well reviewed. A triple CD pack has been published with complete recordings of both the 2003 and 2004 concerts. The number of players was less than previous years at 49 (2002:84, 2003:81). A telephone survey of previous applicants showed a variety of reasons for not applying in 2004; the timing of applications and auditions may also have contributed.

The cost in 2004 was significantly higher at £375 (2003:£225) because no significant subsidy was available. The cost was similar to that of most other national youth musical ensembles, however it is a problem for some families. Some were assisted by the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund.

Two overseas visits were arranged and subsidised by Colin Touchin independently of the SRP NYRO administration. 33 players attended the International Congress of Recorder Orchestras, 14-17 October 2004 in the Netherlands. 17 went to the Steps in Time Festival in Australia, 14 to 22 January

2005. Both these events, including performances by the orchestra conducted by Colin, are reported to have been outstandingly successful.

Following the resignation in October 2004 of David Beare as NYRO Project Manager, the Committee decided on a new structure. Naomi Winterburn (Birmingham) was appointed as NYRO Administrator in receipt of an honorarium funded by interest from the Arthur Ingram bequest. A Sub-Committee to guide the NYRO Administrator was formed with myself as chair, Rosemary Byde (Edinburgh) as NYRO Treasurer, two external members with relevant experience, Dianne Charles in Birmingham and Jean Murray in Edinburgh and the Musical Director and NYRO Administrator in attendance. The inclusion of external members requires a rule change to be agreed by Conference.

NYRO 2005 will be at Millfield School at Street in Somerset from 24 to 30 July with the concert in the school hall in the afternoon of Saturday 30 July. It is planned to have two orchestras, NYRO and NYTRO, a training orchestra. The concert will be shared between the two with at least one combined piece. The cost will be £400. Further details will be available at Conference.

There have been some delays to the planning of NYRO 2005 as a result of the change in administration. These may have contributed to the fewer applications (64) than in 2002 and 2003 (although more than 2004). Plans for NYRO 2006 are now under way with a search for a suitable base in the London area with the expectation of a concert in London.

Andrew Short

#### WEB EDITOR

There is little new to report – the site receives continually high levels of access, from a variety of sources: US Commercial 35% - probably mostly search engines, UK 25%, and small numbers of visits from Norway, Netherlands, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and many visits from unknown sources.

The site acts as a focus for those interested in recorder-playing. Some of the visits will be related to information about Branch or other SRP activities, some more general interest.

I receive a small flow of e-mail enquiries about recorders and recorder playing, most of which I answer myself, and those I can't I forward to Andrew Short who can usually answer them.

Our Notice Board (recorders wanted or for sale) has produced some sales, including one recently, bought by someone in this country from Italy.

We now have a search facility – Google offer a “Public Service” Search Facility. This allows just our site to be searched, and is useful if you know what it is you are seeking, rather than navigating various pages to try to spot it. It costs us nothing and works well. In fact I use it myself, as although I maintain the site, I don't always remember where I have put things!

I am open to suggestions about additional information we could include, etc.

Ashley Allerton

#### TREASURER

Accounts for the financial year ended 31 August 2003 are attached, together with the Treasurer's report for 2004.