



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

OFFICERS' REPORTS TO CONFERENCE 2006

SECRETARY

During 2005 I published new editions of the SRP Rules and also the Panel of Visiting Conductors.

I am grateful to our new colleagues on the Committee and in the branches for agreeing to their email addresses being published in *The Recorder Magazine* and on the website; this makes for quicker and cheaper communication. As enquiries about the Society by traditional routes, i.e., post and telephone, occur but rarely, I am pleased to note that the number of hits on the website continues to grow (see the Website Editor's report below) and to having a number of enquiries forwarded to me by Ashley Allerton.

I have authorised 36 pastoral visits for 2005-06 and five (5) for 2006-07. 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 very soon...!

No new branch enquiries have been received since last Conference.

As in the past, I shall continue to distribute the Committee's paperwork by email. I am conscious of the fact that a large number of documents or multi-page ones do take a long time to download and run off; in such instances I shall put these in the post. I would welcome feed-back regarding receiving paperwork by email if you are experiencing difficulties. With yet another rise in the cost of postage just about to be introduced I shall need to balance the cost of the two modes of distribution.

Alistair Read

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

There is a table of membership for 1985-2006 on an attached sheet to this report. This year I have included the recorder orchestras and corporate members at the bottom but they do not affect the sub-total shown for the number of members.

I would like to thank branches for sending me their levies and membership lists on time. There is only Northampton branch that has not yet submitted their list of members. This means that some Spring magazines have been sent to non-members.

Analysis of Membership Grid 2005-2006

Membership	51 Branches	Number of Members	Overall difference
Same	6		
Increased	15	46	
Decreased	30	86	- 40

Sadly, there have been four deaths this year.

Jean Palmer York
Peter Robertson Leicester
Kathleen Philip Aberdeen
Anita Spencer Lincoln

Type of membership - Branch	Number
Full adult	1170
Household	130
Student	24
Honorary branch member	4
Affiliated group to branch - 1 Each group counts as 4 members	4
Honorary Life Members	11
Branch Total	1343
COS (refer to COS report for breakdown)	144
NYRO	61
Sub-Total 1	1548
Recorder Orchestras - 10 Each counts as 4 members	40
Corporate members	5
Sub-Total 2	1593

Next year levies and membership lists should be sent to me by 31st January. However any new members will not receive the Winter magazine unless their levy has been sent to me before 1st December. Branch accounts should be submitted to the new treasurer by the end of December.

At conference 2007 a new Membership List will be issued. If you have any ideas about changing the format please contact me. Should members pay their subscription later than January they will be included if possible but I would rather have lists early and make additions to it.

I would like to thank all of you for helping me through my first year as membership secretary. It has been an interesting year for me. As I have been receiving your lists I have become aware of all the information that I require. Unfortunately I have spent a considerable amount of time looking up members to cross check things, e.g. members who have not renewed membership and associate members: who are they and which branch have they paid. I need to know who has not paid so that I can cancel their magazine.

Having been a new branch secretary myself a few years ago, I realise that it is difficult for new treasurers and secretaries to know what is required. I shall be contacting all treasurers and secretaries soon about this.

M Shearing

SRP NEWS EDITOR

In the past year just under 50% of branches have contributed to the Magazine - this is about average. Some branches send reports several times a year - others contribute only once every few years. As usual a small number of branches have been keeping a low profile for more than four years. I have recently contacted ten of them in addition to a recent circular to all branches with guidance notes for submitting reports.

The title Branch Review Editor had always seemed to me somewhat meaningless as there isn't a publication called 'Branch Review'. I think it might have caused some confusion as to the precise nature of the role. The proposal to change the title to SRP News Editor will, I hope, make things clearer. The SRP News Editor collects and edits all SRP material, not simply branch reports. I'm sure readers will have noticed that our pages often contain reports of committee meetings, Festival previews, news from NYRO, and obituaries. I must therefore remind members that all contributions should be sent to me, and not to the Editor or the publisher.

During the past year Andrew Mayes has stepped down as Editor of The Recorder Magazine after many years in the post. I am grateful to Andrew for his help and support. His successor is Helen Shabetai - from our telephone conversations and exchanges of emails I am sure we will have a fruitful working relationship.

Madeline Seviour

CHAIRMAN, WALTER BERGMANN FUND

Since the last conference the Walter Bergmann Fund has had 19 applicants to consider. We assisted six applicants to attend the Woodhouse or NYRO courses 2005. Six applicants were helped in buying new recorders. The fund sponsored part of the 2005 ERTA conference recital where a number of young pupils took part. The 'Philip Cole Bursary' (£700.00) for 2005 was awarded to sponsor the junior day at the Woodhouse recorder week which attracted some talented players. In November the fund awarded a special prize of £300.00 at the Moeck Solo Recorder Finals for the best performance of an individual item. In March 2006 we assisted a recorder playing day for Lambeth Music Services which had 150 young players performing. We have placed and advert in the Spring edition of the Recorder Magazine to promote the 'Philip Cole Bursary' for 2006.

