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SRP CONFERENCE
MINUTES
1981-

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SRP CONFERENCE
MINUTES
1981-1994

1981 Year Planner

January

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SRP Conference Minutes

1981 Year Planner

July

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288 Conference 1991

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THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 24 May 1981

George Watson's College Edinburgh

Present:

Committee:

Mr T Wyatt	Chairman	Mr B Bonsor
Mrs A Blackman	Secretary-elect	Mr P Clark
Mr W England	Treasurer	Mr H Hersom (also Mid-Herts)
Dr J Allen	Membership Secy. (also North London)	Mr E Hunt
		Dr S Taylor
Dr W Bergmann		Mr P Thorby
		Mrs M Panzetta (also Essex)

Branch Delegates:

Aberdeen	Miss S Wright	Lincolnshire	Ms A Ward
Beds & N. Herts	Mr R Smith	Manchester	Miss B Newton
Birmingham	Mr J Rowley	Milton Keynes	Miss B Hogg
Bristol	Miss E Hunt	Newcastle on Tyne	Mr J Hawkes
Cambridge	Mrs A Martin	Norfolk	Miss J Barber
Cleveland	Mr B Knox	Oxford	Ms A Baker
Darlington	Mr F Cape	Roxburgh	Mrs M Bonsor
Edinburgh	Miss E Murphy	Sheffield	Mr P Roscoe
Glasgow	Mr B Pettinger	West Riding	Mr R Corbishley
Hillfoots	Miss M Simpson	Leicester	Miss J Finns

Observers:

Mr & Mrs Sharman	Cambridge	Ms M Long	Sheffield
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The Chairman welcomed the delegates and introduced Mrs Blackman who as Secretary-elect was deputising for Edna Church who was abroad.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Dolmetsch, Dr Coles, Miss M Wright and the Bath, Devon, W. Somerset, Dorset and Nuneaton Branches.

2. The Minutes of the last Conference had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

(a) Membership lists The Chairman said that the membership list would be reprinted in 1982 and would be supplied free to Branch Secretaries and to officers of the Society, but would be on sale to members. Branches would shortly be receiving forms on which to make their membership returns, and he appealed to Branch Secretaries to complete them exactly as instructed, otherwise the compilation of the membership list became very laborious.

4. Officers' reports

(a) The Chairman reported the continued growth and good health of the Society. The main issue facing the Committee during the year had been the revision to the Rules demanded by the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue. The arrangements for the dispatch of magazines to new-style branches had been reviewed as the

service provided by Office Aids had been found both expensive and unsatisfactory. A team of volunteers from the London Branch now packed the magazines at Schotts.

(b) The Treasurer said that the Accounts, which had been circulated, showed for the year ending 30.9.80. a surplus of income over expenditure of £712 and an accumulated reserve of £3508. The surplus, however, was more than accounted for by exceptional items. The Cambridge Festival made a profit of nearly £500 and Bank interest was £488 against the previous year's £251. The Society was very fortunate in that Schotts charged them only 50% of the cover price of the magazine and in that many of the Officers and pastoral visitors did not claim their expenses. But the Society was handicapped by failure of a number of branches to send in their subscriptions by 31 January. Even now, almost four months late, two branches had not yet sent their returns. The Society lost the interest on these subscriptions, and new members were failing to get the magazines for which they had paid because of the tardiness of their branch officials.

The Treasurer drew attention to the ex-gratia payment of £50 to Cambridge in view of the splendid financial results of the Festival, and mentioned that the Committee had authorised Dr Coles to spend £100 on the printing of a brochure about the CSRP. Concerning 1981/82, there would, of course, be increases in most categories of expenditure, but income from subscriptions was rising with the increase in membership and the Society had good hopes of becoming a charity and thus escaping tax on interest and royalty income. He therefore moved that "Subject to there being no increase in the magazine charge, subscription rates for 1981/82 shall remain unchanged." The motion was seconded by Mr Corbishley and carried and the Accounts were approved.

(c) The Membership Secretary reported that the membership for 1979/80 had been 1463. In 1980/81 there were four new branches (Lincoln, South Wales, North London and Hillfoots) bringing in a total of 85 new members. There had been eight new branches in two years. For the current year he expected to have 1540 members when all the figures were in. The late submission of returns meant that some cheques were out of date when they reached him - a tiresome complication of his job. The change in distribution of the magazine to new-style branches seemed to be working well, but the move of Office Aids premises might cause some disruption to the despatch of the June 1981 issue.

Mrs Martin noted that both Bath and Cambridge had experienced a drop in membership after organising a Festival. With no reason forthcoming, the Chairman suggested that results should be monitored in Edinburgh to check that it was still in existence in 1982. The question of what to charge late joiners was discussed. The Chairman said that Branches were free to find their own solution. Many branches (including London) dealt with it by charging a visitor's fee.

The Chairman also supported the plaint of the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary about the late receipt of membership returns and subscriptions. He said that Branch Secretaries and Treasurers must be persuaded to observe more responsibility in this matter since magazine distribution, membership lists and receipt of money were all involved. The deadline of 31 January gave branches four months to prepare membership returns and was entirely reasonable.

(d) The Branch Review Editor reported a good response to his request for Branch Notes but said that as only four pages were allocated to the Society, correspondents would have to be limited to 200 words if all branches were to be accommodated. Mr Sharman undertook to write an account of the Edinburgh Festival for the Magazine.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

(a) Dr Dolmetsch was due to retire as Musical Director. His re-election was proposed by the Chairman and agreed.

(b) Mrs A Blackman had been proposed by the ^{Committee} as Secretary and her appointment was agreed.

(c) The re-election en bloc of the Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, COS Secretary, and Auditor was proposed by Mr Bonsor, seconded by Mrs Panzetta and carried.

(d) For the two vacancies on the Committee the Committee had nominated Mr Sharman of Cambridge and Mr Whitaker of London and Manchester had nominated Mr Bamforth. A secret ballot was therefore held resulting in the election of Mr Sharman and Mr Bamforth. The Chairman welcomed the new members and announced that the next meeting of the Committee would be on 11.10.81 at 71 Belsize Park Gardens London NW3 at 10.30.

6. Revision of Rules

The Chairman explained that Inland Revenue had proved difficult in insisting on certain Rules over and above those agreed with the Charity Commission. Three points in particular were:- (i) expelled members must be given a right to be heard, (ii) new members must undertake to abide by the Rules, and (iii) there must be two signatures on cheques. Of these the second was the most tiresome. It was, of course, still possible for the Conference to decide that these tiresome requirements tipped the balance against proceeding with the application for charitable status, and in this connection he told delegates of the points made by the Devon Branch Secretary. He hoped however that Conference would not take this view. Charitable status would save the Society over £200 a year in tax, could well be of help to Branches in getting support from e.g. local authorities, and would relieve Branches of their current liability of tax on income other than subscription income. The Society had been advised that the undertaking to observe the Rules had to be in writing, but once given did not have to be repeated every year. The most convenient way of obtaining the undertaking seemed to be to incorporate it into an application form, and a supply of suitable forms had been prepared and was distributed to delegates. A delegate suggested that the undertaking might be printed on the back of the membership card and that the recipient might be deemed to have accepted an obligation to observe the Rules in much the same way that a railway traveller was deemed to have accepted the railway's conditions referred to on the back of his ticket. The Chairman said the Committee would seek legal advice on this, but in the meantime he would advise Branches to use the application form.

The Chairman said that the Committee had been very disturbed to note that a number of Branches had completely ignored the Secretary's letter of June 1980 asking for confirmation that the Rules adopted at the 1980 Conference had been put into effect. Branches would be getting a similar communication from the Secretary following this Conference and he urged delegates to ensure that it was not ignored. Once the Society was a charity, the Committee would, he was sure, feel obliged to take action against any Branch which persistently failed to conform in adopting the Specimen Rules. Mr Rowley pointed out that the draft now before the Conference did not include the amended version of Rule 5(m) adopted at last year's Conference. The Chairman apologised for this slip but asked delegates to support the version now before them, with an assurance that an amendment would be presented to the 1982 Conference. The Chairman then proposed that the draft Rules be adopted and this was agreed.

7. Resolutions

Following adoption of the new rules the Treasurer put the following four resolutions which were passed:-

(1) That National Westminster Bank Ltd (the Bank) be authorised to honour all cheques or other orders for payment drawn upon any account or accounts for the time being kept with the Bank in the name of the Society notwithstanding that any such payment may cause such account or accounts to be overdrawn or increase any existing overdraft provided they are signed by any two of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

(2) That the Bank be authorised to accept all requests and receipts for the delivery of securities papers or other property if signed by any two of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

(3) That the Bank be given a list of the names of the signing officers and be advised in writing under the hand of the Secretary of any changes that may take place and the Bank be entitled to act upon the signatures so given.

(4) That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until revoked by notice in writing to the Bank signed by the Chairman or the Secretary acting or purporting to act on behalf of the Society and the Bank shall be entitled to act upon such notice.

8. Future Festivals

Mr Smith and Mr Hersom reported that plans were well advanced for the Festival at Hatfield Polytechnic. There would be car parking for 500+. Creche facilities were available but would have to be staffed by Council employees. Mr Hersom wished to establish whether there would be demand for such facilities. It was planned to have a stand manned by Branch representatives to provide information on the activities of individual branches.

Leicester reported that uncertainty over cuts in education was making it difficult for them to get firm promises of accommodation for the 1983 Festival. Milton Keynes reported that their hopes of using the College of Education had been dashed, but they were now investigating the possibility of using the premises of the Open University. The Chairman suggested that after three Festivals in the South in 1982, 83 and 84 a Northern location (e.g. Newcastle) might be appropriate for 1985. Mr Hawkes felt that his branch with only 20 members did not have the resources to organise a Festival. Mr Pettinger then undertook to discuss with his branch the possibility of Glasgow as a venue for 1985. Miss Newton pointed out that 1987 would be the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Society and suggested that something special be planned and that it might be appropriate to hold it in a central location such as Manchester. Other delegates felt that London was in easier access from all directions. Conference then agreed:-

- (a) Glasgow possibly for 1985 with Birmingham as an alternative
- (b) Special festivities for 1987
- (c) Manchester Branch will consider 1986

9. New Branches

Conference ratified the affiliation of branches at Hillfoots, North London and South Wales. It was reported that Mrs Martin and Mr Gill were hoping to form a branch in Nottingham and that one in Stoke was a possibility.

10. Any other business

(a) A vote of thanks to the Edinburgh Branch for organising a magnificent Festival and providing such excellent facilities and hospitality to its visitors was proposed by the Chairman and carried unanimously

(b) A vote of thanks to the retiring Secretary Miss Church was proposed by Mrs Martin, seconded by Mr Corbishley and carried with acclamation.

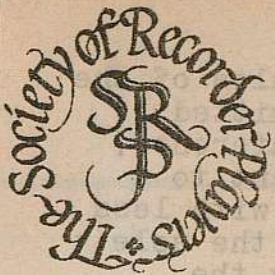
(c) Mrs Bonsor reported good sales of SRP monogrammed pullovers and other articles.

(d) Miss Newton suggested that the Society should provide the Chairman with an electric duplicator, but the Chairman said he wished to remain faithful to his old manual machine.

(e) The Conference closed at 12.50, the Chairman thanking those present and Mr Bonsor on behalf of the Conference thanking the Chairman.

J. E. Hyatt
Chairman 23/5/82

Society



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 23 May 1982

Highbury House, Hitchin, Herts

Present:

Committee

Mr T Wyatt	Chairman	Mr P Clark
Mrs A Blackman	Secretary	Dr R Coles (also Northants)
Mr W England	Treasurer	Dr C Dolmetsch
Dr J Allen	Membership Secretary	Mr H Hersom
	(also North London)	Mr E Hunt
Miss M Wright	COS Secretary	Mrs M Panzetta
Mr D Bamforth		Mr M Sharman
Mr B Bonsor		Dr S Taylor

Branch Delegates

Aberdeen	Miss S Wright	Hillfoots	Mrs M Simpson
Beds & N. Herts	Mr R Smith	Leicester	Miss J Finns
Birmingham	Mr J Rowley	Lincolnshire	Mr N Crampin
Bristol	Miss E Hunt	Manchester	Miss B Newton
Cambridge	Mr C Fish	Mid-Herts	Mr G Danbury
Cleveland	Mr B Knox	Milton Keynes	Mrs E Thompson
Darlington	Mr F Cape	Newcastle	Mr J Hawkes
Devon	Mrs N Ash	North Staffs	Mr N Coulton
Dorset	Mrs B Harrison	Roxburgh	Mrs M Bonsor
Edinburgh	Mr E Gillett	South Staffs	Mrs A Lewin
Essex	Mrs R McClenaghan	Warwick	Mrs M Ellis
Glasgow	Mr B Pettinger	West Dorset	Mrs Y Hall
Guildford	Miss E Nallen	West Riding	Mr R Corbishley

The Chairman welcomed the Delegates.

1. Apologies for absence were received from the Oxford, Sheffield and Nottinghamshire Branches.

2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising

(a) Membership lists: The Chairman announced that the lists were now available. In paying tribute to Mr Bamforth for his preparation of the lists for the press, he pointed out that three Branches had had to be omitted because their returns were not in up to the time of going to press. The Chairman asked that Branches take note of the serious result of failure to send in their membership returns: it held up supply of the magazine to members as well as spoiling the completeness of the membership list. Mr Bamforth wished to place on record his indebtedness to Mr England for help in preparing the list. The Chairman stated that free copies would be available to all COS members, and to Branch officials up to a maximum of 4 copies per Branch, which could be collected now, together with those they wished to purchase for any of their Branch members.

The Chairman also had new SRP stationery available for sale.

6
(b) Rules: The Chairman moved incorporation in the Rules of the amended Rule 5(m) adopted at the 1980 Conference but omitted inadvertently from the revision adopted at the 1981 Conference. This was carried. John Turner had suggested an amendment to Rule 9(c) about withdrawal of privileges from Branches with less than 12 members, proposing the insertion of "except at the sole cost and expense of the Branch". Amendment proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by the Chairman, and motion carried.

4. Officers' reports

(a) The Chairman announced that though he was willing to stand for re-election, he would not be prepared to continue in office beyond his 65th birthday in 1985; and also that the Treasurer wished to retire at the end of next year, being ~~now~~ 70. The Chairman asked Delegates to look for a replacement for Mr England. During the past year the Society had finally achieved charitable status. The Committee would now be turning its attention to examining ideas put forward by Philip Thorby for extending the activities of the Society into areas which might make it more relevant to the needs of schools, professionals, students and serious amateurs. He hoped there would be time for the Conference to discuss these ideas even though Mr Thorby was not present, but proposed that this discussion should be left until last.

(b) The Treasurer reported a profit of £202 for the past year (not including the £400 profit from the Edinburgh Festival). There had been a donation of £50 from Ireland covering their Pastoral Visits. There had also been a profit of £20 on sale of sweaters; but no royalties from Schotts. He was concerned, however, that the subscription income left after paying for the magazine fell some £400 short of covering the Society's expenditure. The short-fall was only covered by Festival profits and bank interest - sources on which it would be improvident to rely. In particular, the Hatfield Festival was likely to make only a small profit because of the high cost of accommodation. Mr Bonsor queried the figure of £148 for the CSRP pamphlet (£100 had been allowed originally) and it was explained by Dr Coles that additional art work had increased the cost of printing. The Treasurer said that in the coming year there would be a substantial increase in costs. The original arrangement with Schotts regarding the magazine was that the Society should pay two-thirds of the cover price. For many years, however, the Society had in fact been paying only one-half. Recently Schotts, finding that printing costs alone substantially exceeded the price paid by the Society, had asked the Society to agree to pay 70% of the cover price in future, and the Committee had felt obliged to accept this. In addition, there was to be an increase in the cover price to £1.25 from March 1983. The Society would therefore be paying £3.50 per copy per year against the present £2. Taking account of the short-fall previously referred to, he therefore proposed the following new rates:

Branch	Full Mem. w. mag.	Full Mem. w/o mag.	Student w. mag.	Student w/o mag.	Household membership
Old style	£5.50	-	£4.00	-	£6.50
New style	5.00	£1.50	4.00	£1.00	-

Miss Newton, seconded by Mr Hersom, proposed that all rates should be increased by a further £2. She suggested that the widespread cutting of educational facilities for music provided a chance for the Society to fill the gap. The Rules provided for the Society to organise concerts, lectures and courses. None of these additional activities could be undertaken without additional finance.

raised to £4.50 in 1983 Conf

Mr Hersom felt that the Society had talked for too long of pennies rather than pounds. Some Delegates, however, felt that their members would not take kindly to an increase imposed to cover projects which had been neither specified nor costed. Mr Bamforth, seconded by Mr Coulter, proposed that the number of Pastoral Visits should be increased to two per year so that members could see something for their extra subscription. After discussion in which it was pointed out that what the Society needed was activity in new areas rather than more activity in old areas, the proposal was put to the vote and lost. Miss Newton's proposal was then put to the vote and lost. Mr Sharman, seconded by Mrs Panzetta, proposed an amendment by which pensioners should be treated as students. The Treasurer pointed out that with an unknown but possibly large proportion of members in this category the amendment could lead to a serious loss of income and to consequent higher increases for non-pensioners. The amendment was voted on and lost. Dr Dolmetsch, seconded by Mr Hunt, then proposed that retirement pensioners in cases of hardship should be allowed to apply through Branch Secretaries to the Treasurer to be treated as students. This amendment was carried. It was then proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Chairman that the rates originally proposed should apply from 1.10.82. This was carried (these votes were, in fact, not taken until after the discussion, referred to below, of the Thorby proposals). The Treasurer reported that £3000 had been deposited with the National Savings Bank because of their higher interest rate, and the only sizeable expenditure to date had been £310 for 1000 copies of the Membership List. He concluded his report by saying that he was working on a scheme for covenanted subscriptions.

(c) The Membership Secretary reported a small nett increase of 30 members in the year. There was a possibility that Bath may close and join the ranks of COS, but there were three new Branches. The final membership figure for 1980/81 was 1545, and provisional figures for 1981/82 are 1575. The Chairman voiced the meeting's appreciation of Dr Allen's work with membership records.

(d) The COS Secretary asked that an account of the Annual Conference be published in the magazine for the benefit of COS members and this was agreed.

5. Election of Officers

(a) Musical Directors: Mr Hunt and Mr Clark retiring, were willing and eligible to stand again and the Committee proposed their re-election; the Committee had also proposed the election of Mr Thorby. The election of Messrs Hunt, Clark and Thorby was proposed by the Chairman and motion carried.

(b) Other Officers were all willing to stand. Their re-election en bloc was proposed by Mr Sharman, seconded by Mrs Panzetta, and motion carried.

(c) The two retiring members of the Committee were Miss Nallen and Mr Thorby. In their place the Committee proposed Miss Anna Boniksen and Mr Lyndon Hilling, and the election was agreed.

(d) Auditor: The Committee proposed the re-election of Mr Robert Harrison and this was agreed.

6. Future Festivals: Arrangements were well in hand for the 1983 Festival. Milton Keynes was now unable to undertake the 1984 Festival and Glasgow was unable to change from 1985 to 1984. This then left a lacuna for 1984, and Miss Nallen said that her Guildford Branch might be able to fill it. It was agreed to accept her provisional offer. Mr Bamforth suggested that the Northern Recorder Course in Chester might be considered as host. It was also suggested that Birmingham might be a possibility. It was

agreed that if Guildford could not accept, the Secretary then approach Mr Bamforth for the Northern Recorder Course and Mr Rowley for Birmingham. The Chairman pointed out that the financial implications would have to be looked at if an independent body undertook a Festival, since the Society normally underwrote any losses and took any profit.

7. CSRP

Dr Coles gave a short history of the CSRP and explained how the syllabus was revised in 1977 and in 1981. The number of candidates was disappointing and he hoped that more Branches would publicize it and help to prepare candidates for it by giving them experience of conducting.

8. Adoption of Rules

Those Branches who had not yet formally adopted the Rules were noted: 5 awaiting their AGM and from 2 no response as yet.

9. New Branches

North Staffordshire, South Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire were ratified as new Branches, and the demise of the Fife Early Music Society was reported.

10. Any other business

(a) Conductors List. The Secretary reported that the list was in course of revision. Suggestions from Branches for additions to the list would be welcome.

(b) Mrs Thompson asked whether there was a standard guide line for charges to non-members attending meetings, and the Chairman suggested that the amount should not be less than the total subscription divided by the number of meetings, otherwise people might be tempted to continue attending as a visitor rather than becoming a member. Members of other Branches could be accepted at any rate set by the host Branch.

(c) Central Library Register. The London Branch Library was already available to all Branches. It was suggested that it would be valuable if other Branches similarly made their own libraries available. Mr Clark made, and the Conference accepted with gratitude, an offer to draw up and circulate to Branches a central register of library material available for borrowing. It would be for the borrowing Branch to approach the lending Branch direct and to reimburse it for postage.

(d) The Chairman then read to the Conference Mr Thorby's paper (attached) and a brief discussion followed.

(i) The Chairman reported that he was engaged on a detailed survey of plastic recorders for "The American Recorder". He hoped that it would be published in some form in this country.

(ii) Mr Hunt was proposing to run in the magazine a series of short articles on British recorder makers.

(iii) Mr Bamforth urged Branches to take positive steps to encourage affiliation of schools under Rule 14, initially perhaps by approaching teachers in the Branch. He would be willing to advise any Branch on this matter. Dr Coles said that strong efforts had been made in his region to promote affiliation, but with little result.

The Chairman closed the meeting with warm thanks to the host Branches for excellent accommodation and splendid lunch, and with congratulations to the organizers of a most successful Festival.

JG Wyatt
15.5.83

9

Some suggestions for the future development of
THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

INTRODUCTION

(1) The present activities of the Society recommend it only to a comparatively small section of recorder players in this country, viz. those amateurs who find massed playing attractive, and those professionals who are prepared to conduct such playing sessions. Therefore:

(2) Most professionals, music students and 'serious' amateurs (those with a love of music as well as recorder-playing) are not members of the Society. Its concentration on relatively undemanding massed music-making to the exclusion of other aspects of the recorder effectively separates the amateur from the professional, whereas the work of the other loosely comparable societies (the Lute and Viola da Gamba Societies) makes them relevant to all levels.

(3) If we wish to appeal to a broader cross-section of recorder players, we have to offer the services they want.

(4) None of my suggestions should be interpreted as replacements of the present activities, which are valuable and much enjoyed by hundreds of members. I shall still conduct with great pleasure - if asked!

(5) The main groups for whom I believe the Society does little or nothing are:

- A. schools
- B. students of the recorder
- C. serious amateurs
- D. professionals

A. SCHOOLS

(1) We do not have enough 'junior members'. The idea of affiliated membership of the Society should be promoted strongly through our teacher-members, through county music advisers, through articles in magazines such as 'Recorder & Music', ILEA's 'Contact', etc. The school recorder group - or groups - could form a branch of the Society; one chief fee paid by the school and small additional fee by each child; the school to receive one or two copies of the magazine; each child a membership card and badge; pastoral visit to the school or group of schools.

(2) School music and education pages of the magazine would tie in with this scheme. Specific recommendations of music for school occasions - Christmas, Easter, etc.

(3) The Society should put pressure on those who make and market 'school' recorders. There are too many instruments being bought by schools which are out of tune and/or of poor tone quality. A panel of experienced players and teachers could produce for the Society an annual report on the instruments available, recommending by name the best value for money and criticising the poor instruments in detail: copies to be sent to the makers and importers as well as to member schools, branches and LEAs. The widespread use of poor recorders can only reduce the status of the instrument in schools, and make the task of those who seek to teach it as an instrument in its own right very difficult.

(4) Since the other detrimental force on the recorder in schools is bad teaching, the Society should promote the CSRP. Branches could ascertain which of their members are responsible for teaching recorder in schools and give them the relevant publicity. The Society could advertise (through magazines and LEAs) a list of CSRP holders. Holders of the Certificate could pay smaller annual subscriptions.

(5) The Society could approach music publishers asking for small discounts for bulk orders from school and SRP branches.

B. STUDENTS

By students in this connection I mean those studying to be teachers or players of the recorder at colleges and universities.

(1) The Society should promote an annual concert for recorder students at music colleges. The concert should be at a London hall, and be designed to offer a London platform to such students, on the lines of Young Musicians series. It could include appearances for the winners of the National Competitions, if they were of sufficiently high standard.

(2) The magazine should be in every music college library, as well as those of universities and other colleges. We should promote the magazine to them, but send complimentary copies to the most important centres if necessary.

(3) The Society should mount and promote events like master-classes etc., which would unite students, young professionals and such amateurs as would enjoy being auditors.

(4) As well as its competitions, the National Festival could offer short recitals to students and young professionals, who would be expected to pay a small fee in order to mount a thirty-minute concert. These concerts would go on all day in a small hall. The idea might also appeal to makers, as a form of advertisement.

(5) The Society could hold a library of the sort held by the Lute and the Viola da Gamba Societies. This would include books, music, etc., as well as copies of historic pictures which include the recorder and possibly drawings of instruments. The library would obviously depend on the generosity of members for its contents; but should it prove its relevance, gifts and bequests would no doubt be forthcoming. Where applicable a fee could be charged to those who wished to borrow, say, a drawing of an instrument. The housing of such a library would obviously present problems, though eventually a public library might be persuaded to house it.

(6) The Society's members might be willing to hire to bona fide students good quality instruments, for a small fee payable to the Society. The period of hire would normally be short, and there would have to be adequate insurance, etc. However, if a college student wishes to perform a work involving, say, a voice flute, a sixth flute, a treble in Eb or a contrabass, I would like to see the Society able - and willing - to help.

(7) As the Society gains influence and credibility in the academic world it may be able truly to promote the recorder in music colleges, etc. The Royal Academy (and Manchester Academy) is one of the few remaining conservatoires in Europe where the recorder is not recognised as a suitable instrument for a principal study.

C. SERIOUS AMATEURS

Most of the subjects dealt with under the headings of Students and Professionals would begin once more to attract the serious amateur. However, one service which I feel would attract them particularly would be:

(1) One-day conferences at leading branches, but probably particularly in London (?). These would involve professional players and musicologists, or composers, teachers, etc., depending on the subject. They should be chaired by members of the Executive Committee, or by guests invited by the Committee. They should include at least one recital of relevant music. I would suggest as suitable topics the following general headings, though these are of course not exclusive, and a conference would be held probably on a specific aspect of any one of these subjects:

- The recorder in the Renaissance
- The recorder in the Baroque
- Composing for the recorder
- The recorder in school
- Recorder making, etc. etc.

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(2) The Society should produce and publish a check-list of British recorder makers. Because of the wide disparity of aims between individual makers it would be undesirable and impossible to compare them in the way suggested for school instruments. Instead, makers could pay a small sum to the Society and submit a descriptive paragraph on their work, with specimen prices and an address for further enquiries. The resulting list could be advertised in the magazine and sold by post and at branches and Festivals.

D. PROFESSIONALS

(1) The Society should promote one concert per year to be offered on network through the country: opening concert in, say, Wigmore Hall promoted by the National Executive. Otherwise, concert offered to branches for moderate fee, to be organised by branches using their wealth of volunteer labour. A paper could be drawn up by sub-committee giving general advice on promotion (recommending each member to sell so many tickets; interesting schools; getting space in diary slots of local press and radio, etc.). Poster with details of all network concerts, centrally produced, would cut costs further. All professionals have at some time a concert which they particularly want to promote for personal rather than financial reasons, and which they are therefore prepared to do for less than a realistic fee. The Society could benefit itself and attract professional interest by promoting this sort of event.

(2) The professional would be involved in many of the activities listed above, whether as player, lecturer, adjudicator (or even conductor!).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

(1) I realize that many of what I consider to be new ideas may have been tried before I arrived on the scene. However, this does not necessarily mean that they would not work now. The number of recorderphiles has grown enormously in recent years (in proportion, it must be admitted, to the number of recorderphobes!).

(2) I draw the Committee's attention to the objects of the Society and especially to Rule 2(b) paragraphs (i)-(vi). Of course, these specific activities are not compulsory for the Society, but it seems to me to verge on the fraudulent that a society with so many high-sounding objects enshrined in its rules should put all its energy into one aspect, however well it may acquit itself in that aspect.

(3) There is no society at present which caters for the needs of the groups which I have attempted to describe. I believe there is a possibility that such a society might be formed outside the SRP if we do not succeed in attracting these people into the Society. This would further, and finally, polarise the situation.

(4) If all the recommendations above were to be implemented, it might be necessary to employ professional part-time administrative help. However, many proposals are intended to be self-financing, and with an expanded membership such help might be possible!

(5) If the Committee should support any of these recommendations, it would perhaps be appropriate that they should go before the Musical Directors to be turned into workable proposals for consideration by the Society. Conversely, the Society might take note of skills required for specific proposals when considering nominations for Musical Directors.

Philip Thorby
March 1982



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 15 May 1983

Crown Hills Community College Leicester

Present:

Committee

Mr Wyatt Chairman
Mrs Blackman Secretary
Mr England Treasurer
Dr Allen Membership Secy
Dr Bergmann
Miss Bonniksen

Mr Bonsor
Mr Clark
Dr Coles (also Northants)
Dr Dolmetsch
Mr Hersom
Mr Hilling

Mr Hunt
Mrs Panzetta (also Essex)
Mr Sharman
Dr Taylor
Mr Danbury Treasurer-elect
(also Mid-Herts)

Branch Delegates

Aberdeen Mr Haston
Beds+N Herts Mr Smith
Birmingham Mr Rowley
Bristol Miss Hunt
Cambridge Mrs Sharman
Cleveland Mr Knox
Cumbria Mr Bryer
Darlington Mr Cape
Devon Mr Chapman
Dorset Mrs Harrison

Edinburgh Mr Gillett
Glasgow Dr Davies
Guildford Mr Betton-Foster
Hillfoots Miss Simpson
Leicester Mrs Jones
Lincs Miss Ward
Manchester Miss Newton
N London Mrs Allen
N Staffs Mrs Bridge

Newcastle Mr Stobbs
Nottinghamsh Mrs Martin
Roxburgh Mrs Bonsor
Sheffield Mr Eaton
S Somerset Mr Imrie
S Staffs Mrs Lewin
S Wales Mr Powell
W Dorset Mrs Collyer
W Riding Mr Corbishley

1. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Wright, Mr Thorby and the Norfolk Branch. A note of absence was received from Mr Bamforth.

2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with the following correction: Item 4(a) for "now 70" read "then 70".

3. Matters arising

Membership list. The Committee would decide at their October meeting whether to reprint the list in 1984. The next membership returns needed to be in a suitable form for painless transcribing. Copies of the return forms were available to Delegates at the meeting. The Chairman reported that he had acquired an electronic stencil cutter which should make it possible to produce a membership list very cheaply. He also said he was willing to use it to produce multiple copies of music for SRP purposes.

Central Library Register. Mr Clark had not yet been able to compile this.

Chairman's retirement. Dr Dolmetsch asked whether the Chairman could postpone his retirement until the SRP Golden Jubilee, but the Chairman adhered to his intention to depart at 65, although he appreciated the compliment behind the request.

4. Officers' reports

The Chairman drew delegates' attention to the Rules which required 4 weeks notice to be given to the Secretary of resolutions to be moved at Conference. The purpose of the Rule was obvious - to enable the Committee to examine the implications of any resolution so that debate on it would be properly informed. At last year's Conference a number of resolutions had been moved without notice (mainly, he was sorry to say, by members of the Committee) and, not wishing to appear to stifle discussion, he had accepted them, as he was empowered to do. He gave notice that he would not be so indulgent this year. He reported that the Committee had devoted most of its time during the past year to considering the proposals for extension of the Society's activities. These would be discussed under subsequent items of the agenda.

The Treasurer expressed his gratitude to all the members (and especially the Chairman) for the support which had helped to make his five year term so rewarding. He warmly endorsed the choice of Mr Danbury as his successor and was glad to be able to hand over a financially healthy society. The 1981/2 accounts showed a reasonable surplus but none of this had come from subscriptions - it was all accounted for by Festival profits and bank interest. Bank interest appeared to be lower because the National Savings Bank credits interest only in December; this would right itself in the current year. No royalties had been received from Schotts for two years, but these had come in since the end of the year. There were continuing profits from the sale of SRP sweaters. Thus there was an increase to £4698 in the Accumulated Fund, and by the end of the year there was £3388 in the National Savings Bank. There was a slight increase in magazine cost, partly due to increased membership; but last year's Conference cost less, printing was less because no membership cards were printed, and owing to the generosity of visiting conductors, their expenses were lower. A large item of expenditure was the membership list; we were left with a considerable unsold surplus.

In the current year there had been a large increase in the cost of the magazine, and the consequent subscription increase agreed by last year's Conference had resulted in a loss of about 3% in membership and 9% in magazine circulation. He looked forward however to higher subscription income, to bank interest of about £600, to £131 of royalties from Schotts and to £30 of profits from sweater sales. The underwriting of a student concert in the Wigmore Hall was a possible expense in the current year, but he felt that the Society's finances would satisfactorily cover this extension of its activities. Ex gratia payments of £40 had been paid to each of the Branches running the 1982 Festival. There had been an error in setting the subscription for students in "old style" branches, who were charged the same amount as students in "new style" branches. This would be dealt with under Item 6 of the agenda.

The Membership Secretary reported that with one more branch, total 1982/3 membership at 1556 was 26 down on the previous year. But almost all of the net loss was accounted for by London which had lost 53 members as a direct result of a very steep increase in subscription following the withdrawal of free accommodation. He distributed membership cards and Branch membership return forms, asking particularly that the latter should be submitted by 31 January 1984 so that compilation of the new membership list would not be delayed.

5. Election of Officers

The Musical Directors due to retire were Messrs Bergmann Bonsor and Hersom. All were willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed by Miss Newton, seconded by Dr Coles and carried that they be re-elected. With the exception of the Treasurer all officeholders were willing to stand again and their re-election was proposed by Dr Taylor, seconded by Miss Bonniksen and carried. The Chairman proposed the election of Mr Danbury as Treasurer and this was carried. Mrs Panzetta and Dr Coles were due to retire as Committee members and they were thanked for their services. The Chairman proposed the election of Miss Evelyn Nallen and Mrs Paula Campbell to fill the vacancies and Conference agreed. The Chairman then asked Conference to authorise an alteration to the Rules (the precise text to be drafted by the Committee) to allow Dr Coles as CSRP Secretary to become a member of the Committee in that capacity. The Conference agreed.

6. Subscriptions

The Treasurer proposed, seconded by Mr Rowley, that the rate for students taking the magazine in new style branches be raised from £4 to £4.50, all other rates remaining the same. The motion was carried.

7. Future Festivals

The 1984 Festival at Guildford was already attractively advertised. Dr Davies reported that the 1985 Festival at Glasgow was well in hand at a teacher training college, with overnight accommodation offered at £10 per night B&B if required. Glasgow were also planning a Saturday night concert. Manchester were still willing in principle to undertake 1986 and the 1987 Jubilee Festival would in London, although organised by the Society and not by London Branch. Birmingham had made a tentative offer for 1988.

8. New Branches

The Chairman proposed that the admission of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch into the Society be ratified. Conference agreed.

9. The Magazine

A paper of 31.3.83. circulated by the Chairman formed the basis of discussion of this item. Delegates were not all disposed to accept the proposition in the paper that the Society's pages could never be the most interesting part of the magazine, even for members. Delegates were invited to indicate whether or not they believed that the Society's pages were the principal interest of the magazine for the majority of their members, and the show of hands indicated a 50:50 division of opinion. Delegates however were more or less unanimously agreed that (a) a check list of dates and venues carried in the September issue was impracticable; (b) two Spotlights a year was about right and they should continue to be accompanied by photographs; (c) the Society's pages should carry brief accounts of Conference and Committee proceedings; (d) regional newsletters were not desirable; and (e) for an experimental period the Society should produce a duplicated circular of Branch news for those quarters when space was devoted to a Spotlight feature, and that this circular should go to all members and not just to magazine subscribers. Branches should continue to send contributions to Dr Taylor as before.

10. Extension of Society's activities

(See Oct Dec - this to be deleted)
A. Schools. The sub-committee under Dr Coles had considered papers submitted by members (Bonnicksen, Clark, Panzetta, Taylor, Hersom, Hilling and Thorby). They were thinking of the preparation of a 'pack' of educational material, of the development of the CSRP, and of ways of contacting teachers. They would report at next year's Conference.

B. Students. The Chairman reported an approach to Mr Thorby by Richard Wood, UK agent for Moeck, proposing that the Society should organise a competition for solo recorder playing for a trophy and cash prize to be presented by Moeck. Such a competition could very well be tied in with the Wigmore Hall concert for students that Mr Thorby was already undertaking. The Committee would meet after the Conference to discuss setting up a sub-committee to pursue this proposal, along with the suggestion that another firm might be approached to sponsor a parallel competition for ensembles/trio sonatas.

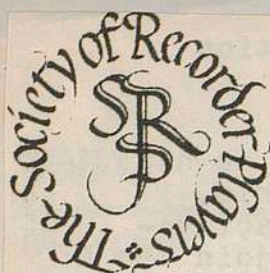
Library. The volunteer librarian (Margaret Westlake in Beccles) and the volunteer custodian (David Miles in Norwood) lived too far apart to make effective collaboration possible. The Chairman however reported that Margaret Westlake was now contemplating a central register of loan material which would serve to put potential borrowers of music and instruments into touch with potential lenders.

C. Serious Amateurs. The Committee had concluded that the organisation of a Conference was likely to involve demands on finance and manpower that it could not meet. Mr Hunt, however, when in the USA would investigate the organisation of the Boston Early Music Festival and would report to the next meeting of the Committee on it.

The Chairman congratulated the Leicester Branch on their excellent and most enjoyable Festival and expressed grateful thanks for the hospitality of the Branch to Conference delegates.

J. E. G. P. att

13.5.84



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 13 May 1984

at Guildford

Present:

Committee

Mr Wyatt	Chairman	Mr Hersom	(also Mid-Herts)
Miss Church	Acting Secretary	Mr Hunt	(also COS)
Mr Danbury	Treasurer	Miss Nallen	
Dr Bergmann		Mr Sharman	
Mr Bonsor	(also Roxburgh)	Dr Taylor	
Mrs Campbell		Mr Thorby	(also North London)
Mr Clark			

Branch Delegates

Ayr & District	Mr Walker	Hillfoots	Miss Simpson
Aberdeen	Mr Haston	Leicester	Miss Finns
Beds & N.Herts	Mr Smith	Lincolnshire	Miss Ward
Birmingham	Mr Rowley	London	Mr Read
Bristol	Miss Hunt	Manchester	Miss Newton
Cambridge	Mrs Sharman	Newcastle	Mr Stobbs
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Mr Brown	Nottinghamshire	Mrs Martin
Cumbria	Mr Bryer	South Staffs	Mr & Mrs Lewin
Devon	Mr Chapman	South Somerset	Mr Imrie
Dorset	Mrs Harrison	South Wales	Mr Powell
Edinburgh	Mrs Taylor	Warwick	Mr Tucker & Mrs Ellis
Guildford	Mr Davies	West Riding	Mr Corbishley

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Allen (Membership Secretary), Dr Coles, Dr Dolmetsch, Miss Wright (COS Secretary) and from the Essex and Sheffield Branches.

2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with the following corrections: Item 6 for "new" read "old"; Item 10A delete "Clark".

3. Matters arising

(a) Membership list. The Committee had hoped to have copies ready to distribute at the Conference but this had not been possible. Mr Sharman (who undertook the production of the lists) would be sending proofs for checking by Branches, but it would be some weeks before finished copies were ready to send to Branches.

(b) Central Library Register. Mr Clark said he had received lists from 21 of the 40 Branches. On his return home he would send out blanks to Branches with a plea for a speedy return. Some Branches were not prepared to lend any music at all, others had attached provisos, while some were prepared to lend music freely to other Branches.

(c) Chairman's retirement. The Chairman said the Committee had not reached any conclusion about who might be nominated for the office of Chairman in May 1985. He invited Branches to be considering possible candidates.

(d) Rules. The Conference had agreed last year that Dr Coles should be made a member of the Committee in his capacity as CSRP Secretary, and Conference agreed but had left the Committee to word the appropriate amendment to the Rules. The Committee now proposed

that Rule 4(h) should be amended by inserting "the Examination Secretary" after "the Officers". Conference agreed. 15

4. Officers' reports

(a) The Chairman said it had been an uneventful year and he had little to report. There had been a slight fall in membership. The Committee had continued to consider ways of extending activities, e.g. to encourage advanced amateurs and students to join the Society. He congratulated Guildford on a very successful Festival which was proof of a thriving Society.

(b) The Treasurer thanked Mr England for his help in making the change of Treasurership a smooth and painless operation. He also thanked Mr Harrison, the Society's Auditor. The accounts for 1982/83 showed a surplus for the year of £2,175.29 and accumulated funds of £6,873.39. For the first time since 1977/78 the subscription income had exceeded the Society's normal running expenses. In previous years these had been subsidised by Festival profits, deposit interest and other sundry income. The surplus of subscription income over "basis housekeeping expenditure" was approximately £675. The remainder of the surplus arose from the very good profit made at the Leicester Festival, from deposit interest and other sundry items of income. Looking to the current year, the cost of magazine distribution was likely to rise, partly because of the increased distribution costs arising from the inclusion of the Society's Newsletter in some issues. Investment income was likely to be higher than the previous year, partly because of the increased accumulated funds and partly because he had made greater use than previously of the National Savings Bank Investment Account, keeping only the minimum working balance necessary in the bank Current and Deposit Accounts. The increased magazine distribution costs and other likely increases due to inflation might be thought to justify a small increase in subscriptions next year, on the basis that the Society ought to maintain the principle of meeting basic running expenses from subscription income. However, he thought the increase could properly be deferred for one year in view of the healthy current state of the Society's accounts. He therefore recommended that there be no change in subscription rates for 1984/85, subject to there being no increase in the cost of the magazine. He warned Conference, however, that an increase of around £1 per each class of membership was likely in 1985/86. He reminded Branch delegates of the provision in the Society's Rules that Branches send the Treasurer a copy of their accounts each year. This was a condition of the Society's charitable status. He had not yet received accounts for last year from a number of Branches, which he enumerated. If representatives of any of those Branches were present, he would be grateful if they would ask their Treasurers to submit their accounts as soon as possible. The Accounts for 1982/83 were formally adopted.

(c) The Membership Secretary, who was unavoidably absent, had reported that membership in 1983/84, totalling 1530, showed a drop of 40 from 1982/83. The decrease gave no cause for immediate concern, but it might be noted that, whereas last year's fall was attributed to the effects of a large and atypical decline in one particular Branch (London), this year saw more Branches registering a fall (23, last year 16) than a rise (14, last year 19). Increases of 20% or more were recorded by Beds & N.Herts (45%), Hillfoots, Nuneaton, Oxford, Roxburgh, Sheffield and West Riding, while falls of similar magnitude occurred in Birmingham, Glasgow, Ireland and Manchester. The 40 continuing Branches had between them registered gains of 79 and losses of 123, a net change of 44. The demise of Milton Keynes (14) and admission of Ayr & District (18) made the overall change 40.

In Miss Wright's absence Mr Hunt reported that COS membership had decreased by 20 to a total of 162.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

The Committee had nominated Dr Bergmann and Mr Friedrich von Huene as Vice-Presidents and the Conference ratified these nominations. Conference wished to record its regret at the death of one of the Vice-Presidents, Imogen Holst. Dr Dolmetsch was re-elected as a Musical Director. All the Officers were willing to stand for re-election and were duly re-elected. Mr Sharman and Mr Bamforth were due to retire from the Committee. The Committee had approached Mr Rochford, Mrs Martin and Dr Robertson, who were all willing to stand, and Manchester had nominated Miss Newton. A ballot was therefore held, resulting in the election of Mrs Martin and Dr Robertson. The next Committee Meeting would take place on Sunday 14 October 1984 at Dr Bergmann's home.

6. Future Festivals

Glasgow had had to withdraw as hosts for the 1985 Festival due to a fall in membership. It was now too late for alternative arrangements to be made and there would therefore be no Festival in 1985. There would, however, be the Moeck Competition in London after Easter 1985. The London Branch were willing to organise a day of massed playing, which they would try and combine with the 1985 Conference - the dates and venue had not yet been decided. The Chairman said he would welcome offers from Branches to host the 1986 Festival, as Manchester had had to withdraw their offer. Mrs Martin said that Nottinghamshire would look into the possibility of organising a Festival in 1986, perhaps in collaboration with Lincolnshire. Miss Newton said she would enquire whether, if Nottinghamshire could not take it on, Manchester might yet undertake it. 1987 would be the Golden Jubilee of the Society; the celebration would be a national responsibility, the shape of any such celebration had not yet been agreed. The Chairman again congratulated Guildford on the number of innovations which had been introduced, in particular the amount of sponsorship. The Guildford Festival showed that there was no need to follow the pattern of past Festivals slavishly.

7. New Branches

The Chairman proposed that the admission of the Ayr & District Branch into the Society be ratified and Conference agreed.

8. Moeck Competition

A sub-committee composed of Mr Hunt, Mr Thorby and Mr Danbury was making arrangements for the competition. There would be a prize of £250 and a silver medal, and a Wigmore Hall recital guaranteed by Dr Moeck, though it was hoped the recital would be self-supporting. Mr Hunt said the venue had not yet been agreed and dates were a problem. If a Wigmore Hall recital were included, competitors would have to produce programmes of recital length. This might involve eliminating heats to be decided on tapes. Schotts would be prepared to sponsor an ensemble competition to be run in parallel with the Moeck competition.

9. Branch Newsletters

Dr Taylor asked for Branch contributions to be submitted on four sides of A5 paper cut down to 120 words, with no photographs, and for contributions to be submitted by the end of the first week of November.