Andrew Collis

TRAINING COORDINATOR

So far the following courses have taken place or are booked:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Tutor</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
Feb 03	Intm. Conduct.	Moira Usher	Edinburgh	A Short
Nov 04	Intm. Conduct.	Moira Usher	Bristol	S. Davies
Sep 05	Intm. Conduct.	Moira Usher	Winchester	B. Whitmarsh
Jan 06	Intm. Conduct.	Colin Touchin	Edinburgh	A. Short
Jun06	Technique	Helen Hooker	Bristol	S. Davies

I have written to all branches giving them information about workshops on offer and how to book them. Those that have organised workshops report that the sessions have been enjoyable and worthwhile. It is hoped that other branches will feel able to organise a workshop locally - please contact me to discuss this.

Branch Library list

In the same letter, I explained that the branch library list on the SRP website has been updated and asking that branches consider having their branch library list added to the central list. So far Aberdeen, Devon, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Manchester, Plymouth, Wessex and West Riding have kindly agreed to share their libraries with the world. If others are prepared to, please contact me so we can discuss how I need the information presented.

Many thanks are due to Ashley Allerton who makes it all happen. I just give him the data, it is he who puts it all on the web and ensures that it all works!

Moira Usher

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).

The web site continues to be busy, the figures for January 2006 showing:

2640 unique visitors to the site, each making an average of 1½ visits, viewing an average of 3½ pages.

Visitors are from various countries (from most to least):

- US (many are probably from search engines – we are well indexed!)
- Great Britain
- EU
- Canada
- Netherlands
- Australia
- Switzerland
- Italy

People arrive at our site via search engines, the words/phrases indicating that we are an appropriate result of their search.

Visitors view a wide variety of pages, but the Branches page (which lists branches, and from which details of branches can be found), Courses, Notices, Suppliers and NYRO pages are well-visited.

I get a number of enquiries on recorder-related subjects as Web Editor, and occasional enquiries about Devon Branch (of which I am Secretary): I imagine other branches receive similar enquiries.

Ashley Allerton

COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS BRANCH

Current figures: (with figures from March 05 for comparison)

UK	181 (154)
Ordinary	106 (106)
Rest of Europe	15 (18)
Family	32 (32)
Rest of World	<u>12 (11)</u>
Life	5 (5)
	208 (183)
Student	<u>65 (40)</u>
	208 (183)

NYRO members, included in the above, 61 (36)

Corporate Members: 5 (5).

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 11 (9).

Jim Rowley

NATIONAL YOUTH RECORDER ORCHESTRA

The administrative structure agreed in 2005 is working well with Naomi Winterburn as administrator and Rosemary Byde as treasurer. The SRP NYRO subcommittee has met five times; the minutes are taken to the SRP main committee, resulting in speedier business at that level, and are also published on the SRP website. A newsletter is circulated regularly to participants and supporters.

The 2005 NYRO course was in Millfield School, Street, Somerset from 24 July, with the concert at the school in the afternoon of Saturday 30 July. There were 58 players (up from 49 in 2004), divided into two, NYRO and NYTRO (training orchestra). This format gave several advantages and will be continued. Colin Touchin as Musical Director conducted NYRO and the combined orchestra; Andrew Challinger conducted NYTRO. Helen Hooker, Marion Scott and Ross Winters were tutors. The school facilities were good and the concert was excellent (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 held at £375. Some were assisted by the SRP Walter Bergmann Fund. From an income around £26,000 there was a surplus of £949.

NYRO 2006 at the same cost will be at Wellington School, Crowthorne, Berkshire from 23 to 29 July with the concert in Regent Hall, Oxford Street, London W1C 2DJ in the afternoon of Saturday 30 July. Colin, Helen, Marion and Ross continue in their roles. Eileen Silcocks joins as NYTRO conductor and Patrick Richmond as assistant tutor. There are 68 applicants of whom 14 are still to be auditioned.

NYRO 2007 is planned to be in north-east England. Accommodation is being arranged.

Supplementary activities in addition to the annual course are planned, starting with a one-day reunion playing day in Birmingham. There may be groups attending the International Congress of Recorder Orchestras, 12-15 October 2006 in the Netherlands and the European Recorder Festival, 1-5 November 2006 in Austria. A 3-day course concurrently with the Northern Recorder course 2007 is being discussed. Because of the extra work involved in extra activities, the SRP committee has agreed an increased honorarium for the administrator from September 2006.

Increased marketing, both for reaching more participants and for attracting sponsorship, is being undertaken, including a new logo and image and a re-launch of the NYRO website with the help of Sharon Willerton.

Thanks are due to all music staff, to Naomi, Rosemary and Sharon, to external subcommittee members Dianne Charles and Jean Murray, house staff, helpers and supporters. Especial thanks are due to Jeanette Hipsey for donating her contrabass and great bass recorders, available for use by other recorder orchestras when not being used by NYRO.