10. Extension of SRP activities

A. Schools. Dr Coles had sent a letter reporting that Miss Bonniksen was preparing a pack for use by teachers and Mr Thorby was hoping to produce a video tape over the next year. Mr Thorby said the video proposed by Dr Coles would be about 15 minutes in length and was aimed at recorder teachers in schools. Dr Coles and Mr Thorby had visited the producer of videos for the Health

Education Unit, who could produce a video for £2,500 as opposed to at least £10-12,000 from a professional company. A number of tapes could be produced very cheaply and it was still for consideration whether they should be for sale or hire. The success of the scheme would depend on how the video got into the hands of people outside the Society.

B. Students would be catered for by the Moeck competition and the Wigmore Hall recital.

Library. The Chairman pointed out that it would be difficult to operate a central library with the custodian living in Norbury and the secretary in Beccles. Mr Thorby suggested that the Society should be a clearing house for information (microfilms, slides, etc.) and he was proposing to submit an article to the magazine.

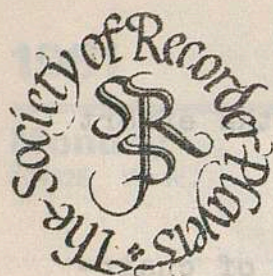
C. Serious Amateurs. The Chairman referred to Mr Powers' letter to the magazine accusing the SRP of failing to attract serious amateur players. The Society had hoped to have a joint conference with the Galpin Society at Homerton College, but this would not be possible in 1985 as the Galpin Society would be involved with the Boston Early Music Festival; it might, however, be possible to hold a joint conference in 1986. Mrs Martin asked if the Society could be a vehicle for putting advanced players in touch with one another. The Society's members list was not graded; the Rural Musical Schools Association, on the other hand, issued a graded amateurs exchange register. Mr Chapman suggested a general note in the magazine suggesting that players approach Branch Secretaries if they were looking for other players of equal ability. Mr Lewin thought more professional players might be attracted by organising meetings concentrating on one composer and his compositions, rather than on general recorder playing. Mr Hunt pointed out that the title of the magazine had been changed to "The Recorder", dropping "and Music". The Lute and Gamba Societies were vehicles for scholarly research, attracting students and advanced players. He thought that people looking for players of comparable ability could appeal in the Society's pages of the magazine: otherwise such appeals competed with paid advertisements.

Some Branches had introduced some flexibility into the organisation of Branch meetings. Edinburgh and South Wales were asked to disseminate their ideas in the Newsletter. Mrs Martin suggested regional gatherings, since Branches only met once a year under present arrangements. Mr Hunt pointed out that half the circulation of the magazine was to non-SRP members. Mr Thorby suggested a symbol in the members list indicating that the member would like to meet other players. There was general support for a symbol which might indicate willingness to play one-to-a-part or in a small group; the Chairman undertook to refer this proposal to the Committee at its meeting in October.

Conducting. Miss Nallen thought the standard of conducting at large SRP meetings often left much to be desired. It was proposed that the Committee look into the feasibility of improving standards of conducting. Mr Sharman thought that conducting might be reinstated in the prospectus for the CSRP. Dr Taylor was asked to take note of the views of Conference and to discuss with the sub-committee.

The Chairman once again thanked the Guildford Branch for an excellent and unusual Festival, and expressed grateful thanks for the hospitality of the Branch to Conference delegates.

J. E. L. yalt 12/5/85



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 12 May 1985

at Merrymeade Conference Centre,

Brentwood, Essex

Present:

Committee

Mr Wyatt	Chairman
Mr Danbury	Treasurer
Mrs Blackman	Secretary
Dr Allen	Membership Secretary
Mr Bonsor	(also Roxburgh)
Mrs Campbell	
Mr Clark	

Dr Coles
Dr Dolmetsch
Mr Hersom
Mr Hunt
Mrs Martin (also Notts)
Dr Taylor
Mr Thorby

Branch Delegates

Aberdeen	Mr Haston
Beds & N.Herts	Mr Parry
(Observers:	Mrs Askew
	Mr Smith)
Birmingham	Mr Norcross
(Observer:	Mr Lesser)
Bristol	Miss Hunt
(Observer:	Mr Warbutton)
Cambridge	Mr Woodford
Cheltenham &	
Gloucester	Mr Brown
Devon	Mrs Bending
Essex	Miss Seviour
(Observer:	Mrs Panzetta)

Manchester	Miss Newton
(Observer:	Mr Martin)
Mid-Herts	Mr Fraser-Hook
Norfolk	Miss Barber
Northampton	Mr Wilson
N.London	Mrs Allen
N.Staffs	Mrs Bridge
Notts	Mrs Martin/Ctee
S.Staffs	Mrs Lewin
Roxburgh	Mr Bonsor/Ctee
Warwick	Mr Tucker
(Observer:	Mrs Tucker)
W.Riding	Mr Corbishly

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Robertson, Miss Wright (COS Secretary), Dr Bergmann; and from the following Branches: Cleveland, Cumbria, Dorset, Edinburgh, Leicester, Lincolnshire, Newcastle, Nuneaton, S.Wales and W.Dorset.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read and, with the correction already noted at the last Committee meeting that conducting was, in fact, an important aspect of the CSRP syllabus, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising

3(b) Mr Clark reported that entries for the Central Library Register were now in from all Branches. He hoped to have the Register printed shortly.

10.C Serious amateurs. The Chairman reported that the Committee had considered what might be done to improve standards of conducting. Miss Nallen had undertaken to write an article on the subject for "Recorder & Music" and Mrs Martin was considering incorporating a seminar on conducting in the 1986 Festival. The Committee had also considered the suggestion of a symbol in the Membership List indicating willingness to play one-to-a-part, but

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had concluded that its usefulness would hardly justify the effort of collecting and printing the information.

4. Officers' Reports

(a) The Chairman offered his last report after 13 years of chairmanship. In 1972, he said, there were but 23 Branches to our present 41, and the Annual Conference was spread over 2 days whereas now it was fitted into a morning. At that time the Society had just been rescued from insolvency by a loan from the then Treasurer and by doubling the subscription rate; the first National Festival (organized by Mr Clark) was being considered and there was earnest discussion on whether an admission fee of 50p could reasonably be charged. The then 21-year-old Ross Winters won the first competition. Every year since there has been a Festival and this year there have been two - in Alva and in Essex. Festivals, he pointed out, had done a great deal to bring a sense of national identity to a very scattered loosely-constructed organization. The fact that the Annual Conferences had been held in different parts of the country had reduced the feeling that the Society was dominated by London. He did not think he could or would want to claim that any of the major wrongs in the world of recorder playing had been righted by the Society in those 13 years; but he did think the Society could properly be proud that it was now carrying out more successfully than ever before its basic function of bringing amateurs together to make better and more enjoyable music than they could make without it.

(b) The Treasurer presented the audited Accounts for the year ended 30 September 1984. He thanked the Auditor, Robert Harrison, for his continued services and for the deep interest he takes in Society affairs. The Accounts showed a deficit for the year of £189.37, which was attributable to a number of factors, including the 1984 Festival, the members list and increased cost of magazine distribution. He welcomed the fact that more Pastoral Visitors were claiming their expenses rather than subsidizing the Society from their own pockets. He explained, re the payment to Leicester, that it was the custom of the Society in taking responsibility for any loss sustained by a Festival host Branch that it should also take into Central Funds any profit made, and in the latter instance an ex gratia payment of some 10% was made to the host Branch, in this case Leicester, while Guildford made a loss in 1984. He then asked that the Accounts be accepted: this was proposed by Mr Fraser, seconded by Dr Coles, and motion carried. The Treasurer felt that it was time for a slight increase in the subscription rates, since he maintained that basic running expenses should be covered by subscription income, which it has failed to do by about £320 in the year. Such increases on average occurred every 3 years, and the Committee had felt that a £1 increase on all the 7 classes of membership would be appropriate and should hold good for at least 2 years unless there was an increase in the magazine cost. Mrs Bridge questioned the wisdom of keeping the £6000 odd surplus in mothballs, when some Branches were having to bear heavy costs (and hence heavier subscription fees) to keep going - members not so well off were tempted to drop the magazine to reduce their subscriptions - and wondered whether some of the surplus could not be used to keep fees down. The Treasurer and Dr Coles explained that about half our capital had already been ear-marked for extending the activities of the Society (i.e. the video), leaving as a reserve a

figure substantially less than one year's income. The Chairman suggested that the resulting balance of c.£3000 was a minimum to be kept in general funds. Mr Corbishly asked why Guildford had made a loss when other host Branches had made profits from their Festivals, and the Treasurer explained that basically Festivals are not regarded as money-spinners, and Guildford, in having difficulty in obtaining suitable premises, had had to design a different type of Festival which, though innovative and extremely enjoyable and in spite of attracting outside subsidy in the form of prizes etc., had nonetheless been more expensive than other Festivals. Some delegates felt that Guildford's example should not be followed, and thought that a set limit to expenses should be made in advance. It was pointed out, however, that it is extremely difficult to fix a price on an estimate of how many people in fact will attend. As for increasing the subscription rates next year, Mrs Allen felt that an all-round £1 increase would be hard on the student-without-magazine category, which would double, though other delegates felt that a rise to £2 was not much to pay; and the Treasurer pointed out that those members taking the magazine are not, in fact, being subsidized by those who do not. Mr Hunt then proposed, seconded by Mr Tucker, that there be an all-round £1 increase from next year and the motion was carried. The 1985/86 rates would therefore be:

	Full Member	Student Member	Family Member/p
Old Style Branches	£6.50	£5.50	£7.50
New Style Branches			
with magazine	6.00	5.00	-
without magazine	2.50	2.00	-

The Treasurer reminded members of the requirement of our charitable status to submit Branch accounts each year, and named 14 Branches who were at present in default. Dr Coles called for thanks to the Treasurer, which were applauded.

(c) The Membership Secretary reported a slight fall again, a trend similar to last year:

- 1982/83 1570 members
- 1983/84 1536
- 1984/85 1500 (but subject to revision)
- 14 Branches showed an increase (especially Cheltenham & Glos, Darlington, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Northants)
- 26 Branches showed a fall (especially Ayr & District, Beds & N.Herts, Cambridge, Cumbria, Norfolk)
- 1 Branch no change
- 1 new Branch (Bath)

A 3-year trend shows only 5 Branches having a successive drop, and Dr Allen felt there was no cause for alarm. Mrs Lewin asked what proportion there was of student members, and Mr Danbury said that there were 83 student members in New Style Branches and 42 in Old Style. Mr Clark said that many students at Birmingham came to meetings not as Branch members but as visitors, so therefore no precise records could be kept - an observation supported by Manchester. The Chairman, who had attended the Scottish Festival at Alva, was most impressed by the results of the support of their Local Authorities for recorder teaching as shown by the large number of children attending the Festival and the high standard of their playing. Mr Clark, on the other hand (and other delegates) pointed to the drastic cut-back in peripatetic teachers as well as music posts in schools.

Dr Allen reported that the members list prepared by Mr Sharman was now on floppy discs, and he hoped to up-date these entries from the membership returns. Mrs Bridge asked whether there was a national list of recorder teachers. The Secretary said she received a steady stream of enquiries, but it had always been felt to be too difficult to maintain such a list. Mr Martin suggested that a symbol T (with the member's permission) could well be added to the next membership list to indicate willingness to teach and the letter C to indicate an interest in consort playing. Mr Bonsor recommended, with reference to the T symbol, that a note be added that the Society was not to be held responsible for the quality or qualifications of such teachers. Mr Clark then proposed the 2 symbols be adopted for the next membership list and, further, that teachers should be invited to add their teaching qualifications. This was approved by Conference.

(d) Branch News Secretary. Dr Taylor had received 11 reports so far for the Newssheet for the June issue of the magazine. There would also be a Spotlight on Norfolk, and one on Warwick for the December issue. He invited Branches to submit Spotlights for 1986.

5. Election of Officers

Dr Bergmann had proposed and the Committee agreed, that Dr Moeck be invited to become a Vice-President of the Society, and Conference endorsed the invitation.

The 3 Musical Directors, Messrs Clark, Hunt and Thorby, were due to retire. Their nomination for re-election by the Committee was endorsed by Conference, as was also the election of Mr Wyatt, the retiring Chairman, as a Musical Director.

Chairman. There were two nominees for the vacancy:

Mr Philip Thorby, proposed by the Committee

Mr Colin Martin, proposed by North Staffs Branch

Some delegates felt that brief personal notes on each candidate should have been circulated. The Chairman gave a thumb-nail sketch of each nominee and said that the Committee would consider the suggestion for future occasions. Mrs Bridge complained that it was unfair that one candidate should start with the advantage of being known to be the choice of the Committee; but the Chairman explained that the Committee had a duty to ensure that there was a candidate willing to stand in case no nominations were received from Branches. In the ensuing ballot Mr Thorby was elected Chairman.

Committee Members. Mr Hilling and Miss Bonniksen were due to retire and the Committee proposed Miss Rachel Gregory and Mr Denis Bloodworth. It was proposed by Mrs Bridge, seconded by Miss Newton and agreed that Mr Colin Martin now be added to the list of nominees, the Chairman having previously indicated that he would accept such a nomination from the floor. The ballot duly elected Miss Gregory and Mr Martin.

Other Office Bearers, including the Honorary Auditor, being willing to stand for re-election, were duly endorsed by Conference for a further term.

By agreement the retiring Chairman continued in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6. Future Festivals

1986 to be at Nottingham. Mrs Martin reported that the venue was a comprehensive school in Southwell, and that the Minster had been offered free of charge for a lunch-hour concert - in view of this gratis offer, it was proposed to throw open the concert to the public and make a donation to the Minster from the entrance fee proceeds. Mr Bonsor had agreed to give a short seminar on conducting, and there would be competitions, sponsorship for which was being investigated.

1987. The Jubilee Festival to be held in London as the most central venue for a national event. It would be organized by the Central Committee, rather than by a Branch, though no doubt London Branch would do the hackwork; but some tasks might be put out for suitably placed Branch volunteers.

1988. Birmingham.

1989. A National Festival in Scotland, but this or any other national festival did not preclude Scotland again organizing their own Scottish event. Mr Bonsor pointed out that the recent Scottish Festival was not originally designed as a festival but a combined meeting of all the far-flung Scottish Branches, and another such meeting was to be organized again at Alva by Mr Haston for the end of March 1986. Conference was assured that this was not in competition with other national events, but an essentially Scottish addition, to which any other Society members would be welcome.

Mr Woodford suggested that future playing days (as Essex yesterday) and/or National Festivals could well invite conductors from the Society list of Pastoral Visitors who are not usually invited to Branch meetings - some conductors often feel neglected! But Mrs Martin replied that from her research of past Festival programmes she had found that the organizers did tend to invite local performers and conductors from their own district.

7. New Branches

Mr Wyatt proposed that the admission of the reconstituted Bath Branch into the Society be ratified and Conference agreed.

It was also reported that the Secretary had received 5 enquiries about forming new Branches from: Mr M.G. Hoddy (Southampton), Dr A. Lush and Mrs M. Halliwell (Ipswich), Mr E.D. Cullen (Colby, Isle of Man), Mrs K.M. Dilloway (Brae, Shetland), and Mrs J. Sidebotham (Holmfirth, W.Yorks).

8. Extension of SRP activities

School pack and video. Dr Coles, Chairman of the schools sub-committee, reported that the school pack being prepared by Miss Bonniksen was progressing. The video, which he and Mr Thorby were designing, was to be 15 minutes in length, showing the many current uses of the recorder (both amateur and professional) from primary school to music college, including SRP Branch meetings (Northampton used), also at members' homes, and moving on to professional performances. It was designed to give a kind of moral support to people working with recorders in schools, especially against apathy or even hostility. It was not condescending in approach but appealing. The package to go with it was to deal with problems likely to be met by less experienced teachers. It was envisaged that the distribution by sale and/or hire would go

some way to recoup some of the expense; even though it was felt that it was a good use of SRP funds, as a way for the Society to go into the schools especially at a time when education cuts were replacing music teachers with electronics posts. The film was a standard length for schools music broadcast programmes; it would be publicized through the normal channels both at Branch and national levels (prices, discounts, and to whom, to be decided later); and was carrying out one of the stated aims of the Society to promote the recorder in education. The filming should be finished by June 1985, when 2 hours of video would be edited. Mr Thorby hoped that it would be of great use to Branches and districts far from centres with a quantity of teachers.

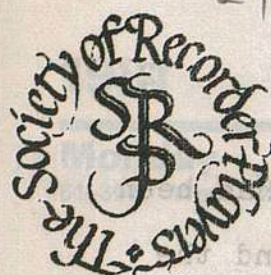
Moeck Competition. Mr Hunt reported that this competition, organized by the Society for British residents under the age of 30, held on 20 April, had been jointly won by Pearce Adams and Helen Rees. The adjudicators were Frederick von Huene, Richard Harvey and himself. Part of the prize is the Wigmore Hall concert to be held on 9 November 1985 at 3 p.m. It should be noted that the Society were considering such a concert as part of the plans to make the SRP more relevant to the needs of students, and the Moeck offer coincided. Another such concert could be considered to accompany the Anniversary Festival in 1987 being held in London.

The retiring Chairman, seconded by Dr Dolmetsch, presented a vote of thanks to Essex Branch for a Festival most skilfully organized in 6 short months and for the hospitality extended to the Conference delegates. Mr Hunt voiced the thanks of the Society to Mr Wyatt for his 13 years as Chairman of the Society.

The Conference adjourned at 12.30 p.m. for lunch.

15. Thuy

11.5.1986



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

Minutes of Annual Conference

Sunday 11 May 1986

at Saracens Head Hotel

Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Present:

Committee

Mr Thorby

Mr Danbury

Mrs Blackman

Dr Allen

Dr Coles

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Membership Secretary

CSRP Secretary

(also Northampton)

Mr Hersom

Miss Nallen

(also Guildford)

Mrs Martin

Mr Martin

(also Manchester)

Dr Taylor

Mr Wyatt (also London)

Mrs Campbell

Miss Gregory

Branches

Aberdeen

Bath

(Observer

Beds & Nth Herts

(Observer

Birmingham

Bristol

(Observer

Cleveland

Cumbria

Devon

Dorset

West Dorset

Edinburgh

Glasgow

Guildford

Hillfoots

Leicester

Lincolnshire

London

Mr Haston

Mr Jerrome

Miss Gilmour

Mr Parry

Miss Askew

Mr Rowley

Miss Hunt

Mr Warbutton

Mr Knox

Miss Angus

Mrs Bending

Mrs Harrison

Dr Short

Mr Wilson

Miss Nallen/Ctee

Mrs Motley

Miss Finns

Miss Ward

Mr Wyatt/Ctee

Manchester

Mid-Herts

Newcastle

Norfolk

(Observer

Northampton

North London

North Staffs

Nottingham

(Observer

Sheffield

(Observer

Sth Somerset

(Observer

South Staffs

Warwick

(Observer

W. Riding

Suffolk (elect)

COS Member

Mr Martin/Ctee

Mr Fraser-Hook

Mr Stobbs

Mr Payne

Mr Skins

Dr Coles/Ctee

Mrs Allen

Mrs Bridge

Mr Sturgeon

Mr Gill

Mr Roscoe

Mr Veale

Mr Imrie

Mrs Imrie

Mrs Lewin

Mrs Petley

Mr Tucker

Mr Corbishley

Mrs Halliwell

Miss Bonniksen

The Chairman welcomed the Delegates and Committee Members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Bonsor, Dr Dolmetsch, Mr Hunt, Dr Robertson (who had previously asked to resign owing to extra hospital duties), Miss Wright (COS Secretary), Dr Bergmann (who had previously retired from all SRP commitments owing to his health), and from the following Branches: Cambridge, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Nuneaton, Roxburgh, South Wales.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read and (with a correction to the spelling of Corbishley) were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

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3. Matters arising

3(b) It was reported that the Central Library Register had been completed in 3 parts (General Branches List, London and Mid-Herts) and copies already distributed to Branches and the Central Committee.

10.C Serious amateurs. Print-outs of Branch membership lists were now available, and, as soon as these were checked by the Branches and returned to Dr Allen, the 1986 Membership List would be prepared, incorporating the symbols C (desire for consort playing) and T (prepared to teach, though the Society would take no responsibility for standard/quality).

4. Officers' Reports

(a) The Chairman, in reporting on his first year's chairmanship, assured Delegates that the Committee had been active on the Society's behalf, the emphasis being on the extension and promotion of the Society's activities:

i) He and Dr Coles had completed the video, which would be shown to Delegates later on in the meeting.

ii) The Committee had discussed the provision of recorders adapted for the disabled, after an enquiry from a teacher with a disabled pupil; and as a result Mr Hunt was pursuing with Schotts their agreement to sponsor the purchase of or research into such an adapted instrument, provided the Society handled the administration of such a scheme.

iii) The school-pack (of c.30 pages) was approaching completion, to be distributed with the video and also to be sent to Branches for distribution to schools/teachers in their neighbourhood, Branches being asked to discuss the contents before such distribution. The pack would include lists of music, types of recorders, information on the SRP, reprints of appropriate articles from the Schools pages in the magazine, information on examinations and critiques of recorder tutors, etc.

iv) Miss Nallen and Miss Gregory were preparing a revised SRP brochure which had been approved by the Committee. In addition to aims and functions, the brochure would bear the Society emblem and Secretary's address on the front, would have a map of the UK with Branch locations starred, and with a list of Branches and their Secretaries supplied on a separate sheet for ease of amendment. It was hoped that a blank space could be left somewhere for Branches to insert their own details for displaying the brochure locally.

v) Mr Martin had suggested the idea of a "yearbook" giving information on the Society's work and endeavours: CSRP, schools pack, the video, proposed lending library, etc. This idea was being pursued by the Committee, though types of information, format and distribution had still to be worked out; but since there was some feeling on the Committee that such information was available in the magazine (though not all members take it) the matter had been postponed until Mrs Martin had processed the information from the Questionnaire distributed at the Festival on the magazine.

vi) Also, on Mr Martin's suggestion, the Committee was hoping to find a way of making Central Committee deliberations available to Branches, since Branches did not appear to know what the Committee does. This would also enable members and Branches more easily to contribute to debate.

(b) The Secretary reported that:

i) Further enquiries about forming new Branches had been received from Farnham (Surrey), Hove (Sussex) and South London. Of previous enquiries reported Suffolk had now formed a new Branch and, of the three above, South London were holding an inaugural meeting in September.

ii) The Society had agreed to reciprocal membership of the National Early Music Association (NEMA).

iii) The new Visiting Conductors list was now completed and available for distribution. She drew attention to the withdrawal of Walter Bergmann, Brian Crispin, Lyndon Hilling, Colin Hand, Nancy Winkelmann (Capt. Hale has died) and the addition of Jim Carey (Edinburgh), Philip Evry (Bath) and Anthony Warbutton (Bristol).

(c) The Membership Secretary

i) Apologised for lateness of despatch of the March issue of the magazine owing to internal problems within Office Aids, notably the death of the Manager who was responsible for the SRP. Office Aids would be continuing despatch for the present, but the Society was moving towards magazine distribution itself.

ii) He drew attention to the computer print-outs of Branch membership for checking before production of the 1986 Membership List. Membership cards were also now available.

iii) He reported that 17 Branches had adopted the T and C symbols.

iv) Membership was currently 1519, showing a slight increase this year, where some larger Branches were losing members but smaller and/or newer Branches were increasing. Ireland had a 40% increase, Sheffield up a quarter, the new Suffolk Branch with 60 members, gains being 44 against losses of 102.

(d) The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ending 30.9.1985. He expressed renewed thanks to Robert Harrison, the Society's auditor. The note to the accounts showed a deficit of approximately £60 as between subscription income and basic running expenses. Moeck had refunded to the Society the deficit of £160.57 on the Wigmore Hall concert. A further £1830 had been spent this year on production of the video. Royalty income was substantially increased, mainly as a result of some £163 received in respect of Walter Bergmann's "Ode for St. Cecilia's Day". The Treasurer expressed the Society's gratitude to Dr Bergmann for this gift. He expressed thanks to the Branches Essex and Alva for the proceeds of their two Festivals. It was reported that c.£500 profit was expected from the Nottingham Festival. The Treasurer reminded the Conference of the requirement for each Branch to send him a copy of their accounts, preferably audited, each year and explained the reasons for this rule. Seven defaulting Branches were named. Dr Coles proposed, seconded by Miss Hunt that the accounts be adopted, and agreed by Conference with thanks to the Treasurer.

5. Election of Officers

(a) With their agreement, it was proposed by Mrs Petley and seconded by Miss Ward, that the present Officers, including the Honorary Auditor, be re-elected en bloc and Conference agreed.

(b) The Committee members due to retire were Miss Nallen and Mrs Campbell, and Dr Robertson had asked to resign now rather than wait until next year, leaving three vacancies. The following three nominations had been received:

Mrs Alyson Lewin (proposed by Mr Martin, Manchester)
(seconded by Mr Coulton, Nth Staffs)

Mr Anthony Warbuton (proposed by Mr Hunt)
(seconded by the Secretary)

Miss Eve O'Kelly (proposed by the Chairman)
(seconded by Dr Allen)

Their election was therefore proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Hersom and agreed by Conference.

(c) Mr Bonsor and Mr Hersom were due to retire as Musical Directors. With their consent, their re-election was proposed by Dr Coles, seconded by Mrs Campbell, and agreed by Conference. (Dr Bergmann had now retired, but had already been elected in 1984 a Vice-President of the Society.)

(d) Dr Coles proposed and Miss Hunt seconded the election of Miss Nallen as a Musical Director and Conference agreed.

6. New Branch

With a membership of 60, the new Branch at Suffolk was proposed for ratification by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Wyatt and Conference agreed. (It was pointed out that it was not necessary to put to the Conference for agreement an alteration to their Branch Rules, as consent was merely a matter for the Committee.)

7. Subscriptions

In view of the increase in cover price of the magazine to £1.50 from March 1987, the Committee proposed a rise of £1 on all magazine-related subscriptions from September 1986, as under:

A Old Style Branches

Full members (incl. COS) £7.50
Students £6.50
Household £8.50

B New Style Branches

Full members + magazine £7.00
Full members - magazine £2.50 *
Students + magazine £6.00
Students - magazine £2.00 *

* not taking magazine, no change

Old Style Branches have the magazine sent direct to all members; New Style Branches have magazines sent in bulk for local distribution.

Mr Parry suggested that the accounts showed that members not taking the magazine were, in fact, subsidizing the distribution of the magazine to those who do. [But this is not so as the subscription rates show.] At the request of the meeting the Treasurer gave a break-down of the membership for 1985/86:

Old Style Branches

Full members 460
COS 151
Households 49
Students 44

New Style Branches

Full members + magazine 297
Full members - magazine 373
Students + magazine 16
Students - magazine 68

It was pointed out that the Society enjoys a 30% discount on the cost of the magazine and therefore the increased cost to

delete

the Society was 70p not £1. Various figures put forward showed that the cost of distribution was covered largely from the basic subscriptions (excluding the magazine addition). Dr Coles and others pointed out that as a Society we should produce a magazine and that the benefits from it were enjoyed by all members including those not receiving it (e.g. new music, course details etc.) and although the sale of the magazine is through Schott's, it is a window for the Society. The Treasurer pointed out that the bulk of the distribution cost related to those members who required the magazine sent individually, including Overseas members who received little else from the Society. The cost of distribution to members in New Style Branches was small, as one parcel only was sent to the Branch. An increase of £1 on the magazine-related subscriptions would effectively increase the amount retained by the Society by 30p (because of the discount) and this would help to cover distribution costs. It was reported that the numbers taking the magazine were down by 60 this year. So, with the Chairman's proviso that the Society was reviewing the magazine requirements and contents, it was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Mr Rowley and Conference agreed that there be a £1 increase on all categories taking the magazine for 1986/87 from September 1986.

8. Future Festivals

The Chairman gave a brief outline of the arrangements for the Anniversary Festival 3-5 April 1987. On the Friday evening there is to be a reception for founder and early members of the Society at the Art Workers' Guild, where the whole thing began. The playing Festival on Saturday is to be at Goldsmiths' College, with a lunch-time concert given by Dr Dolmetsch and Mr Hunt. The Conference will be on the Sunday morning. There are to be two competitions: the second Moeck for solo performer and (at the instigation of the Society and organized by Mr Hunt) Schott's are to subsidize an ensemble competition, each prize to be between £200 and £300, with no split prizes. The Chairman pointed out that one of the extensions of SRP activities was to promote such competitions. The Festival is to be organized by the National Committee, with recommendations from Branches for conductors. It is proposed to commission a work for all to play, possibly of a concerto grosso type; this would be made available to all Branches, whether able to attend the Festival or not.

Dr Short said that the next Scottish Festival would shortly be announced, and that the 1989 National Festival in Scotland would be in the Stirling area.

9. Extension of SRP activities

(a) The Chairman, in mentioning the one-handed recorders for handicapped players, reported that Margaret Westlake and Betty Newton had worked with the blind and had tapes available for loan.

(b) The proposed "yearbook", magazine questionnaire and video had already been mentioned. The Chairman pointed out that all these activities were subsidized by members, as they should be.

(c) Mr Martin asked about the out-of-print Schott's SRP publications, and the Chairman replied that the Committee and Musical

Directors had submitted their preferences for retention to Schotts; but if they were unwilling to reprint, the Committee were considering other ways of republishing, since it would be regrettable should such historic items as, for instance, Arnold Dolmetsch's "Fantasie, Ayre and Jigg", just disappear.

(d) Mr Payne reported that Norwich Branch were holding a recorder-playing day with a comprehensive school in July, which would also publicize the Society in schools.

(e) The Chairman said that the North London Branch were proposing to spend a profit they had made, on sponsoring a new work rather than just buying something already published.

(f) Mr Martin reported that Manchester Branch had met with their Musical Advisers Department to arrange Branch meetings with the Bengali community, a West Indian steel band and Ukrainian balalaika group to play with recorders. It was agreed that this was a move to be encouraged.

(g) The question of attracting and keeping youngsters in the Society was discussed. Dr Taylor deplored the tendency of secondary schools to drop the recorder for "real instruments", and felt it was the SRP's responsibility to help children who want to continue with the recorder. Mrs Bridge mentioned North Staff's trouble in keeping 12 to 15-year-olds in the movement, where they had tried a Friday evening children's hour before the regular meeting, not as full members but for a small fee, for them to work their way into full membership. She felt that music teachers do not give the SRP much support or publicity. Dr Short said that Edinburgh had tried a children's hour in the evening but had not been able to sustain it for more than two years. Mrs Lewin reported that Staffs County policy appeared only to favour their own handling of all music for under 18s and not allow the SRP any participation, even when there is less money in the County for music. She had thus had little help from schools. She also referred to the continuing progression to "real" instruments, even though the Associated Boards now have examinations in recorder, a fact that does not seem to have percolated through to the authorities - and hence the desirability of having examination information in the SRP school pack. Mr Martin mentioned the hundreds of children playing throughout the country, and in particular the Southport College Saturday meetings. Mrs Martin, on the other hand, reported that the Southwell Minster School was now concentrating on the orchestra, where good recorder groups already functioning were thus to be disbanded in favour of the orchestra. Mrs Imrie of South Somerset spoke of the County's resistance to using retired teachers for recorder teaching. Mr Jerrome suggested that the SRP should consider a minimum subscription for junior members, which the Committee have, in fact, been considering, as well as a junior SRP badge, T-shirt etc. to give children a sense of belonging. Also that a strong approach should be made to Music Inspectors.

(h) Dr Coles said that orders for the video were rolling in. It is in two formats Beta Max and VHS, selling for £10 + £1 post/packing to members and £12 + £1 p/p to non-members. The question of whether any of the performances in the video could be used in promotional drives and the matter of copyright

would be explored.

10. Any other business

(a) CSRP. Dr Coles reported that with the resignation of Dr Bergmann, Dr Taylor had taken over the chairmanship of the CSRP Committee. He felt that the Society should acknowledge Dr Bergmann's contribution to the CSRP, and this would be done. He also felt that this Committee should be reconstituted to incorporate some younger members. The Chairman then proposed, seconded by Miss Hunt that Mrs Anne Martin, Miss Jane Ward and the Treasurer, Mr Danbury, be appointed and Conference agreed. The Chairman said that the CSRP was to take a higher profile from now on to encourage more people to take the Certificate, as conducting is a continuing problem. There have already been conducting courses held at Cambridge and Knuston in January, held by Dr Taylor and Dr Coles, and further courses are to be planned. Mr Martin would see that publicity for the CSRP went into the "yearbook". Mrs Martin asked whether a lecture on conducting, similar to the one given by Mr Hersom at yesterday's Festival, should be a regular festival feature. The Chairman felt, on the whole, that it was not an easy subject to cover in one session of one hour a year, though such lectures must be considered for the health of the Society. Dr Coles felt that weekend courses covering theory and practice could well be contemplated, even though Mr Wyatt pointed out the difficulty of persuading those in most need to take such a course. Since conducting entailed a "knowledge of the literature" as well as the techniques of conducting, the CSRP must be strongly promoted.

(b) Mrs Bridge asked whether the Society could produce guidelines for organizing festivals, and it was confirmed that Mrs Martin would be working on a handbook following the Notts Festival, probably incorporating the experience of other host Branches.

(c) Mr Payne reported that Norfolk, in going over to New Style membership, had thus encountered the problem of cost and suitability of envelopes for despatch of the magazine to members absent from meetings. He had found a plastic envelope for 3p and wondered whether, if the Society as a whole went over to its own distribution of the magazine, the Society would consider bulk buying (at £30 per 1000) whereby such envelopes could also be offered to Branches, as for notepaper. Mr Payne was asked to get a price list for various sizes and types of envelopes and the suggestion would be considered by Committee.

(d) Mr Hersom reported that the 1-hour-long South Bank Show featuring Michela Petri on London Weekend TV was now available for sale at £24.99 + VAT.

(e) He also reported that Miss Freda Dinn was in very poor health, and supplied her address at Old Farm Road, Birchington, Kent, should anyone wish to write to her.

(f) Mr Hersom then referred to SRP "artifacts" - the car stickers were selling well - and asked whether there was still a demand for ties, as the Society had recently received a letter from a firm, Colourties, not only offering its wares but also congratulations on the Society's approaching anniversary. He felt that such a gambit had deserved at least an enquiry about

prices, and had found that printed ones were £3 and embroidered £4. He was given leave to pursue the matter of colours, materials etc. available.

(g) The Members List would probably be available with the September issue of the magazine.

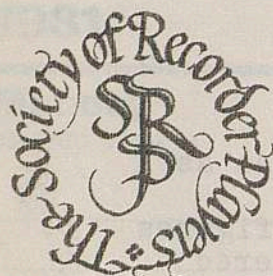
(h) Mr Wilson asked whether next year's Festival organizers/stewards could be labelled as at this year's Festival, as this was very helpful to a newcomer like himself, and it was agreed that the 1987 Festival sub-committee would consider the suggestion.

(i) There would be a report in the next magazine on the recorder player Francesca Frazer, who came fourth in the recent Young Musicians of the Year.

The Conference ended at 12.50 p.m. and was concluded with lunch. The Chairman thanked the Nottingham Branch for their excellent Conference arrangements, the hospitality of their members extended to delegates, and congratulated them on a splendid Festival. The Conference also extended their thanks to the National Committee for its labours on behalf of the Society.

P.S. Thank

5/4/1987



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 5 April 1987

Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, London SE14

Present:

Committee

Mr Thorby	Chairman	Mr Hersom
Mr Danbury	Treasurer	Mr Hunt
Mrs Blackman	Secretary	Mrs Lewin
Dr Allen	Membership Secretary	Mrs Martin
Dr Coles	CSRP Secretary	Miss O'Kelly
	(also Northampton)	Dr Taylor
Mr Bonsor		Mr Warbuton
Mr Clark		Mr Wyatt

Branches

Aberdeen	Mr Haston	Norfolk	Mr Payne
(Observer	Miss Wright)	(Observer	Mrs Cavalier-Smith)
Ayr & District	Mr Walker	Northampton	Dr Coles/Ctee
Bath	Mr Jerrome	Nth London	Miss Hogg
Beds & Nth Herts	Miss Askew	(Observer	Mrs Allen)
(Observer	Mr Parry)	Nth Staffs	Mr Coulton
Birmingham	Mr Rowley	Nottingham	Mr Sturgeon
Bristol	Miss Hunt	Oxford	Mrs Groke
Cambridge	Mrs Mason	Roxburgh	Mrs Bonsor
Cheltenham & Glos	Mr Brown	Sheffield	Mr Roscoe
Devon	Mr Chapman	(Observer	Miss Long)
Dorset	Mrs Harrison	Sth London (elect)	Mrs Crocker
Edinburgh	Dr Short	(Observers	Miss Marsh)
Essex	Miss Seviour		Mr Prosser)
(Observer	Mrs Panzetta)	Sth Somerset	Mr Imrie
Glasgow	Mr Wilson	(Observer	Mrs Imrie)
Hillfoots	Miss Simpson	Sth Staffs	Mr Dunn
Ireland	Mrs Flanagan	(Observer	Mr Lewin)
Kent (elect)	Mrs Gilmore	Sth Wales	Mr Powell
(Observer	Mrs Rolfe)	Suffolk	Mrs Usher
Leicester	Miss Finns	Warwick	Mr Tucker
Manchester	Miss Newton	W. Dorset	Mrs Barker
Mid-Herts	Mr Fraser-Hook	W. Riding	Mr Corbishley
Newcastle	Mr Stobbs		
(Observer	Miss Brownlow)		

The Chairman welcomed the Delegates and Committee Members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Dolmetsch, Mr Martin, Miss Nallen and Miss Wright (COS Secretary); and from the following Branches: Cleveland, Darlington, Guildford (but Mrs Martin will report), Lincolnshire, London and Nuneaton.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference, with the following corrections, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true

record:

Item 7, p.4 (para 4) delete sentence "But this is not so as the subscription rates show."

Item 7, p.5, first sentence amended to read: "Various figures put forward show that the cost of distribution was covered mainly from the magazine addition to the subscriptions but also partly from the basic subscriptions."

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

(a) The Chairman said he had nothing to report in this his retiring year, other than his pleasure at seeing the success achieved in two of the extensions of the Society's activities, the video and the Teachers' Guide. He felt that these had been very well worthwhile ventures which were continuing in demand and popularity. He thanked the Society for providing him with the opportunity of serving its interests.

(b) The Secretary reported that she had received 5 new enquiries about forming new Branches from: Mrs Tyers (Ferryhill, Co.Durham) which Mr Wyatt reported was hoping to be launched in the Autumn; Mrs Blythe (Newquay, Cornwall); Mrs Maudsley (Helensburgh, Scotland); Miss Harrison (Scarborough, Yorks); and Mr Harvey (Sleaford, Lincs) who was interested in forming a Branch of 3 groups he ran for Advanced and Intermediate children and an Elementary group of adults (teachers and parents). The Committee had felt that even though it might not be possible to hold combined playing meetings of these different degrees of skill, a Branch of the 3 groups could be formed, to meet separately if necessary, but to combine to carry out tasks legally denied to minors (eg. signing cheques, etc.). Other than Mrs Tyers, nothing further had been heard from these enquirers. She also reported requests to include the Society in "Good Retirement Guide", sponsored by the Save & Prosper Group, published by Duckworth; an entry in a book on pre-retirement being written for Macmillans; and "Where to join: a guide to young people", being compiled by Loughborough University for Northcote House Publishers Ltd.

(c) The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ending 30.9.1986. He expressed thanks to Robert Harrison, the Society's Auditor. The accounts showed a deficit on the year overall of £2.93. The note to the accounts showed a surplus of approximately £166 as between subscription income and basic running expenses. The increase in Committee expenses was in part due to the fact that 3 meetings had been held during the year. It had been necessary to print new brochures relating to the CSRP. The cost of the Teachers' Guide was being recovered as the Committee had agreed to a charge of 25p post-free per copy. The accounts for the year included the balance of the cost of production of the video. A reasonable number of copies had been sold, but both from the point of view of finance and the Society's effectiveness, the Treasurer stressed the importance of the widest possible distribution of the video. The increase in subscription income reflected the increase in subscription rates agreed at the 1985 Conference. The rates for the current year had been increased solely to cover the increased cost of the magazine. The Committee recommended that there be no change to the subscription rates for the year 1987/88, but the Treasurer warned that an increase for the following year should be expected.

The Treasurer warned that there was unlikely to be any surplus from the Jubilee Festival. Indeed, because of the special nature of the event, the number of additional attractions provided and the high cost of running functions in London, there was likely to be a deficit when the accounts were finally prepared. The reception held on the previous evening was likely to cost something of the order of £5-600. The wine was a parting gift from Mr Thorby, as retiring Chairman.

The Treasurer expressed thanks to the Branches responsible for organizing the two 1986 Festivals, both of which had been much enjoyed by the participants as well as being successful financially.

The Treasurer reminded the Conference that it is a requirement under Charity rules that accounts (preferably audited) for each Branch each year must be sent to him to be submitted to both the Charities Commission and Inland Revenue, as the bulk of the Society's revenue comes from the Branches and this has to be accounted for. Eight Branches were in default. It was proposed by Dr Coles, seconded by Mrs Martin and agreed that the accounts be adopted.

(d) The Membership Secretary reported that membership remained stable. The revised figure for 1985/86 was 1524, an increase of 7 over the previous year. This year there was no change in 3 Branches, 12 showed a small increase and 28 a small decrease, an identical pattern to last year. There was an increase of 41 to existing Branches, whilst 7 showed a fall of 25% or more. The total loss was 150, the difference between gains and losses being 109, which was countered by 77 members in the 2 new Branches. So the net decrease was 32. The new South London Branch had taken some members from both the London and Guildford Branches. He expected that a new members list would appear this year, but he had as yet prepared print-outs for only half the number of Branches; the remainder would be circulated shortly. He explained that a hiatus between Office Aids and Schotts had regrettably led to the A Style Branches not receiving the March magazine, though the B Style Branches had received their copies. On behalf of the Country & Overseas Membership Secretary, he reported that membership here was down by only 5. *drop fr 150 to 136 27/3/87*

(e) Newsletter. Dr Taylor reported that he had received some Branch reports already, but pressed others to provide a 100-word report in the next 4 weeks for the next Newsletter, and would welcome suggestions for Spotlights for the 1988 issues of the magazine.

(f) CSRP. Dr Coles reported that there were 5 applicants awaiting examination and that 3 people had received the Certificate last year, including the Treasurer, Mr Danbury.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

(a) Chairman. There were 2 nominations:

- i) Colin Martin (Manchester), prop. Mrs Lewin (Sth Staffs)
sec. Mr Coulton (Nth Staffs)
- ii) Graham Danbury (Mid-Herts), prop. Mrs Martin (Notts)
sec. Dr Coles (Northampton)

In the ensuing ballot Mr Danbury was elected Chairman.

(b) Treasurer. There were 2 nominations:

- i) Colin Martin (Manchester), prop. Mr Coulton (Nth Staffs)
sec. Mrs Lewin (Sth Staffs)
- ii) Andrew Parkin (Leicester), prop. Mr Wyatt (London)
sec. Mrs Blackman (London)

The ensuing ballot elected Professor Parkin the Treasurer.

(c) Mrs Martin and Miss Gregory were due to retire from the Committee, and there were 3 nominations for the 2 vacancies:

- i) Patricia O'Sullivan (Mid-Herts), prop. Miss O'Kelly (London)
sec. Mr Danbury (Mid-Herts)
- ii) Christine Holliman (London), prop. Miss O'Kelly (London)
sec. Mr Martin (Manchester)
- iii) Peter Holtslag, prop. Miss Nallen (Guildford)
sec. Mrs Lewin (Sth Staffs)

Miss O'Sullivan and Mr Holtslag were duly elected members of the Central Committee.

(d) Only one nomination had been received for the post of COS Secretary:

- Diana Reddaway (Mid-Herts), prop. Mr Wyatt (London)
sec. Mrs Blackman (London)

Conference agreed to Mrs Reddaway's election.

(e) Other Office Bearers and Committee members (including the Hon. Auditor) were all willing to stand again, so it was proposed by Dr Coles, seconded by Mr Fraser-Hook and agreed that they be re-elected en bloc for a further term.

(f) Dr Dolmetsch was due to retire as a Musical Director and was willing to be re-elected. Mr Thorby was retiring and did not wish to stand again. It was proposed by Mr Chapman, seconded by Mr Fraser-Hook and agreed that Dr Dolmetsch be re-elected.

The Conference wished to express its appreciation of Mr Martin's willingness, in spite of illness, to stand for election for the posts of Chairman or Treasurer, and asked the Secretary to extend their good wishes to him for a speedy recovery and the hope that he would be willing to stand for office again in the future.

With reference to Musical Directors, some delegates felt that the Conference and/or Branches should have a hand in their selection, but Mr Wyatt explained that according to the Society Rules, Musical Directors are selected by the Central Committee for approval by Conference, and drew delegates' attention to Rule 5(d). Mr Rowley considered that the Rule was a good one in that the whole process would become tangled if all Branches came to the Conference with their own suggestions. While the Committee would welcome preliminary suggestions from Branches, it was better for the Committee to recommend and Conference to ratify the selection - after all, Conference has the right to veto any recommendations.

6. Future Festivals

1988. Mr Clark gave a brief report on arrangements to date for the Birmingham Festival, to be held at the University of Birmingham on 14 May 1988, where hotel-style accommodation could be booked at the adjacent Conference Centre.

1989 still in the hands of Scotland, but no firm plans as yet.

1990 is vacant. Offers from Branches were invited.

1991. There was an offer from the North and South Staffs Branches to combine for this Festival.

7. New Branches

The acceptance of the two new Branches of Kent and South London was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Dr Taylor and ratified with pleasure by Conference.