Andrew Short
Chair, NYRO Sub-Committee

ADMINISTRATOR, MOECK/SRP SOLO RECORDER PLAYING COMPETITION

In November 2005 another competition successfully took place as part of the Greenwich International Early Music Festival. For independent and detailed reports of the competition I would refer you to the two reviews recently published in the Spring 2006 edition of *The Recorder Magazine*. Suffice it to say that despite all finalists coming from abroad it was well attended and provided an after-

noon of superb recorder playing from the four finalists. The winner was Maria Martinez Ayerza, (Spanish nationality, currently completing her studies in Amsterdam) who will give the winners recital on Sunday November 12th 2006 in the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich as part of the International Early Music Festival 2006.

The bi-annual administrative cycle is starting up once again with potential adjudicators for the 2007 competition currently being approached and advertising for the competition itself due out in the next EMS Newsletter. It had been agreed that a thorough review of the competition was due following the move to Greenwich and one national and one international competition having taken place there. A full report was presented to and discussed by Committee in February 2006, at which it was agreed that the new format of alternating competition with winner's recital in successive years seemed to be working well and should continue. Following discussions with adjudicators of the last two competitions and with the committee, it was also agreed that the competition should remain international. A proposal was also put forward regarding a 'feeder' competition. This one to be national in scope, post-Grade VIII in standard, and aimed at the 16-22 age group. Its purpose to provide a link into the international competition and a platform for promising UK players, including those attending the NYRO courses. The competition administrator has been asked to investigate this further.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the winner's recital in November.

Mary Tyers

TREASURER

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2005

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2004-05 and a forecast of the figures for 2005-06.

INCOME	2004-2005	2005-2006
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	21,292.40	20,100
Essex Festival 2005 Deficit	-1.11	
Scottish Recorder Festival Edinburgh 2004 Surplus	120.00	
Scottish Recorder Festival Glasgow 2005 Surplus	11.60	
Royalties	1.50	
Bank Interest (say 12.5% of Total Received)	1,260.84	1,330
Total	22,685.23	21,430
EXPENDITURE – Actual Payments, not accrued		
Magazine	12,014.55	12,500
Annual Conference	2,870.29	3,000
Conductors Visits	2,460.90	2,600
Committee Expenses	3,128.19	2,500
Printing, Stationery & Membership Lists 2001, 03, 05	1,544.17	550
Phones & Postages	455.72	500
Ex-gratia payments to Wessex, Edinburgh and WBF	1,073.36	0
Ex-gratia payments to Glasgow – Scottish Festival 2005	0	12
Ex-gratia payment for Accountancy Services	250.00	0
Grant towards commission for David Munrow		250
Subscription to Making Music	335.80	350
Internet Presence	134.14	233
Liability Insurance	817.50	850
Sundry Expenses – Secretary's Computer Repair	188.00	0
Total	1475.44	23,345

[Should read	28,895.94]
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The deficit for the year was £2,211 leaving the fund at £25,783 on the 31st August. I anticipate a further loss of £1,915 for the current year.

Last year I anticipated a break-even figure by 31st August, but notable extra expenditure arose since then, viz. Annual Conference cost £370 more than predicted, Committee Expenses up by £370, Conductors' visits costs greater by £500, a backdated printing charge of £1,160 and no account taken of the agreed £993* ex-gratia payment to Wessex for Festival 2004. Some items did cost less than forecast, namely magazine £500 and the Festival loss was £450 less than forecast. [* Should read £493 to Wessex Branch; £500 to WBF.]

Subscription income fell by £460 compared with 2003/04 and subscriptions for 2003/04 were £380 less than 2002/03.

The Walter Bergmann Fund received £2,882 in donations, £536 share of Festivals surplus and £1,755 share of bank interest. It made grants totalling £4,800 and donated £300 to sponsor a concert for the ERTA conference. The year's surplus was £73 leaving its fund at £44,337.

In view of the deficit for the year 2004-05 and my predicted loss for the current year I felt it prudent to propose that we increase the subscription from September 2006. At the February committee meeting it was agreed that I should recommend a rise of £3.50 per member. This would mean the rates would rise to £17.50 per full member, £28.00 per household membership and £13.00 for students.

At the time of writing this report, 20th March, I had received no information on transactions within the various NYRO accounts and can only report on the items dealt with through the Central Fund account. See page 3 of the accounts.

We sent our 2003-04 accounts to the Charity Commissioners on the 21st June last year; thus avoiding, by the skin of our teeth, the threatened enquiry into our affairs by the Commission had we missed their 30th June deadline. These accounts for the year ended 31st August 2004 are now offered to Conference for formal approval.

FINALLY

I wish to thank Robert Harrison, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts. I also thank officers and committee members as well as branch treasurers and secretaries, past and present, for their support over the last thirteen years.

That concludes my report.

Brian Fraser-Hook