8. Pastoral Visits

Referring to Rule 9, the Committee felt that Branches should be reminded of the instructions. Branches must have at least 12 members to qualify for a Pastoral Visit each year; that only travelling expenses are paid from Central Funds; hospitality (which might also include ferrying to and from railway station etc. to the host's home) is the responsibility of the Branch; since travelling expenses can be very expensive, Branches are encouraged not to consistently invite conductors from the other end of the country, *del. V.* [but to try and choose someone nearer at hand as a general rule;] and that permission should be sought from Central Committee (via the Secretary) before making firm arrangements. There had been some instances where a Branch had not adhered to some or all of the above conditions. During the ensuing discussion, Mrs Martin suggested that "adjoining" Branches could well combine for a Pastoral Visit to reduce expenses; Miss Newton felt that a small subsidy from the Branch would reduce the expense of too many distant conductors; and Mrs Flanagan put in a plea for the addition of some conductors from the west side of England who would thus be nearer Ireland. It was pointed out by Mr Hunt that some conductors do not claim expenses, and Mid-Herts had themselves borne the expenses of their visitors when Central Funds were low. Miss Hogg wondered whether there could be a ceiling amount set for expenses and Miss Newton asked whether a boundary line could be set for each Branch; but the Chairman said that the only workable rule was that Branches endeavour to invite someone fairly near at hand as a general rule, though this should not preclude inviting a *del. V.* popular conductor from far away now and again. If a Branch wished to invite a distant conductor with regularity, then they should be prepared to bear the whole or part of the expense. The Conductors List would be up-dated at the end of this year, when existing conductors would be asked whether they wished to continue under the present conditions.

9. Amendment to Society Rule no. 3(j)

To allow payment to members for musical professional services rendered to the Society, the Committee wished to alter the present Rule which states: "No member of the Society shall receive payment from the Central or Branch Funds of the Society either directly or indirectly for services or in any way save for the reimbursement of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the work of the Society." The Treasurer pointed out many anomalies in this present rule, f.i. unpaid Pastoral Visitors are frequently professionals, but cannot be paid a legitimate professional fee for undertaking (often at the same time as a Pastoral Visit) a music course, workshop, master

class etc. or concert performance in connection with Society activities. The Committee felt that this was a nonsense, and that a change was considered necessary. As the Society is a Charity, the Treasurer had had to consult the Charities Commission and found that there was no general restriction on payment to members for services to the Society. However, this did not apply to members of the Central Committee who are legally the Charity Trustees, since Charity Law guards against Trustees benefiting from that Charity, while ordinary members can be paid for their services. The Charities Commission had since produced the following alteration to the proposed amendment as set out in the Conference Agenda:

"No member of the Committee shall be appointed to any office of the Society paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of reasonable, out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the administration of the Society and provided further that any such member for the time being herof being a solicitor or other person engaged in any profession shall be entitled to charge and be paid all usual professional or other charges for work done by him or his firm when instructed by the other members of the Committee so to act in that capacity on behalf of the Society."

This new Rule would thus allow payment to both ordinary members and Trustees of fees for professional musical services. While the amateur aspect of the Society should be preserved with its emphasis on the generous free-giving of services, the Committee considered that a balance should be aimed at between this and fair recompence. Dr Short, while sympathetic, felt that the wording of both versions was obscure in that there was no mention of the one profession (i.e. musician) that is involved here. But the Treasurer said that it was necessary to follow the exact wording suggested by the Charities Commission to ensure their acceptance of the new Rule. A letter of explanation of the new Rule would be sent to all Branches, and, in answer to a question from Mrs Usher, he assured the Conference that the annual Pastoral Visit would not be put in jeopardy nor would the payment of fees alter the amateur status of the Society. The Chairman explained that many conductors are professional musicians whose free services given to the Society do, in fact, prevent them earning their living for the time spent, say, in conducting, running courses, teaching sessions, performing in concerts etc, thus providing free services for which other people are paid. He felt that it was merely a fair reward, when other professions were allowed to charge for their services - he pointed out, for instance, that for the Festival recital he, as an SRP member of Syrinx, would not receive a fee, while the other three members of the group would. Mrs Flanagan supported the amendment, saying that they felt guilty asking a Pastoral Visitor to Ireland to conduct for one afternoon which, whether or not they used his skills for other musical activities during the visit, took up a whole weekend for which no payment could be made. It was then proposed by Mr Powell, seconded by Mr Dunn and agreed that the new amended Rule be adopted.

10. Extension of SRP activities

It was reported that the second edition of the Teachers' Guide was exhausted and that an extended licence for another 50 copies

of the video had been ordered. It was agreed that the Society must encourage new young members and more Branches.

11. Any other business

(a) There were some complaints that there were no competitions for adults (i.e. the over 30s) at the Festival. It was explained that there was a desperate need for young members for the Society to remain viable, and that along with the Moeck and Schott competitions for young professionals, the Committee had decided that it should itself run a competition for school children, as the Society had been unable to organize any special event for children during the Jubilee year. Conference was reminded that the Moeck and Schott competitions were merely organized by the Society on behalf of the two sponsors. Mr Hunt pointed out that as a charitable institution we must show we endeavour to help others, and in accepting the responsibility of running the two competitions for young people we were undertaking one of our intended extensions of Society activities. He also pointed out that the winner of the Moeck competition, Rebecca Miles, had had her first experience of the recorder through the Society, and it was encouraging that a 50th Anniversary prize should have gone to such a person. As a new feature this year it had been decided to have a consort master class, as an alternative to a competition for adults, but the response had been disappointing. Mrs Gilmore suggested lack of publicity as a reason for this, but she was assured by the Treasurer that all Branches were sent copious details of the projected Festival programme some months beforehand. The Chairman had felt that a master class would provide something that members might want, instead of an adult competition. Miss Seviour considered that many amateur adult players feel at a disadvantage against virtuoso young competitors and thus might prefer the advantages of master-class assessment. The Committee had not deliberately set out to exclude adult competitors, and no precedent had been set for future Festivals.

(b) The other complaint about this Festival was the substitution of playing sessions for a "compulsory concert", and suggested that playing sessions should continue, for those who wanted them, concurrently with the concert and recital by competition winners. The Chairman pointed out that the Society, as an amateur body, needs some reflected glory from professional exponents of the recorder. Records and concerts can provide this, and a recital at Festivals was given for people who like to hear good exponents, whether professional or not. An evening concert following a Festival was not a possibility owing to the expense and difficulty of finding a suitable venue. The importance and benefit of listening as well as playing was stressed.

(c) Mr Brown asked why the Society's President, Sir Michael Tippett, did not receive a mention. He had, in fact, been invited but was unable to attend owing to pressure of work on a new opera.

(d) It was explained that the BBC, in attendance at the opening session, were going to do an article on the Society for Woman's Hour and something on the Omnibus Series on World Service, probably sometime this Summer. The Chairman said that Syrinx had appeared on Radio London in an item about the Society's Jubilee.

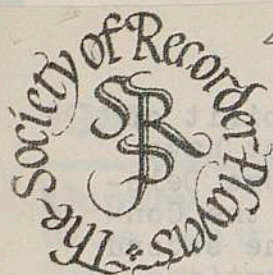
(e) Mr Corbishley suggested that Dr Taylor and Mr Martin should be appointed Musical Directors.

(f) Leave to re-locate the Society's Bank to the vicinity of the new Treasurer and authority for the alteration of Bank signatures was agreed.

Mr Wyatt extended the Society's thanks to Mr Thorby as retiring Chairman, and to Mrs Martin and Mr Danbury for organizing a splendid Festival; and Mr Danbury thanked the very many other people involved in the smooth running of the Anniversary.

The Conference was concluded at 12.30 pm, followed by the Conference lunch.

15 05 88



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 15 May 1988

The Lucas Institute, Birmingham B15 2RA

Present:

Committee:

Mr Danbury	Chairman	Mr Hunt
Prof. Parkin	Treasurer	Mrs Lewin
Mrs Blackman	Secretary	Mr Martin
Dr Allen	Membership Secretary	Miss O'Kelly
Mrs Reddaway	COS Secretary	Miss O'Sullivan
Mrs Martin	CSRP Secretary	Mr Warbutton
Mr Clark		Mr Wyatt
Dr Dolmetsch		Mr Sharman (Branch Review Editor)
Mr Hersom		

Branch Delegates:

Aberdeen	Mr Haston	Manchester	Miss Newton
Bath	Mr Jerrome	Mid Herts	Mrs Reddaway/Ctee
Beds & Nth Herts	Mr Parry	Newcastle	Mr Stobbs
Birmingham	Mr Rowley	Norfolk	Mr Payne
(Observer:	Mr Hunter)	Nth London	Miss Hogg
Bristol	Miss Hunt	(Observer:	Mrs Allen)
Cambridge	Mrs Knight	Nth Staffs	Mr Coulton
(Observers:	Mrs Sharman)	Notts	Mr Sturgeon
	Mrs Mason)	Oxford	Mr Gregson
Cleveland	Miss Foxall	Sheffield	Mr Roscoe
Cumbria	Mr Braithwaite	(Observer:	Miss Long)
Devon	Mr Chapman	Sth London	Mrs Crocker
Dorset	Mrs Harrison	(Observer:	Miss Marsh)
Durham (elect)	Miss Tyers	Sth Somerset	Mr Imrie
Edinburgh	Dr Short	(Observer:	Mrs Imrie)
Essex	Mrs Panzetta	Sth Staffs	Mr Dunn
Glasgow	Mr Wilson	Sth Wales	Mr Powell
Guildford	Mr Prosser	Suffolk	Mrs Halliwell
Hillfoots	Miss Simpson	(Observer:	Mr Halliwell)
Kent	Mrs Gilmore	W. Dorset	Dr Fraser
Leicester	Miss Finns	W. Riding	Mr Corbishley
London	Miss O'Kelly/Ctee		

The Chairman welcomed the Delegates and Committee members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Bonsor, Dr Coles and Miss Nallen; and from the following Branches: Ayr & District, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Darlington, Ireland, Lincolnshire, Northampton, Nuneaton, Roxburgh and Warwick.
2. Minutes of last Conference. Dr Short proposed an amendment to Item 8 (Pastoral Visits) by deleting in lines 9 and 10 the words "but to try and choose someone nearer at hand as a general rule" and also the word "popular" in line 28, as he felt that this apparent tightening of the Committee's attitude to

far-away conductors did not reflect the sense and spirit of the Society, and suggested that the Minutes might not have been an exact record. After discussion, in which some Delegates were satisfied that this was what was said at the Conference, the meeting agreed by a show of hands to the second deletion in line 28. It was then proposed by Mrs Martin, seconded by Mrs Lewin and agreed that the Minutes as amended be given approval and were signed by the Chairman.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' reports

(a) The Chairman reported that he had been very busy in his first year of office. One of the highlights had been Miss O'Kelly's introduction of the SRP workshops for both young people and adults (on which Miss O'Kelly would report under item 12 of the Agenda), the aim of which was not only to provide an opportunity for young people in particular to play one-to-a-part amongst their peers under the guidance of specialized experts (as opposed to the mass playing of most Branch meetings) but to attempt to attract them as potential members of the Society. Although these workshops were proving extremely popular, the general membership of the Society still remained round the 1500 mark, which was a source of concern and puzzlement in view of the large number of recorder players in the country.

(b) The Secretary reported that of the enquiries about forming new Branches mentioned at the last Conference, only one had succeeded, that of Durham. As a small statistic she said that since 1981 when she took office there had been 39 such enquiries of which 10 had borne fruit. Recent enquiries had been received from interested people in Winchester, Chelmsford and Harrow, but no further word from them as yet.

(c) The Treasurer wished to record his thanks to Mr Danbury for handing him his immaculately kept accounts. Eight Branches which had still not submitted their accounts were named. In explaining the Society accounts he said that 85% of the income of the Society comes from subscriptions and interest, 40-50% of the income goes on buying the magazine and 10% is spent on the Annual Conference. Last year about 30% of income went to increase funds, but would have been 20% if all the magazines had been paid for. It was proposed by Mr Prosser, seconded by Mr Chapman and Conference agreed that the accounts be adopted.

(d) The Membership Secretary reported that membership showed an increase over the previous year. For comparison, he cited 1985/6 = 1524; 1986/7 = 1545, increase of 21; 1987/8 so far 1555. This year 10 Branches remained the same, 11 had increases, especially Aberdeen, Beds & Nth Herts, Cambridge, Roxburgh, Warwick, Sth London and Country and Overseas. There was a loss of 101 but a net gain of 96, which, with the new Durham Branch with 15 members, gave an extra 10 so far. In mentioning the latest membership list it was pointed out that several Branch Secretaries as listed were now incorrect, but a complete up-dated list is kept by Mr Sharman for reference. Mr Hersom said that the compilers and printers of the list were to be congratulated, and Mrs Reddaway asked for greater use of the symbols C (consort player) and T (teacher), especially since

the Secretary is frequently asked for names of local teachers. Conference was reminded that there are reduced rates for students which could be an inducement to join the Society; and Branches, in setting their own rates, can cover any student reductions. It was suggested that students may well want more than massed playing, and COS membership with the magazine supplying news, courses, etc. would suit them better than Branch membership. Preferential rates are allowed to SRP members attending workshops.

(e) The COS Secretary reported 13 resignations and 6 transfers since the last membership list, but there were 31 new UK members and 6 Overseas.

(f) The CSRP Secretary reported that she had taken over from Dr Coles in September 1987. Dr Coles had agreed to remain on the CSRP Committee and to become Chairman after the sad loss of Dr Taylor; but due to ill health he had been advised to reduce his commitments and Mr Danbury has agreed to become the Chairman. Dr Coles is happy to advise the Committee, which now consists of Graham Danbury (Chairman), Anne Martin (CSRP Secretary), Eve O'Kelly and Jane Ward. Herbert Hersom has agreed to join the Committee. There are at present 5 candidates actively preparing for the examination. All Branches were recently sent an up-dated CSRP leaflet. Dr Short asked whether the CSRP is recognized as a professional qualification. Mrs Martin replied by saying that this was difficult to judge, but the majority of candidates do appear to be teachers. The current holders of the Certificate were listed in the June 1987 issue of the magazine.

5. Proposed changes in Society Rules

The Chairman explained that the proposed changes to the Rules came from (a) Dr Coles' suggestion on behalf of the CSRP Committee that there should be some way of honouring people who had given meritorious service to the Society and (b) Mr Wyatt's paper discussing the status of the Society's Musical Directors, whose appointment under the present Rules becomes an automatic life membership of the Committee, being ex-officio rather than elected members. In the beginning Musical Directors were responsible for the choice of music, but this work has now largely reverted to Branch level. It is proposed that this office should continue but not entail automatic membership of the Committee, so that 3 Musical Directors from their total number should be elected to serve on the Committee at a time, as for ordinary Committee Members. Further, it was found at the time of Dr Taylor's death that the Branch Review Editor was never actually appointed to the Committee. It is suggested that the future Editor need not be a Committee Member but should attend the Annual Conference. The projected changes would provide that: a) the President and Vice-Presidents would have the right

- to attend but not vote at the Annual Conference
- b) two Life Vice-Presidents would be appointed as ex-officio members of the Committee, to honour the two founding members of the Society (Dr Dolmetsch and Mr Hunt)
- c) a new category (but not an office) of Honorary Life Membership in recognition of services to the Society
- d) three Musical Directors to be elected to serve on the Committee, under the same conditions as ordinary Committee Members

(for 3 yrs)

- e) the Branch Review Editor would be appointed by the Central Committee and would have the right to attend but not vote at the Annual Conference

This would reduce Committee membership from 20 to 17 where the majority would be directly elected members. The question was raised of payment of travelling expenses to the Conference for those people entitled to attend with or without voting rights, i.e. the President, the Vice-Presidents, Committee Members, Musical Directors and the Branch Review Editor, as the Rules only state reimbursement of expenses of Branch Delegates. The Chairman then proposed, seconded by Dr Short and Conference agreed the following amendments to the new Rules: Rule 7(f) after "vote at any Conference" insert

"and /subject to Rule 9(c)/ to have their reasonable travelling expenses paid from the Central Funds"

- Rule 7(g) add at end "the Branch Review Editor shall be entitled to have his reasonable travelling expenses paid from the Central Funds"

Mr Parry asked whether Branches would be allowed to suggest people for Honorary Life Membership, since the present nominees had all been put forward by Central Committee. Branches were invited to submit suggestions for this honour if they wished, through the Society Secretary. Many members of older Branches would be suitable for this recognition, and Branches would always be free to choose their own Branch Honorary Life Members. The Rule changes as set out on pp.2-4 were proposed by Mr Chapman, seconded by Mr Powell and Conference agreed that they be accepted. Copies of the amended Rules would be sent to the Secretary and Treasurer of each Branch in due course, but would not be supplied to all Society members. Branches could if they wished copy them for their members, although members in general are governed by the Branch Rules as well as by Society Rules.

6. Election of Officers etc.

(a) All Officers (incl. the Hon.Auditor) and eligible Committee Members being willing to stand for re-election, it was proposed by Mrs Panzetta, seconded by Mr Wyatt that they be re-elected en bloc and Conference agreed.

(b) Dr Dolmetsch and Mr Hunt were elected as Life Vice-Presidents by the acceptance of the Rule changes.

(c) The Committee took the view that Brian Crispin, Freda Dinn, Enid Hunt, Ken Kenworthy, Ron Skins and Marjorie Wright were suitable candidates for the new category of Honorary Life Members. They were proposed by the Chairman and Conference agreed. Mr Prosser suggested some sort of illuminated address to present to the recipients and the Chairman agreed that the Committee would consider this.

(d) Musical Directors. With the exception of Mr Hunt and Dr Dolmetsch, the Chairman proposed that the five present Musical Directors (Mr Clark, Mr Hersom, Mr Bonsor, Miss Nallen and Mr Wyatt) be re-elected under the new Rules and Conference agreed. On behalf of the Committee he also proposed the appointment of Dr Coles and Mr Martin to the office of Musical Director and Conference agreed.

(e) Of the Musical Directors willing to serve on the Central

Committee, 3 were to be elected, in the first instance (in alphabetical order) one to serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years (future elections would be for three years for each Musical Director elected). In the ensuing ballot Mr Clark, Mr Hersom and Mr Wyatt were elected.

(f) Committee Members. For the 2 vacancies following the retirement of Mr Martin and Mr Warbuton, the following nominations had been received:

- i) Mrs Helen Mason (Cambridge)
proposed Mrs Esther Sharman
seconded Mrs May Knight
- ii) Miss Betty Newton (Manchester)
proposed Mrs S. Elton
seconded Miss N. Blanshard
- iii) Miss Madeline Seviour (Essex)
proposed Mrs Marion Panzetta
seconded Mr Christopher Saunders

The ensuing ballot elected Mrs Mason and Miss Seviour.

The Chairman then named the membership of Central Committee:

Officers: The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, COS Secretary

CSRP Secretary: Mrs Martin

Life Vice-Presidents: Dr Dolmetsch and Mr Hunt

Musical Directors: Mr Clark, Mr Hersom and Mr Wyatt

Committee Members: Prof. Holtslag, Mrs Lewin, Mrs Mason, Miss O'Kelly, Miss O'Sullivan and Miss Seviour

Mr Prosser asked about the absent Committee Member, Professor Holtslag. The Chairman said that he had been nominated to the 1987 Conference for election as a Committee Member (and elected) as being a recorder performer and teacher of high repute, and on the staff of the Guildhall School of Music. He had not attended either of the subsequent Committee meetings.

7. Future Festivals

The Chairman thanked Mr Clark, Mr Hunter and all the Birmingham Branch members for the very successful 1988 Festival.

1989 Scotland, Saturday 3 June. The Alva Academy, being similar to the Southwell Minster School used for the Notts Festival/Conference in 1986, had been chosen as the Scottish venue. Miss Simpson felt that it might prove too small, although she hoped to be able to accommodate all who wished to attend, possibly by organizing split massed playing sessions in two halls. They were considering Dunblane Hydro for overnight accommodation and possibly the Conference. It was proposed to start the Festival at 1.00 pm to allow Scottish Branch members to travel on the day, but it would continue until 7.00 pm, with a high tea instead of lunch and a possible evening entertainment.

1990 Ipswich, Saturday 21 April. The Westbourne High School, Marlow Road, Ipswich.

1991 North and South Staffs. Will be a date in May, venue still to be decided.

The Chairman said that 1992 was open to offers, but pointed out that organization takes at least 18 months and booking time for any suitable location has to be a long way ahead.

8. New Branch

Acceptance of the new Branch of Durham was proposed by the Chairman and ratified with pleasure by Conference.

9. Pastoral Visits

Although discussed at last year's Conference, these were still a somewhat vexed question. The Chairman outlined the basic rules: Branches of 12 or more members are entitled to one pastoral visit per year, the conductor being chosen from the Visiting Conductors List, the invitation to be agreed by the Secretary (for the Central Committee) in advance, and the conductor's travelling expenses to be borne by Central Funds. Last year the Committee decided that the host Branches should themselves pay the conductor's expenses and then claim reimbursement from the Treasurer, though a Branch could apply to Central Funds for an advance in circumstances of need. The Society Rules have always stated that permission for a visit should first be sought from the Secretary, since Central Committee as Charity Trustees are responsible for Society funds and must therefore have some control over how they are spent, and also to try and achieve fairness between Branches who all contribute to Central Funds. Unfortunately, there is a severe geographical imbalance between the distribution of Branches and the visiting conductors, so that sometimes Branches have been asked to choose a closer conductor next time and sometimes to bear some of the expenses themselves if a succession of distant conductors were invited. The Committee must have an element of oversight on the spending of funds. Dr Short regretted what appeared to him to be an undue emphasis on expense, while he and other Delegates considered the pastoral visit to be one of the main reasons for belonging to the Society - it both provided a contact with the Society and was an important manifestation of membership. Mr Wilson felt that in contributing to Society funds, Branches should be entitled to their visits in return for the membership fees regardless. Several Delegates considered that cheap pastoral visits should balance the more expensive ones. A special fund for pastoral visits was not considered feasible. There were many suggestions for subsidizing visits, from persuading the conductor to spend his holidays in the host district to adding an extra 50p to subscriptions, and Mr Martin suggested "pastoral visit tours" as Denis Bamforth once undertook by visiting six Scottish Branches in one week. Some of the Branches, who felt rebuked for inviting distant conductors, pointed out that in some areas there are no conductors within a 200-mile radius, or that having sampled all the conductors within a reasonable range, felt entitled to a change which would invariably be from a greater distance. While some Delegates felt there should be no cost limits put on visits, others considered that the Committee should weigh the benefit to recorder playing against the saving of money, and allow Branches to have as free a hand as possible, not restrict them. Mrs Lewin believed that Branches in the main do try and keep within some sort of limit, but a lot of outlying Branches are restricted simply by geography, and having used up all the "local" resources, their only possibility for change and new experience must come from a distance. Branches combining in a weekend to share one conductor between them for a visit to each Branch had been done

successfully. Mrs Reddaway pointed out that the magazine is also a benefit from Society membership, though some Branches did not take it; and she urged all B Branches to seriously consider changing to A Branch status. She reported that she had now collated all the Branch meeting dates and venues (which will be published in the next issue of the magazine) which can be consulted if Branches wished to try sharing a peripatetic pastoral visitor for separate Branch meetings. It was accepted that the Committee (most of whom were present) understood the mind of Conference and would reflect this in considering requests for approval of future pastoral visits. M. Sharman

10. Insurance

The Committee felt no need for a central scheme for insurance, but the Chairman reminded Delegates that stocks of music and instruments kept in a central location should be covered, and warned Branches to make sure that their meeting premises were adequately covered and to check whether public liability insurance had been taken out by the owners of the premises. Devon, for instance, had discovered that their premises were not so covered and the Branch had to take out its own insurance.

11. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

Mr Wyatt spoke briefly about the vast collection of Walter's music which he and Mr Hersom had been sorting. The chamber music was kept by Walter's daughter Erika Bendix, but she had given all the rest to the Society, which gift the Society wished to acknowledge with gratitude. Although final details of distribution for sale had not yet been worked out, the rough idea was to make multiple copies available to Branch libraries (most of which are available for loan to other Branches) and single copies to be sold to individual members within their Branches - all sale proceeds to go to the Memorial Fund. The Chairman said the Committee felt that a Fund was more appropriate and a more lasting memorial to Walter than a memorial concert. The Fund would be under the auspices of the Society, thus benefiting from the Society's charitable status and so be exempt from tax. The purpose of the Fund would be to provide assistance to students and young players, though the precise methods had still to be settled. He hoped that Branches and members would contribute as well as buying the music. The Committee proposed the transfer of £1000 from Central Funds to the Memorial Fund and Conference agreed. The Fund would need a substantial initial amount for investment, when it was hoped to use the interest and not the capital to support its aims. The Committee intended to inform outside organizations (e.g. the American Recorder Society) of the Fund and invite them to contribute. Mr Sharman suggested that regular payments to the Fund could be made by Deed of Covenant, and the Chairman agreed that this could be recommended to donators. Mrs Reddaway made the further suggestion that Branches could themselves give memorial concerts to raise funds. Dr Short enquired about methods of advertising this assistance to possible recipients. Personal contact would help, but it would be advertised in the magazine, and such reference books as the British Music Year Book were suggested.

12. Extension of SRP activities

(a) The new Society brochure was available and the Committee wished to express its gratitude to Mr Wyatt and Mr Hersom for organizing it at short notice and to Mr Bob Brand (Essex) for the design and lay-out. Twenty-five copies were available free to Branches, but additional copies could be purchased at 3p each post-free, as the expense of production was much greater than for the previous leaflet put out by Mr Wyatt's Oriol Press.

(b) Miss O'Kelly spoke about the one-day workshops that she and Miss Nallen had been organizing as part of the Society's endeavours to attract and cater for mostly young players, so far in London but Cambridge and Manchester were following suit, and she hoped that the idea would spread further. These are conducted under the umbrella of the Central Committee, not one of the London Branches, and are designed to be something between a Branch afternoon meeting and a weekend course, providing specialist topics for study under specialist tutors, and to encourage young players of the same grade and age to play together one-to-a-part, which is more attractive and beneficial than the usual Branch mass sessions. They are largely self-financing, a fee is paid to attend (the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund might help here to subsidize indigent applicants), and the tutors are paid the professional rate of c.£20 per hour. So far there have been 3 workshops in London: October 1987 for under-25s, contemporary music (tutors: Miss Nallen, Miss O'Kelly and Prof. Holtslag); February 1988 for over-25s, contemporary music (tutors: Miss Nallen and Miss O'Kelly); March 1988 for under-25s, French baroque (tutors: Prof. Holtslag, Mr Ross Winters and Miss O'Kelly). Two more in London are planned for 19 June 1988, over-25s, contemporary music (tutors: Mr Paul Clark, Miss Nallen and Miss O'Kelly) and 25 June for under-25s, renaissance (tutors: Mr Philip Thorby, Miss Nallen and Miss O'Kelly). Manchester are arranging a workshop on 26 November. Ideas for next year, still in draft form, include a jazz music day for under-25s, with electronic gadgetry for contemporary music hopefully under a jazz musician, to take place in Yamaha studios; a day for adults on Dowland with a viol-player tutor to mix the disciplines; a day for teachers on how to teach basic techniques to children; a renaissance band day for teachers and their pupils. Aberdeen and Glasgow Delegates expressed interest in running something similar and perhaps a residential course for under-25s. A youth recorder orchestra was suggested. The Arts Council and Musicians' Union might be approached for future support and the Youth Hostels Association might well be able to let hostel accommodation for meetings. The Chairman urged that such schemes should not be a London-based venture.

(c) The Teacher's Guide is available from Mr Hersom and the Video from Dr Coles.

(d) Publicity. The Committee suggested to Branches that they might appoint their own publicity officer to advertise their Branch and its activities within their districts. Mr Sharman said that local radio stations were sometimes interested in filling programme slots, e.g. Cambridge Branch had already played for Radio Cambridge, and the SRP was given a plug by

BBC Radio 3 when Glasgow and Ayr Branches attended en masse to hear Michala Petri perform with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in November 1987. Mr Payne reported that Norwich Branch had been invited to take part in the Norfolk County's "Get back to Music" day at the end of May. Mrs Martin expressed thanks to Miss O'Kelly for providing an item in Woman's Hour on Radio 4 based on last year's Festival and her contemporary music sessions.

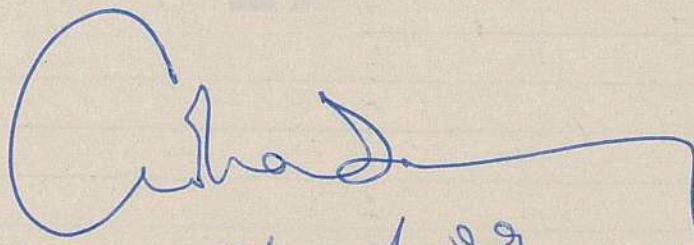
(e) Mr Gregson asked that future Festival organizers might consider the needs of disabled and aged participants when choosing premises, with a view to having the minimum of stairs to be negotiated etc, and this request was noted.

(f) Subscriptions. The Chairman proposed and Conference agreed that subscription rates remain unchanged for next year.

(g) Regional Festivals. There was general discussion on the idea of holding regional festivals in addition to the National Festival. Mrs Panzetta suggested a mini-festival or playing day in the South-East next year. Cumbria do hold some workshops; and South London Branch are having a playing day in July; Norfolk had had a combined meeting with Cambridge and Suffolk Branches and made a tape of it, which Mr Payne said was available for a small price. Scotland has an annual Scottish Festival with great success, and Dr Short recommended such functions since travel for participants was not such a problem, and local festivals can add profits to Central Funds (even though Central Funds will help out in cases of loss). The Chairman supported the idea provided they did not undermine the National Festival.

(h) There was a short discussion on charging Festival fees to competition participants. Practice has varied from year to year. Mr Sharman felt that competitors should pay the full fee as they have the use of all the facilities of the Festival premises during the course of the competitions whether they join in the Festival activities or not. However, the Chairman said that the Festival fees were set by the host Branch taking into consideration the facilities and capacity of the Festival venue and the extent of participation by competitors in other Festival events.

After a break for lunch the Conference was concluded at 2.45 pm.



04.06.89

(1)

SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Proposed Changes to the Rules

1. Background

These proposed rule changes for the Society arise from two topics which have been discussed on several occasions by the Committee. The first was a suggestion from Dick Coles on behalf of the Examination Sub-Committee that there ought to be a way of honouring people who have given meritorious service to the Society. The proposal is that Honorary Life Membership be used for that purpose.

It is also proposed that special provision should be made to reflect the status of Edgar Hunt and Carl Dolmetsch as founding Musical Directors of the Society. The proposal is that they should be Life Vice-Presidents and ex-officio members of the Committee.

The second was a paper presented by Theo Wyatt discussing the status of the Society's Musical Directors and in particular the fact that under the present Rules anyone appointed as a Musical Director effectively becomes a Life Member of the Committee.

2. Although this may not appear in your copy of the Rules, an amendment has already been made to Rule 4(a) to make the Examination Secretary a member of the Committee.

3. The Committee have also taken the opportunity of proposing other amendments to the Rules to regularise the position of the Branch Review Editor. Although we were glad of the help and advice of our late friend Sam Taylor at Committee Meetings as Branch Review Editor, it does appear that he was unofficially co-opted to the Committee and the Rules never clarified his status. The Committee would suggest that in future the Branch Review Editor need not be a member of the Committee but ought to be able to attend the Annual Conference.

4. In summary, the proposed Rule changes would affect various Officers and Committee Members as follows:-

- (a) The President is given the right to attend but not vote at the Annual Conference
- (b) The Vice-Presidents are given a similar right.
- (c) Two Life Vice-Presidents are appointed and made ex-officio members of the Committee
- (d) A category of Honorary Life Membership is created.

- 49
- (2)
- (e) Musical Directors will cease automatically to be Members of the Committee. They are given the right to attend and vote at the Annual Conference. Three of the Musical Directors would be elected to serve on the Committee and would retire in rotation on the same basis as the other elected Committee Members. The responsibilities of the Musical Directors are redefined.

- (f) Branch Review Editor. Provision is made for the appointment of a Branch Review Editor by the Committee and for the Committee to define the precise responsibilities. The Branch Review Editor is given the right to attend but not vote at the Conference.

5. The effect of these changes would be to reduce the size of the Committee from twenty to seventeen, of whom eight would be ex-officio members and nine elected members. The Committee expect that it will refer various matters to the Musical Directors (including those who are not themselves members of the Committee) where appropriate.

Draft Alterations to Existing Rules
of the Society of Recorder Players

Rules 3 (a) (c) (f) (g) and (i)

In the first line of each, before "member" insert "ordinary".

Rule 3(h)

In lines 3 and 8, before "member" insert "ordinary".

Rule 3 (j).

(This is the Rule relating to payment to Members which was amended at the 1987 Conference).

Rule 4 (a).

Delete "(ii) not less than two Musical Directors".
Re-designate (iii) to (vi) as (ii) to (v) respectively.

Rule 4(c).

Delete. (Rules 4 (d) to (g) re-designate (c) to (f) respectively.

Rule 4(g)

Proposed new wording "The Committee shall consist of :

- (i) the Officers; and
- (ii) the Examination Secretary; and
- (iii) the Life Vice-Presidents; and
- (iv) not less than two nor more than four of the Musical Directors; and

(3)
(v) not less than five nor more than seven other members of the Society. Five persons present shall form a quorum of the Committee"

Rules 4 (i) to (p)

Re-designate (h) to (o) respectively.

Rule 5

Insert in the heading after "VICE-PRESIDENTS", "MUSICAL DIRECTORS, HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS"

Rule 5(d)

Insert new Rule:-

"Carl Dolmetsch and Edgar Hunt be and are hereby appointed Life Vice-Presidents of the Society"

Rule 5 (d)

Re-designate as 5(e)

Amend to read "Musical Directors shall be nominated by the Committee and shall take Office when their nomination is endorsed by a Resolution duly passed at an Annual Conference. A Musical Director may be removed by a Resolution of the Annual Conference at any time."

Rule 5 (f)

Insert new Rule :-

"The Musical Directors shall be responsible for advising and assisting the Committee as to the musical affairs of the Society".

Rule 5(q)

Insert new Rule:

"In addition to the classes of membership referred to in Rule 3(a) the Society may appoint Honorary Life Members who shall be persons who have given distinguished service to the Society. Honorary Life Members shall be nominated by the Committee and the appointment shall have effect when their nomination is endorsed by a resolution duly passed at an Annual Conference".

Rules 5(e) and (f)

Re-designate (h) and (i) respectively.

Rule 5 (j)

Proposed wording:

(4) 50
"One Musical Director and two other Members of the Committee shall retire annually by rotation those to retire in each year being the Musical Director and the two other Members who have respectively served longest since their election or last re-election to the Committee (and if there shall be more than one Musical Director or two such Members who have served an identical length of time those to retire shall in each case be the one or those whose surnames are alphabetically earlier). Retiring Members of the Committee shall not be eligible for re-election as Committee Members for a period of one year thereafter although they may be elected to any vacant Office of the Society in accordance with Rule 5 (h)".

Rules 5 (h) to (m)

Re-designate (k) to (p)

Rule 5 (m) (Formerly (j))

In line 5 amend the reference to Rule 5(l)

Rule 5 (q)

Insert new rule :-

"The Committee may at any time appoint a Branch Review Editor who shall be a Member of the Society. The Branch Review Editor shall undertake such duties in relation to the collection and publication of news and information relating to the Society and its Branches as the Committee shall from time to time determine. The Committee may at any time remove the Branch Review Editor whether or not any substitute is appointed".

Rule 7 (f)

Insert after "the Officers", "Musical Directors, Examination Secretary, Life Vice-Presidents,"

Rule 7 (q)

Insert new Rule:-

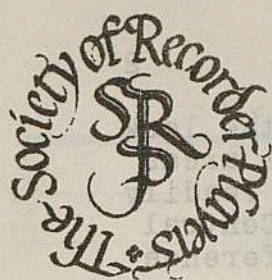
"The President, Vice-Presidents and Branch Review Editor shall be entitled to be present and to speak at any Conference but shall not be entitled to vote."

Rules 7 (q) to (i)

Re-designate (h) to (j) respectively

Rule 11

The reference in line 5 to be amended to Rule 7 (h).



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 4 June 1989

The Sword Hotel, Stirling FK9 5QP

Present:

Committee:

Mr G. Danbury	Chairman
Prof. A. Parkin	Treasurer
Mrs A. Blackman	Secretary
Mrs D. Reddaway	COS Secretary
Mrs A. Martin	CSRP Secretary
Mr P. Clark	
Dr C. Dolmetsch	
Mr H. Hersom	
Mrs A. Lewin	
Mrs H. Mason	

Miss B. Newton
Miss E. O'Kelly
Mr T. Wyatt

Other members:

Mr B. Bonsor (Musical Director)
Miss E. Nallen
Mr C. Martin
Mr M. Sharman (Branch Review Editor)

Branches:

Aberdeen	Miss S. Wright	Leicester	Miss J. Finns
(Observer)	Mr D. Haston	London and	
Beds & Nth Herts	Mr G. Parry	Sth London	Mr R. Marks
Birmingham	Mr J. Rowley	Manchester	Miss B. Newton/Ctee
Bristol	Miss E. Hunt	Mid Herts	Mr H. Hersom/Ctee
Cambridge	Mr T. Robertson	Newcastle	Mr M. Evans
(Observer)	Mrs E. Sharman	Norfolk	Mr D. Payne
Cleveland	Miss S. Foxall	Nth London	Mrs I. Shillor
Cumbria	Mr T. Braithwaite	Notts	Mr P. Sturgeon
Edinburgh	Miss E. Finlayson	Oxford	Mr W. Gregson
(Observer)	Dr A. Short	Roxburgh	Mrs M. Bonsor
Essex	Mrs M. Panzetta	Sheffield	Miss C. Eyre
Glasgow	Mr I. Wilson	(Observer)	Miss D. Kenyon
Guildford	Mrs A. Martin/Ctee	Somerset	Mr K. Imrie
Hillfoots	Miss M. Simpson	(Observer)	Mrs K. Imrie
(Observer)	Mr P. Cleghorn	Sth Staffs	Mrs A. Lewin/Ctee
Kent	Mrs U. Gilmore	W. Riding	Mr R. Corbishley
		W. Suffolk	Miss G. Palmer
		(elect)	

The Chairman welcomed Delegates and Committee Members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: (Committee) Mr E. Hunt, Dr J. Allen, Dr. R. Coles, Miss M. Seviour and Miss P. O'Sullivan; (Branches) Ayr & District, Bath, Darlington, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Cheltenham & Gloucester, High Wycombe, Ireland, Lincolnshire, Northampton, North Staffs, Nuneaton, Suffolk, South Wales and Warwick.
2. Minutes of last Conference

Item 9. Mr Wilson asked for the following substitution for the sentence p.6 lines 28-32: "Mr Wilson felt that, in contributing to Society funds, Branches should be entitled to their Visits under the Rules of the National Society. However, due to an acknowledged geographical imbalance of Conductors and Membership,

the Central Committee should be more appreciative of the lack of Conductors in certain areas. Furthermore, in these areas Pastoral Visits are highly regarded because we do not readily have access to various SRP functions. A point which Central Committee sometimes does not appear to realise." Conference agreed to the amendment.

Item 9, p.7 line 4. Mrs Reddaway reported that it was Mr Sharman, not herself, who collated Branch meeting details for the magazine Branch list, and Conference agreed to the correction.

It was then proposed by Mr Wilson, seconded by Mr Hersom and agreed that the Minutes as amended be given approval and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising

6(c). The Chairman showed the form of illuminated address designed for and now despatched to the recipients of Honorary Life Membership.

4. Officers' Reports

(a) The Chairman covered three points in reviewing the past year: (i) the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund was now established at £5000+ for the benefit of young recorder players; (ii) the success of the Workshops, instituted by Eve O'Kelly, was now well established, having been held in London, Cambridge and Oxford, and he hoped that other Branches would now be encouraged to run workshops along similar lines in the future; (iii) but he wondered why Society membership was so slow to gain any momentum, standing at about 1600. With so many young people both playing and teaching the recorder, and the Society having been in existence for 50 years, we seemed unable to attract and make greater use of the talent available.

(b) The Secretary reported that of enquiries about forming new Branches, one had now produced the new Branch of West Suffolk (awaiting ratification); Mr Rigby of Bolton had been unable to form a Branch there, but was now running a group in Bolton Technical College; and a teacher Mrs Dolby had been unsuccessful in forming a Branch amongst her pupils at several schools in the Canterbury/Ashford area.

(c) The Treasurer reported that the audited Accounts showed that the Society had approximately broken even and with a surplus of £295 after £1000 had been transferred to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund. Although the workshops showed a loss of £270, this was mainly due to a failure of one Cambridge workshop. Miss O'Kelly was to be congratulated on the success of her undertakings, which were a flourishing activity. He felt that the Society would again break even this year, so that there was no need to increase the subscription rates. The Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund now stood at £5700, and would be a separate account with Society Officers remaining its Trustees. He felt that we should see how the Fund goes for a while before deciding whether more Society funds should be injected. It was suggested by Mr Sharman that members might be invited to make a donation to the Fund by including the sum in their renewal subscription payments. The Treasurer named some 10 Branches which had so far failed to furnish their accounts. He explained that audited accounts had to be rendered by each Branch at the end

of the financial year to comply with our charitable status. It was not a means of checking on how Branches spend their funds, but merely to satisfy the Charities Commissioners that the finances of the Society were being properly supervised. He said that Branches should present audited accounts in that they would be inspected and signed by someone (not necessarily a professional) other than the Branch Treasurer. The Chairman pointed out to an enquirer that the Society Rule 10(b) does specify audited accounts, though Branch Rules may not. As for Delegates' expenses incurred in attending the Conference, he said that petrol reimbursement was to be made at the general rate of 7p per mile. Mr Sharman explained the deficit in the Cambridge Workshop in that it had been decided, even though the support had been small, that it was better to go ahead since that would fulfil the aim of the Society; and the Treasurer reminded Delegates that the Society underwrote losses as well as benefiting from profits. On request the Treasurer read out the current rates for Old and New Style Branches and reiterated that he saw no need at present to increase the subscription rates:

Old Style Branches		New Style Branches	
Full members (incl. COS)	£7.50	Full members + magazine	£7.00
Students	£6.50	Full members - magazine	£2.50
Household	£8.50	Students + magazine	£6.00
(all take magazine)		Students - magazine	£2.00

It was then proposed by Mr Sharman, seconded by Mr Martin and agreed that the Accounts be accepted. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Mr Corbishley and Conference agreed that the subscription rates remain the same for next year.

(d) The Membership Secretary's report was presented by the Chairman. The revised membership for 1987/88 was 1562 (a gain of 17 on 1986/87), and current membership 1988/89 is 1638, a gain of 76 so far. The pattern established over the last few years (whereby existing Branches show a net decrease in membership which is more than compensated for by new Branches being formed) has been broken this year. Dr Allen was pleased to report that 7 Branches showed an unchanged membership, 10 a decreased membership, but 29 Branches had an increased membership. Total losses are 53, total gains 113, giving a net change of +60, to which must be added 16 new members from the new West Suffolk Branch. Hence a gain of 76 overall. There were no serious declines, although Central London still seems to be distributing its members amongst its satellites. Particularly flourishing Branches this year include Bristol, Cambridge, Essex, Norfolk, North London and West Dorset, while Country and Overseas continues to gain adherents. The production of the Members List went relatively smoothly this year, although a few laggards only just made the extended deadline. Its production meant a great deal of labour for Theo Wyatt and his volunteer band, to whom many thanks. Dr Allen will be glad to receive comments, corrections etc. He asked that Branches wanting membership cards should leave their requirements with the Secretary, to be forwarded to him together with any complaints about non-receipt of magazines etc. Various delegates praised the usefulness of the added alphabetical list. Old Style Branches would receive the List with the next magazine, and bulk supplies had been sent to New Style Branches.

(e) The COS Secretary reported the present membership figures. Of the 185 paid-up members, 134 were UK, 21 Europe and 30 world-wide. At the 1988 Conference the membership was 184; since then there have been 29 new UK members, 3 in Europe and 4 world-wide; but there have been 6 resignations, 4 transfers and 25 who have not responded either way to renewal notices. Both she and the Secretary said that enquirers were always encouraged to join the nearest Branch rather than just offering COS membership, though there were some COS members who preferred this to a Branch on their doorstep. Mr Corbishley suggested that members who felt their playing days were over and wished to resign from their Branch should be encouraged to retain links with the Society by transferring to COS membership.

(f) The CSRP Secretary reported that at present there are 12 candidates preparing for the examination, 7 of which are from Cambridge SRP, who are running a course. One candidate has taken the examination this year, but failed on the conducting. The CSRP Committee is very grateful for Dr Coles' help during a period of transition and would like to record their thanks for all the work he has done for the CSRP. In reply to some comments on the syllabus, Mrs Martin said that the aim of the examination is not in the nature of grade testing (as in Associated Board examinations) but to confirm competence; and the CSRP Committee will be meeting in the Autumn to review the syllabus. Mr Gregson suggested that recorder courses and summer schools could well provide sessions on learning to conduct.

5. Election of Officers etc.

(a) The Committee had proposed that Frans Brüggen and Kees Otten be elected Vice-Presidents of the Society and Conference agreed.

(b) Committee had also proposed the election of Miss Kathleen Drake, for so many years Secretary of the Dorset Branch as well as being a prime mover in establishing the Branch in 1950, as an Honorary Life Member, and Conference agreed.

(c) Committee proposed the appointment of Miss Eve O'Kelly as a Musical Director of the Society and Conference agreed.

(d) The Officers of the Society, including the Honorary Auditor, being all willing to stand for re-election, it was proposed by Mr Bonsor, seconded by Mrs Bonsor and agreed that they all be re-elected.

(e) With the retirement of 3 members of Central Committee, Mrs Lewin, Miss O'Kelly and Miss Newton (who had been seconded during last year on the resignation of Professor Holtslag), there were 4 nominations for the 3 vacancies:

- i) Nigel Coulton (Nth Staffs) proposed: Mrs A. Lewin
seconded: Mr P. Clark
- ii) Philip Evry (Bath) proposed: Mr H. Hersom
seconded: Miss M. Seviour
- iii) Betty Newton (Manchester) proposed: Mrs D. Reddaway
seconded: Mrs H. Mason
- iv) Andrew Short (Edinburgh) proposed: Mrs A. Martin
seconded: Prof. A. Parkin

The ensuring ballot elected Mr Evry, Miss Newton and Dr Short.

(f) With the retirement of Mr Clark, one Musical Director had to be elected in his place on Central Committee. Of the Musical Directors willing to stand, Evelyn Nallen, Colin Martin and Eve O'Kelly, the ensuing ballot elected Miss O'Kelly.

6. Future Festivals and competition arrangements

The Chairman congratulated Hillfoots for a splendid and most enjoyable Festival and Ceilidh and thanked Margaret Simpson, Paul Cleghorn, Brenda Holliday and all their many helpers for the great effort involved in making such a gathering successful, the extent of which is not always realized by participants.

1990. Suffolk Branch are planning a 2-day Festival in Ipswich on 21/22 April at Westbourne High School. It had been hoped to have had a fuller report from Suffolk for presentation to Conference; but the provisional programme is for a normal Festival on Saturday, with all rooms in the main block available from 6.30 pm onwards for small private ensembles, as well as, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, a buffet supper available in the hall for general socializing. On Sunday morning it is intended to have 3 playing session choices plus some bookable rooms for private ensembles. The Conference will be held on Sunday morning, and after lunch it is hoped to have a final massed playing session in the hall.

1991. North and South Staffs are organizing the Festival on 11 May at the Cauldon College of Further Education in Stoke-on-Trent, which has easy access from both road and rail. There are to be several competitions and the County Youth Recorder Ensemble will perform.

1992. The Chairman called for offers, pointing out that at least 18 months are required for booking accommodation, and drawing attention to Mrs Martin's excellent handbook on how to organize a festival.

Competition arrangements at Festivals

The Chairman reported that he had been in correspondence with Mr Ken Kenworthy of Kent Branch which felt that there were uncertainties in these. Mrs Gilmore then read out Kent Branch's suggestions for a more uniform procedure:

"That without wishing to fetter unduly the organizers of SRP Festivals, Conference recommends, in relation to competitions forming part of such Festivals, the adoption of a standard format governing some aspects of the competitions, to be departed from only after proper consideration and for good reason. It recommends as follows:

(1) Entrants should not have to pay separate entry fees to the Festival and for the competition. Either the entry to the Festival should be all-inclusive, or the competition entry should cover also admission to the Festival. In either case it should be taken into account that the entrants are providing part of the entertainment for other visitors and that they themselves will have only a restricted time to enjoy the other parts of the Festival.

(2) That consort items should be for groups playing one-to-a-part, with no restriction as to size of group. It is suggested that the one-to-a-part stipulation is an effective limitation on size and that adventurous arrangements or new compositions for sextets and upwards should not be discouraged.

(3) Where there is an age limit it should cover all players. Where there is not, the participation of teachers or coaches, as e.g. keyboard or continuo players, should be excluded."

"By way of postscript to the above, Conference recommends to the organizers of competitions the need for the following:

- (1) Announcements of regulations relating to competitions should be explicit about all the points mentioned above, whether or not the recommendations are precisely followed.
- (2) Where particular music is stipulated, care should be taken to ensure that it is easily available from the publishers, without having to resort to the photo-copying facilities which some publishers now adopt (in such cases the music drops out of the catalogue, local retailers will say it is not available, and obtaining it can involve correspondence, telephone calls, delay and frustration."

There followed a discussion both for and against set regulations. The Committee felt that it was the concern of the host Branch to decide on the type of competition and what fee to charge etc. Mr Clark reported that very few people were listening to the present competitions, and felt that it might have been more satisfying for the competitors to have an audience: such an audience might well make the competitions a type of concert, and thus as a provider of entertainment could well preclude the fee for entrants. Mr Wilson thought that competitors might prefer peace and quiet and should therefore be warned should there be a considerable audience; and others felt that Festival programmes could state whether or not an audience was welcome. The question of competition entrance fees was discussed, and it was suggested that these depended on the size of the prizes and adjudicators' fees - it was not clear whether there was a subsidy from the Festival-goers' entrance fees or not. Certainly, the competition entrants pay separately from the festival entrants. The vexed question of what to charge competitors if they wanted to join in Festival events after the competitions were over was mentioned, Mrs Martin saying that at the 1987 Festival the entrants were welcome to join the beginning and final sessions but were asked to pay £1 to attend other sessions. It was suggested that if audiences were to be more of a feature, there could be a clear space for the competitions in the programme rather than running concurrently with playing sessions, and if there were sufficient entries for the competitions, perhaps the heats for the finals could become part of the programme, and thus audience participation would enhance the involvement of the competitions in the Festival. Age limits were also questioned. The Chairman summed up the general feeling of Conference that while there should be more clarity in the rules for Festivals, there was no firm agreement for laying down hard and fast rules, but that each Festival host should state explicitly their competition conditions, though the Kent ideas could be incorporated in the Festival Guide as suggestions. It was also the decision of each host Branch, depending on the number of competitors, as to how many winners should perform at the Festival.

7. New Branch

Acceptance of the new Branch of West Suffolk was proposed by the Chairman and ratified with pleasure by Conference. It was pointed out that while there were Associate Members from both Suffolk and Cambridge Branches, the new Branch had

produced 16 fully paid-up newcomers to the Society.

Mr Martin and Mrs Lewin drew attention to the number of people in the areas of Preston, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, Shropshire etc. who were keen recorder players but who were not at all interested in joining the Society; but no solution to this state of affairs was forthcoming.

8. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

A sub-committee had been formed, chaired by Miss O'Kelly, to administer the Fund (its promotion and distribution of its moneys) and to advise Central Committee. Miss O'Kelly reported that to begin with the awards would be to the under-30s for lessons, purchase of instruments, attendance at summer schools and assistance with fees. It had not yet been decided whether grants would be limited to SRP members; and while it was recognized that many students might well not be members, recipients could be persuaded to join in return for this assistance. Help to teachers within the SRP is being considered. The first award had been made to a Glasgow student to attend the Leeds Summer School. The question of publicity of the Fund in fruitful quarters was discussed, apart from music colleges and university departments. It was agreed that County Music Advisers were a hopeless contact. Mr Martin felt that Saturday morning music colleges for people of school age should be targeted, and Miss O'Kelly said she would be glad of any such information of individuals or institutions who would be willing to act on the information rather than just shelve it. The sub-committee had decided that the upper limit of the grants should be £100 at present, with the specific aim of encouraging recorder playing. One of the sources of the Fund has been the sale of Walter's music, and thanks to Theo Wyatt and Herbert Hersom this has been catalogued and distributed, with special thanks to Ken Kenworthy who had undertaken the mammoth preliminary task of pricing all the music. Apart from encouraging continuing money donations to the Fund, Mr Hersom suggested that people could leave instruments as a bequest to the Fund. Branches could always sell off any surplus music on their hands and hold concerts in aid of the Fund. Miss O'Kelly said that it had not yet been decided whether the Fund was to be permanent or whether at some later date the capital would be run down.

9. Extension of SRP activities

(a) The Chairman read a report from Edgar Hunt on this year's Moeck Competition (there having been no entrants for the Schott ensemble competition). There were 8 competitors to be judged, firstly on the basis of tapes submitted. Copies of all tapes and entry forms were sent to Kees Otten. Maria Boxall and Edgar Hunt went through all the tapes together to eliminate 2, leaving 6 for the finals on 22 April, and also marked off the items which they thought each competitor might be asked to play on 22 April, with alternatives in case Kees Otten would prefer others. Ultimately 2 candidates who were not up to the generally high standard were eliminated and the choice of music to be heard on the day agreed on. Candidates were informed and programmes prepared for the finals. With no Schott entrants, competitors were thus able to use the morning for rehearsal. Thanks are due to Graham Danbury and Herbert Hersom for the

stewarding of both rehearsal and competition. The competition was won by Robert Ehrlich, the recorder player in 'The Cambridge Musick' which won the Schott competition two years ago. It was a close competition of a generally high standard; but Ehrlich had obviously benefited from the teaching he and the rest of his ensemble had had in Holland since the last competitions and the experience in other international competitions such as Munich, and thus had the edge over the others. Mr Hunt hoped that both Moeck and Schott would continue the sponsorship of the biennial competitions, which take 12-18 months to organize. He said that he would now like to pass the administration to someone else, and the Chairman asked Conference to put forward suggestions for a replacement.

(b) It was reported from Dr Coles that the Society video (available for both sale and hire) was still selling regularly but slowly.

(c) Workshops. Miss O'Kelly expressed a hope for a permanent London base so that 3 or 4 sessions could be held in the autumn and winter, as there was a very good demand for them. Cambridge and Oxford Branches had given a lead by organizing very successful workshops during the past year, and both Branches had plans for future events of this kind. Oxford SRP is holding a second Contemporary Music Day on 13 May 1990. Upon a query, she said that the average attendance seemed to be 25-30 students with 3 tutors, and the charge c.£12-£15 each for the day. Up to now it had not been stated that the workshops were only open to SRP members, as she is still only feeling her way; but from now on SRP membership will be encouraged by creating a significant financial advantage for members, and by supplying details of membership to every 'outside' applicant.

(d) Teacher's Guide. Mr Hersom reported that the Guide is now in its fourth thousand, in a new reduced A5 book form.

(e) Society brochure. Original print was for 10,000, of which 25 were supplied free to each Branch and further copies for purchase at 3p each post-free (actual cost c.6p each). Mr Wilson (Glasgow) had previously bought 400 copies for general distribution to promote membership, which unfortunately bore little fruit. However, with the success of the Glasgow Arts Centre's workshop for recorder and early instruments earlier this year, it has been decided to repeat it in the forthcoming Glasgow 1990 European City of Culture festivities, for which Mr Wilson had already asked the Committee's permission to make available to the organizers our Visiting Conductors list for the recorder section: this was granted on the understanding that, while the list is intended solely for use within the Society, it would be provided simply as a list of names of people who might be prepared to conduct recorder sessions, and that the organizers should be prepared to pay a realistic fee for the service. Mr Wilson had further asked whether the Society would be willing to supply 2000 brochures for distribution during the 1990 festivities to tourist sites, museums, theatres, universities, libraries etc. to advertise the Society. While Glasgow Branch itself would hope to gain some new members, the exercise could well swell the ranks of other Branches or even overseas. It was therefore proposed by Mr Gregson, seconded by Miss Newton and agreed that 2000 copies should be allowed to Glasgow Branch, Mr Wilson being willing to undertake distribution.

(f) Mr Robertson observed that there appear to be some schools and music teachers who have never heard of the Society. It was suggested by Mr Gregson that as local authorities issue a monthly newsletter, the Society could perhaps, through its local Branches, ask for a notice of the local Branch to be inserted. This led to the question of the Society's attitude towards children at Branch meetings. Mr Bonsor was enthusiastic and said that children had been the salvation of Roxburgh (which has a junior branch) where 50% are junior members. Such groups can give concerts, since there are many outlets such as women's groups, societies etc. which would give them a welcome. Miss Newton mentioned the Saturday morning Recorder College at Stockport which has been running for 20 years for 11-18 year-olds, where the local authority has provided free premises - though not all authorities are helpful and some quite obstructive in that both the authority and school keepers are averse to opening premises in weekends. Miss Nallen mentioned the 2 school-days that Cambridge had held, to which local teachers were invited, in November 1988 where 125 attended, with under-11s in the morning and over-11s in the afternoon, conducted by Brian Bonsor; and another in March 1989 with Paul Clark. She said 2 more were planned for 1990.

(g) Mrs Lewin mentioned an idea she had brought up in Committee of the expansion of the historical or academic side of the recorder as a further aspect of SRP activities, namely that the Society could have discussion/lecture meetings on these lines. She said that she and her husband Greg were getting a group together to conduct such 'lecture' meetings in the autumn and early spring, and that they were encouraging people doing research on the recorder and its music to come and talk to these meetings, f.i. Alan Davis had already agreed to do so.

10. Any other business

(a) The Chairman reported that the ex-COS Secretary Marjorie Wright (who has already been elected an Honorary Life Member) recently had her 90th birthday and that he had sent her a card on the Society's behalf.

(b) He also reported that Edgar Hunt would be 80 this year. Conference recorded congratulations and also the gratitude of the Society for Edgar's contribution to the recorder and the Society over so many years.

(c) With regret the Chairman informed the meeting that Jerry Jerrome, the recent Secretary of Bath Branch, had died a fortnight ago. He had recently started Avon Music and the Chairman was glad to report that Jerry's daughter would be continuing publication.

(d) Mr Hersom reported that he had recently visited Freda Dinn, now seriously ill in a nursing home. Freda did so much for teachers in the past (she also has been made an Honorary Life Member), and she told him that she was leaving all her music to the Society.

(e) Mrs Panzetta wondered why 'The Recorder and Music Magazine' appears to compare unfavourably with the magazine of the Organ Society. It was reported that while the Society took some 960 copies of R & M, it was also a commercial publication, which

made it hard to compare it with an exclusive 'house organ'.

The Conference closed at 1 pm and was followed by a very enjoyable lunch, provided by the Sword Hotel, and for which, again, the Hillfoots organizers were to be thanked and congratulated on their choice of venue and menu.

Chairman

22-24-90

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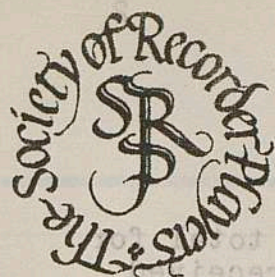
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(b) He also reported that Edgar Hunt would be 80 this year. Conference recorded congratulations and also the gratitude of the Society for Edgar's contribution to the recorder and the Society over so many years.

(c) With regret the Chairman informed the meeting that Jerry Lertome, the recent Secretary of East Branch, had died a fortnight ago. He had recently started Avon Music and the Chairman was glad to report that Jerry's daughter would be continuing publication.

(d) Mr Heron reported that he had recently visited Freda Dunn now seriously ill in a nursing home. Freda did so much for teachers in the past (she also has been made an Honorary Life Member), and she told him that she was leaving all her music to the Society.

(e) Mrs Pansetta wondered why 'The Recorder and Music Magazine' appears to compare unfavourably with the magazine of the Organ Society. It was reported that while the Society took some 250 copies of R & M it was also a commercial publication, which



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 22 April 1990

Westbourne High School, Ipswich, Suffolk

Present:

Committee:

Mr G. Danbury Chairman
Prof. A. Parkin Treasurer
Mrs A. Blackman Secretary
Dr J. Allen Membership
Secretary
Mrs D. Reddaway COS Secretary

Miss E. O'Kelly
Miss P. O'Sullivan
Miss M. Seviour
Mr T. Wyatt

Other members:

Mr B. Bonsor (Musical Director)
Mr C. Martin
Miss E. Nallen
Mr M. Sharman (Branch Review
Editor)
Mr H. Hersom/Ctee
Mr M. Evans
Miss J. Brownlow
Mr D. Payne
Miss B. Hogg
Mr P. Sturgeon
Mr W. Gregson
Mrs M. Bonsor
Mr P. Roscoe
Miss M. Long
Mrs M. Crocker
Miss P. Marsh
Mr K. Imrie
Mr J. Dunn
Mrs A. Lewin
Mrs M. Halliwell
Mrs A. Petley
Dr L. Fraser
Mr R. Corbishley
Mrs V. Herrick

Branches:

Aberdeen	Miss S. Wright	Mid-Herts	Mr H. Hersom/Ctee
Bath	Miss B. Ollis	Newcastle	Mr M. Evans
Beds & Nth Herts	Mr A. Sibun	(Observer	Miss J. Brownlow)
Birmingham	Mr D. Hunter	Norfolk	Mr D. Payne
Bristol	Miss E. Hunt	Nth London	Miss B. Hogg
Cambridge	Miss P. Davies	Nottingham	Mr P. Sturgeon
(Observer	Mrs E. Sharman)	Oxford	Mr W. Gregson
Cleveland	Miss S. Foxall	Roxburgh	Mrs M. Bonsor
Dorset	Mrs B. Harrison	Sheffield	Mr P. Roscoe
Edinburgh	Mr J. Wexler	(Observer	Miss M. Long)
Essex	Mrs M. Panzetta	Sth London	Mrs M. Crocker
Glasgow	Mrs C. Postlethwaite	(Observer	Miss P. Marsh)
Guildford	Mr H. Prosser	Somerset	Mr K. Imrie
Hillfoots	Miss C. Dryburgh	Sth Staffs	Mr J. Dunn
Ireland	Mrs P. Flanagan	(Observer	Mrs A. Lewin)
Kent	Mr A. Alexander	Suffolk	Mrs M. Halliwell
Leicester	Miss J. Finns	Warwick	Mrs A. Petley
Lincolnshire	Mrs S. Hardman	W. Dorset	Dr L. Fraser
London	Mr R. Marks	W. Riding	Mr R. Corbishley
Manchester	Miss B. Newton/Ctee	W. Suffolk	Mrs V. Herrick

The Chairman welcomed Delegates and Committee Members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: (Musical Director) Dr R. Coles; (Committee) Mrs A. Martin and Dr A. Short; (Branches) Ayr & District, Cumbria, Darlington, Devon, High Wycombe, North Staffs, Nuneaton and South Wales.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs Reddaway, seconded by Mrs Bonsor and agreed that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

(a) The Secretary had nothing to report.

(b) The Membership Secretary reported that the final total for 1988/89 was 1644 (the last subscription having been received in February 1990). Five Branches have yet to reply for 1989/90, of the remainder there are 21 Branches with a gain, 3 no change and 17 with a loss (COS membership not being included). This gives a total gain of 71, with losses of 108 giving a net loss of 37. Dr Allen anticipates a final figure above 1600, i.e. less than the record total of last year but still above recent totals. He reported that Schotts are likely to take over the whole distribution of the magazine. Committee had been asked by a Branch whether they could use a permanent membership card with some form of annual receipt of subscription rather than issuing fresh cards every year, and Committee are happy for any Branch to adopt this method if desired, provided every member does receive a card, which is required by our charitable status. Regarding the Membership List (which it is proposed to re-issue next year), he said that it had now been agreed that, with the new additional Branch Rule covering Associate/Special Membership, these members could be listed under all Branches to which they belong, if requested, and not just under the Branch of their main membership. Dr Allen had prepared print-outs of Branch membership lists for collection and possible correction, pointing out that annual membership returns are required by the Society Rules, though some Branches had not yet complied. He reminded Branches that membership returns and cheques for subscription payments should both be sent to him, and he would pass the cheques to the Treasurer.

(c) The Treasurer reported that the Society's audited accounts were presented and accepted at the Central Committee meeting on 4 February 1990 and circulated to all Branch Secretaries with the Conference Agenda. The income side of the accounts was very similar to the previous year, but the expenditure side was increased by about £1000. In 1987/88, after taking out exceptional income and expenditure, the Society had a surplus of £300; the corresponding figure for 1988/89 was a deficit of £700. The main sources of increased costs were the distribution of the magazine, cost of annual Conferences and the cost of pastoral visits. The workshops continue to increase and broke even in 1988/89 on a total turnover of around £1700. Sales of T-shirts and mugs etc. have been very healthy. The profit from these sales will be transferred to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund when finally calculated. The Fund itself is healthy, with donations of about £2300 plus £1100 from the sale of music etc., producing a balance of about £4800 at close of period. The Treasurer asked the following Branches to submit their accounts for 1988/89: Cumbria, Dorset, High Wycombe, Ireland, Leicester, Norfolk, Nth Staffs, Sth Wales, W. Dorset, W. Riding and Kent, accounts being required under the Society's charitable status. The work of the Treasurer has increased with the workshops and the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund. He therefore proposed, seconded by the Chairman and Conference agreed that a separate account be opened for the workshops, to be operated by the Workshops Secretary, Miss Vicky Penrice. Subscriptions have remained unchanged for 4 years, the last increase of £1 being in 1986/87. It was therefore proposed by Central Committee and

Conference agreed to increase all classes, except students, by £1.00, making the new rates:

<u>Old Style Branches</u>		<u>New Style Branches</u>	
Full member (incl. COS)	£8.50	Full member + magazine	£8.00
Student	6.50	Full member - magazine	3.50
Family	9.50	Student + magazine	6.00
(all take magazine)		Student - magazine	2.00

Mrs Flanagan felt that rates of exchange made Ireland's subscription rates much higher than UK ones; but on questioning delegates it was found that Branch rates ranged from c.£9.00 to £20.00 or so, it being pointed out that total Branch subscriptions varied greatly because of the cost of hiring accommodation etc. Mrs Lewin suggested that our charitable status might be used in securing reduced hiring rates, especially if a Branch had junior members, since we are classed as an educational charity. Conference agreed to the acceptance of the audited Society accounts.

(d) the COS Secretary reported that there are now 190 paid-up COS members, with 142 in the UK, 20 in Europe and 28 world-wide. There have been 39 new members since the last Members List, 6 have resigned, 6 transferred to Branches, though 22 have not yet responded despite reminders. There has thus been a net gain of 5 (185 members at the 1989 Conference). The Chairman expressed gratitude to Mrs Reddaway for her tireless correspondence with and attendance to the needs of her members.

(e) In the absence of Mrs Martin, the Chairman presented her report on the CSRP Examination Sub-committee, which now consists of the Examination Secretary (Mrs Martin), the Chairman (Mr Danbury), Mr Hersom and Miss O'Kelly, all of whom are examiners. During 1989 the Sub-committee revised the CSRP syllabus. It is hoped that the new syllabus sets out more clearly the aims and objectives of the examination and the standard expected to be achieved. The Sub-committee will not have the syllabus printed professionally until it is satisfied with the suitability of the new format. In the entrance fee it has been made advantageous for candidates to join the SRP if they are not already members. At present 12 candidates are currently entered for the examination. It has been agreed that every candidate entering the examination should be sent a copy of the Society's "Teacher's Guide". The Chairman drew attention to Rule 5(p) of the Society's Rules where there is no provision for additional examiners. The Examination Secretary had asked Central Committee for the power to approve a list of additional examiners, including the Society's Musical Directors, who could be asked to act at any examination when necessary, and she was given permission to approach members to serve in this capacity. It was felt that there should be a minimum of 2 examiners for each examination. The Chairman proposed the following suggested amendment to Rule 5(p) and Conference agreed:

"The Committee may at any time nominate an Examination Secretary and not more than five Examiners (all of whom shall be members of the Society) who shall be members of the Examination Sub-committee. /Remainder of Rule as before: 'Any Examination Secretary, so nominated...any substitutes are appointed in their place.'/ ADD: The Committee shall have power to approve other members of the Society whom the Sub-committee may appoint as additional examiners to assist at any examination."

In reply to a question, the Chairman said that the CSRP was not an essential qualification for such additional examiners, who would be selected on the basis of their experience and suitability. Mrs Martin had so far secured the agreement of the following Society members to act as examiners:

Mr B. Bonsor, Mr P. Clark, Mrs M. Coles, Dr R. Coles, Mr P. Evry, Mrs A. Lewin, Mr C. Martin, Miss E. Nallen and Miss M. Simpson.

(f) The Chairman reported the good support for the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund from members and Branches; but since only the interest can be spent, constant further injections of funds are needed, and he suggested covenanted donations from which, as a charity, the Fund could greatly benefit. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of the workshops, which were now also being run by Cambridge, Oxford and Dorset. With Society membership at 1644, this was still a very small number in relation to the total number of players in the UK, and he once more wondered why the Society was not attracting more members.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and other posts

(a) All the Officers, including the Honorary Auditor, were willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed by Mrs Panzetta, seconded by Mr Sturgeon and agreed that they be re-elected en bloc.

(b) With the automatic retirement of Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Mason, 3 nominations were presented for the 2 vacancies on Central Committee:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| i) Michael Sharman (Camb) | <u>proposed</u> : Mr Edgar Hunt |
| | <u>seconded</u> : Mrs Anne Martin |
| ii) Peter Sturgeon (Notts) | <u>proposed</u> : Mr Herbert Hersom |
| | <u>seconded</u> : Miss Eve O'Kelly |
| iii) Moira Usher (Suffolk) | <u>proposed</u> : Prof. Andrew Parkin |
| | <u>seconded</u> : Dr Andrew Short |

The ensuing ballot elected Mr Sharman and Mrs Usher.

(c) With the automatic retirement of Mr Hersom, 1 Musical Director had to be elected in his place on Central Committee. The following Musical Directors were willing to stand: Mr P. Clark, Mr C. Martin and Miss E. Nallen, and the ensuing ballot elected Mr Clark.

(d) Honorary Life Membership. On the recommendation of West Riding Branch, Central Committee proposed Sister Mary Austin, a driving force in the Branch as both Chairman and Musical Director during the years from 1969 to 1988, and to whom much of the success of the Branch can be attributed. Conference were pleased to agree to her election as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

6. Future Festivals

1990 The Chairman thanked the members of Suffolk Branch for an excellent Festival this year and congratulated them on their brave experiment of running a 2-day event which proved entirely justified, with some 300 participants on Saturday and some 200 on Sunday.

1991 The combined hosts of North and South Staffs are to hold the Festival at Stoke-on-Trent and the Conference at Stafford, on 11/12 May.

1992 Conference were pleased to accept an offer from Cambridge Branch for this Festival.

1993 There had been a tentative enquiry for this year from West Dorset.

7. Pastoral Visits

The Chairman said that it was advisable to look at the regulations regularly, since these visits are an important part of the Society's activities. Miss O'Kelly felt that the Society should look for additions to the panel, not only from those willing to provide a free conducting service but from professional musicians prepared to give master classes, tutorials etc. for a fee. While it was not intended to remove free pastoral visits from Branches, it was suggested as an additional service. Miss O'Kelly pointed out that many suitable professional musicians were engaged in income-producing commitments at the weekends, for which most conductors are invited and on which many teachers rely, so that such a fee would supercede their regular income. Such people could be recorded on a separate list or be included in the general list with an indication that a professional fee was required. With the permission of Central Committee, Miss O'Kelly had approached 6 people, including Philip Thorby and Margaret Westlake. Mr Bonsor expressed strong objection to having a "list of people for hire" and Dr Dolmetsch feared that this might well reduce the numbers of conductors willing to give an unpaid service to the Society - a risk to the altruistic spirit would result from people moving to the new list to secure a fee - and Mr Wyatt felt that this division confuses an altruistic with a commercial relationship. Mr Martin suggested that Society membership does not expand because young professionals consider the Society irrelevant to their needs and this might be one way of interesting them, since all members of such a list must be Society members. Miss O'Kelly felt that some people now lost to the Society could be brought back through such a scheme, and Miss Nallen re-iterated the problem for teachers invited for pastoral visits in that Saturday is a key day for their teaching. Miss O'Sullivan favoured a separate list of professionals requiring a fee, and Conference could be the official forum for acceptance of names for this list. The Chairman confirmed that Branches, not the Society, would be responsible for organizing such visits. It was suggested by Mrs Panzetta that private playing groups could secure a coach from such a list for a fee. The Chairman said that Central Committee would give further consideration to the matter, and, when writing a report of this Conference for the magazine, he may make mention of the suggestions in order to inform Branches of the whole matter.

8. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

The Secretary of the Sub-committee administering the Fund, Mr Hersom, said that there was a great need for continued money-raising. The Fund has had 14 applications for assistance, but only 8 have been granted, although most requests have been reasonable and moderate, e.g. help to attend courses/workshops, to buy instruments etc. He echoed the Chairman's remark that while there has been good support from Branches and members for the Fund, continuing donations are needed; and he said he had forms for both bequests and covenants. He confirmed that "young people" is defined as being "under 30". Mr Hersom expressed

gratitude to Miss O'Sullivan and Miss O'Kelly for organizing both the stall for the Fund and the goods on sale.

9. Extension of SRP activities

(a) Workshops. Miss O'Kelly reported that in 1988/89 there were 4 workshops in London, with a turnover of £1600 odd, but with a loss of £30 odd. Five workshops are planned for 1989/90, budgeting for £2300. It is hoped to extend publicity so that they are not seen as being meant only for London people. Eight new members were gained for the Society from the last workshops. Cambridge have held several playing-days for children, and Oxford are holding a workshop for advanced players on 13 May. Dorset have organized 4 recorder workshops for this year. The Cambridge playing-days are run on somewhat different lines from the workshops.

(b) Ms Patricia Davies (Cambridge) sought leave to put a proposal to Conference, although resolutions can only be moved by giving 4 weeks' notice to Central Committee. The Chairman allowed the reading of the proposal: "The Cambridge Branch proposes that Central Committee should fund events organized by Branches to promote the knowledge and understanding of the recorder outside the Society to children, and others who might benefit, and that the present system of indemnification for expenses should then be abandoned." Ms Davis said that the cost had been £200 for each occasion, but the children are not charged. Income is from sponsorship. The Chairman said that a budget is generally presented to Central Committee for approval first. Committee would need to know from all Branches what is proposed a year ahead so that overall costs can be considered. Miss Nallen reported that the Cambridge days received sponsorship from Schott's and Faber. It was reported that some peripatetic teachers put on playing days through Local Authorities, and other delegates suggested that big charities such as Rowntree Memorial Trust could be approached for support as well as local arts funds or any other such fund-giving organizations as listed in the relevant handbook.

(c) Miss O'Sullivan, who has taken over the administration of the Moeck and Schott competitions from Mr Hunt, reported that the Moeck solo competition was in hand for next year, with the usual prize of a Wigmore Hall concert. There had previously been few applicants of reasonable standard for the Schott ensemble competition, so it has been decided to alter the format to a playing-day for all entrants with exhibitions and one or two workshops with adjudicators, the prize being participation in a master-class about a month later.

(d) Miss O'Kelly had suggested a "Player's Guide" similar to the "Teacher's Guide", and Miss Seviour had produced the draft of such a guide, comprising aural training, repertoire, scales and arpeggios etc., and a section to cover the content of the GCSE had been contributed by Mrs Mason, who had been working on a guide for schools for her Authority. This Guide would, in fact, bear out one of the main objects of the Society.

(e) Mr Hersom reported that he had despatched 700 copies of the "Teacher's Guide" in the last year and a new edition was being planned.

(f) Mr Wexler said that Edinburgh Branch encourages young people to join by inviting them to 2 or 3 meetings as guests,

but inspite of this "taste and try" method they fail to return and join - he felt that they thought that sitting and playing was all the Society does. Mr Sibun reported that Beds & North Herts have great difficulty in getting through to both schools and the public at large about the Branch and the Society, even though they have put on small playing sessions in libraries etc. Miss Seviour had sent SRP leaflets to all libraries in Essex, from which she received a lot of enquiries but few follow-ups.

(g) Mr Wyatt had ordered 5000 more Society leaflets, which would be available free to Branches.

10. Any other business

(a) Mr Hunt reminded members that he was looking for a new Editor of the magazine, and asked for suggestions (which should be sent to Mr Harper at Schotts).

(b) Mr Payne moved a vote of thanks to Mrs Blackman, the Hon. Secretary. He thanked her for all the work she had done for the Society over many years, and said he felt that members perhaps did not realize just how much they owed to the Secretary for all she did "behind the scenes". Conference agreed, with acclamation.

(c) Mr Wyatt reported on the present position of Avon Music, set up by the late Jerry Jerrome, which, on Jerry's death, was taken over by his daughter. Sadly, she lost her husband shortly after Jerry's death, so that the future of the press is in limbo at present, though Mr Wyatt has offered all the help he can to keep it going.

The Conference closed at c.12.10 pm. The Chairman wished to record the Society's thanks to Mrs Moira Usher and her many helpers who played such an essential part in the initial planning and the ultimate smooth running of an excellent weekend of Festival and Conference. Conference delegates moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman.



12-05-91

August 1

Sunday

2



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 12 May 1991

Stafford Borough Council

Present:

Committee:

Mr G. Danbury	Chairman
Prof. A. Parkin	Treasurer
Mrs A. Blackman	Secretary
Mrs D. Reddaway	COS Secretary
Dr C. Dolmetsch	Vice-President & Musical Director
Mr E. Hunt	Vice-President & Musical Director
Miss B. Newton	(also Manchester Branch)
Miss E. O'Kelly	Musical Director
Miss O'Sullivan	
Mr M. Sharman	(also Branch Review Editor)
Dr A. Short	
Mrs M. Usher	
Mr T. Wyatt	Musical Director

Other Mus. Directors

Mr B. Bonsor
Mr H. Hersom
Mr C. Martin
Miss E. Nallen

Branches:

Aberdeen	Mr D. Haston	Newcastle	Mr M. Evans
Beds & Nth Herts	Mr G. Parry	(Observer	Mrs M. Evans)
Birmingham	Mr J. Rowley	Norfolk	Mrs D. Finch
Bristol	Miss E. Hunt	(Observer	Miss J. Hubbard)
Cambridge	Miss S. Harada	Northampton	Mr B. Pack
(Observer	Mrs E. Sharman)	Nth London	Miss B. Hogg
Cheltenham & Glos	Mr G. Dalziel	Nth Staffs	Mr N. Coulton
Cleveland	Miss S. Foxall	Nottingham	Mr P. Sturgeon
Devon	Mr E. Chapman	Oxford	Mr W. Gregson
Dorset	Mrs B. Harrison	Roxburgh	Mrs M. Bonsor
Edinburgh	Miss E. Finlayson	Somerset	Mr K. Imrie
Essex	Mrs M. Panzetta	Sth Staffs	Mrs A. Lewin
Guildford	Mr H. Prosser	(Observer	Mr K. Price)
Hillfoots	Miss C. Dryburgh	(Observer	Mr J. Dunn)
(Observer	Mr P. Rollinson)	Suffolk	Mr M. Usher
Kent	Mr A. Alexander	W. Dorset	Mrs P. Biss
Leicester	Miss J. Finns	W. Riding	Mr R. Corbishley
London &)	Mr R. Marks	W. Suffolk	Miss G. Palmer
South London)	Miss B. Newton/Ctee	Wessex	Mrs E. Pick
Manchester	Mr R. Mealing	(elect)	
Mid Herts			

A message of welcome to the Conference was read out from Sue Harris, Treasurer of the District Arts Council, and the Chairman welcomed Delegates and Committee Members.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: (Musical Director) Dr R. Coles; (Committee) Dr J. Allen, Mr P. Clark, Mr P. Evry, Mrs A. Martin, Miss M. Seviour; (Branches) Ayr & District, Bath, Cumbria, Durham, Glasgow, Ireland, Lincoln, Nuneaton, Sheffield, South Wales and Warwick.

2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr Chapman, seconded by Mr Sturgeon and agreed that they be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising

The Chairman referred to the matter of membership of more than one Branch of the Society, commonly known as Associate or Special Membership, operated by many Branches on an ad hoc basis. The standard Branch Rules do not include provision for this and the Committee felt that the arrangement ought as far as possible to be regularised, and had intended to propose to the last Conference as additional Branch Rule so that it can be incorporated in the constitution of all new Branches. The proposed Rule is:

"1(e). The Branch may admit any member of the Society as an Associate/Special Member. Associate/Special members shall pay such Branch subscription as the Branch Committee shall determine and enjoy the same privileges in relation to the Branch as the Branch members unless the Branch Committee resolve otherwise."

The Committee therefore proposed and Conference agreed to the adoption of the new Branch Rule 1(e). The Committee will be happy for any existing Branches to incorporate this additional Rule. If Branches decide to do so, would they please inform the Secretary.

4. Officer's reports

(a) The Secretary reported that Mrs Pillatt, Secretary of the Northampton Branch, had asked for information on forming a new Branch, as there are quite a few players around Milton Keynes, and there might therefore be a possibility of re-forming the previous Branch disbanded in c.1984; but no further word so far. As Telecom are altering many exchange and private numbers, she asked that Branch Secretaries check their telephone numbers in the magazine list and inform her of any changes. Half a dozen Branch Secretaries do not list their numbers, and she would like to know whether this is intentional or whether they would now like to add their numbers.

(b) The Chairman read the report from the Membership Secretary. After a slight downturn last year to 1623 (from the record 1644 in 1988/9) this year sees a new record figure of 1651. In more detail, almost equal numbers of Branches show gains (20) and losses (19), with 7 remaining unchanged. It is encouraging to record significant increases in Cleveland, Cumbria, Lincoln, Northampton, Nuneaton, Roxburgh and South Wales, but sad to see the demise of Darlington and the doubtful continuation of Ayr. In total, 102 members were gained and 96 lost, which with the inclusion of 22 members in the new Wessex Branch gives a net gain of 28 for the year to date.

Distribution of the magazine has been moved entirely to Schott, beginning with the March issue. The change was prompted partly by the move of Office Aids to Basildon in Essex, and it was with some regret that this long-standing association was broken, especially as it followed so soon upon the untimely death of the proprietor earlier this year. A donation was made on the Society's behalf to cancer research. Teething troubles with the new system seem to have been reasonably few, but he would be glad to know of any not yet rectified. The Society currently sends out 1034 magazines: 593 to members of Old Style Branches, 425 to New Style Branches and 16 complimentary copies.

A new Membership List has been produced in what is hoped a much improved format. We are very grateful to Theo Wyatt and his helpers for all the hard work that this has entailed. This year we decided to list members under all Branches to which they belong, and many have taken advantage of this option: this may lead to difficulties in the index if the number of affiliations in future exceeds 3. Dr Allen would be glad to know of any errors or changes; the List could usefully form the basis of next year's Branch returns. He apologised to Cheltenham & Gloucester for inadvertently printing out-of-date information. All members are entitled to a copy of the List and supplies are available for collection by Delegates, also membership cards.

(c) The Chairman then read the report from Mrs Martin, the CSRP Secretary. Over the last year there has been a steady number of enquiries about the Certificate. One candidate re-took the conducting element of the examination but failed to reach a competent standard to pass. At present 10 candidates (5 from Cambridge) are entered for the examination, 1 of whom has completed the first part of the examination.

(d) The COS Secretary, Mrs Reddaway, reported that the Society now has 205 COS members, of whom 161 are in the UK, 19 in Europe and 25 worldwide. There have been some losses, with 1 transfer to a Branch (Hillfoots), 4 resignations, 1 death and 12 so far unpaid this year; but gains have been accounted for by 25 new members since last year's Conference, with 21 in the UK, 2 in Europe, 2 worldwide (including 3 transfers from London Branch and 2 recipients of Bergmann Fund grants). The Chairman pointed out to Conference that Mrs Reddaway treats her secretaryship as far more than mere record-keeping in that she keeps in regular touch with COS members through untiring correspondence.

(e) The Chairman drew attention to the coming 80th birthday of Dr Carl Dolmetsch in August this year, and on behalf of the Society had great pleasure in presenting Dr Dolmetsch with a framed tribute to his long years of service not only to the Society but to the recorder itself and its music. He also mentioned that Miss Enid Hunt would also be 80 in July this year. She had been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1988 in respect of her many years of unflagging devotion to the recorder and the Society. Both tributes were heartily applauded.

The Chairman felt that one aspect of the duties of Branch Secretaries was being neglected in some quarters, namely the dissemination of information to Branch members, especially of Festival and Conference arrangements. Both the Suffolk Branch last year and the Staffs Branches this year had become aware of this, and have asked that Branch Secretaries be reminded that they are the first and main avenue for providing such information and should not wait for members to ask them for it (it was pointed out that although Festival information is published in the magazine, not all members take it).

Mr Danbury reminded Branches that visitors sometimes come to meetings or members bring a guest, and he suggested that Branches might well have someone at meetings on the lookout for such people and make them welcome.

He reported that only 1000 out of 1600 odd members take the magazine, and that Central Committee were very disappointed with this situation. He asked Miss O'Kelly, the new Editor of the magazine, to give a brief outline of her plans for the future. She said that the Society has a direct channel to the magazine and the Publishers would welcome Society news. She wanted the

magazine to be the mouthpiece of the Society, so that anything newsworthy from the Society should be published, irrespective of the 4 pages normally devoted to Society affairs. The Chairman reported that the Committee had decided that the separate Branch Newsletter would continue to be issued. Mr Sharman then made a plea to Delegates of Branches where not all members take the magazine to become Old Style Branches. Mrs Lewin wondered whether family membership (i.e. one copy only) accounted for many non-takers, but the Chairman said this was not so. Mr Sharman reminded Delegates that Branch news should be sent to him and not to Miss O'Kelly.

(f) The Treasurer reported that the accounts showed a healthy surplus on the Central Fund, due mainly to the increase in interest received. This increase is attributable to higher interest rates generally, plus the transfer of Society funds to a high street bank account earning even higher rates, with quarterly interest payments: this meant two extra payments per year for one year, with a return to more normal levels of interest receipts in 1990/1.

The merchandising activities have now been transferred to a separate account under the stewardship of Miss O'Sullivan. The Central Fund loss on merchandising of £393 in 1988/9 was recovered in 1989/90 and a final surplus of £294.14 credited to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund.

Nett income to the Walter Bergmann Fund was an increase on the previous year, after grants totalling £1050, and the Fund now stands at around £9,000. The Central Fund stands at over £14,000. By keeping the two Funds in one bank account, both can benefit from the higher rates of interest that can be earned on large deposits.

Professor Parkin said that there was no necessity to increase the subscription rates this year, even though there will be an increase in the price of the magazine next January.

Mr Imrie reported that Nat. West. were now charging for keeping his Branch account. The Treasurer told him that most building societies have "Treasurer's Accounts" paying interest, and that they will pay interest gross to charities; also the policy of most banks now is not to charge fees for keeping the accounts of charities, clubs etc. Mr Imrie was advised to look into this.

At the request of Mr Pack, the Treasurer agreed to send a receipt for Branch subscriptions if requested.

It was then proposed by Mr Hersom, seconded by Mrs Reddaway and Conference agreed to accept the Society Accounts for the year ended 30 September 1990.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

(a) All Officers, including the Honorary Auditor, were willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed by Mr Corbishley, seconded by Mr Parry that they be re-elected en bloc, and Conference agreed.

(b) Miss Seviour and Mr Evry are retiring in rotation from the Central Committee. In the absence of nominations from Branches for the vacancies, Central Committee put forward the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| i) Eric Chapman (Devon) | proposed | Madeline Seviour |
| | seconded | Theo Wyatt |
| ii) Nigel Coulton (N.Staffs) | proposed | Paul Clark |
| | seconded | Anne Blackman |
| iii) Peter Sturgeon (Notts) | proposed | Michael Sharman |
| | seconded | Graham Danbury |

The ensuing ballot elected Mr Chapman and Mr Sturgeon.

(c) Musical Directors. Mr Wyatt retires automatically this year as one of the 3 Musical Directors serving on the Central Committee and Miss O'Kelly has asked to retire as she is now in Ireland. Of the "pool" of Musical Directors the following were willing to stand for the 2 vacancies: Herbert Hersom, Colin Martin and Evelyn Nallen. The ensuing ballot elected Mr Hersom and Miss Nallen.

6. New Branch

Acceptance of the new Branch of Wessex was proposed by Central Committee and ratified with pleasure by Conference. Mrs Ena Pick, the Secretary, said that the area around Winchester had been under-represented for a long time and they had been successful in securing 22 members, meeting in the Winchester Centre.

7. Future Festivals

1991 The Chairman recorded the Society's thanks to all the many people involved in a most successful Festival and Conference, to Nigel Coulton, John Dunn, Hannah Swift, Kevin Price, Alyson Lewin, Steve Brothwell, to name but a few. Mr Coulton was asked to convey thanks to the catering staff for both the excellent meals provided and the friendly service by all concerned.

1992 At Cambridge, 9/10 May, a 2-day affair at the Sixth Form College, Long Road, Cambridge. The Festival Organizer is Patricia Davies.

1993 No positive offers as yet. Mrs Pick said that Wessex would be interested in taking on 1994, but went on to say that her new Branch would be able to put their efforts a year earlier and undertake 1993.

1994 The Chairman invited Delegates to give consideration of this year, and said that Central Committee needs to know two years in advance, i.e. by the Committee meeting in February 1992 before the next Conference.

Mr Mealing put in a plea for a positive break for lunch, so that no playing sessions need be missed; but it was pointed out that a fully-booked Festival of, say, 300-400 people could not all be fed at one time: this would also apply to a scheduled coffee or afternoon tea break. Mrs Lewin said that the Staffs organizers had considered this for the present Festival, but felt it was not feasible. The Nottingham Festival had produced a strong lobby against the break in playing sessions for a concert. There thus seemed to be many people who did not wish playing time to be sacrificed; but the Chairman suggested that the organizers of future Festivals should consider specific meal breaks in light of their proposed programmes. Mr Haston said that his Branch, Aberdeen, might well be interested in hosting a Festival but wondered whether people would want to travel so far.

8. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

Mr Hersom reported that there have been 35 applicants, and grants totalling c.£1800 have been given to 21 applicants, equalling an average of £100 each. Four applicants were awaiting a decision. He said that most applicants were still at school or had just left and waiting to go to college, or already in junior colleges. A grant of £100 had been much appreciated. Applications required

a recommendation from a teacher or someone of some standing, and it was expected that successful applicants should become Society members. Dr Dolmetsch suggested that a cassette should accompany applications, since often the most promising CVs are not borne out in the playing. Mr Hersom had suggested that people may like to make bequests to the Fund in their Wills, and he had received over £200 donated in memory of Donald Tattersfield of Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch (at the suggestion of his widow). As reported before, Miss O'Sullivan now deals with merchandise and receipts from sales of same, while donations go straight to the Treasurer or Mr Hersom, for transfer to the Fund. Miss O'Sullivan reported that there had been a profit of £300 on the mugs, and of the 10,000 Xmas cards printed 9,830 had been sold, at a profit of £800. She is ordering 20,000 new Xmas cards in time for the Early Music Exhibition, where the Fund will have a stall. Miss O'Kelly expressed thanks to Miss O'Sullivan for the hard work she puts into this side of fund-raising. Mrs Usher pointed out that all merchandise receipts now go to the Fund, only sweaters (from Cynthia Palmer in High Wycombe) are sold separately from the Fund. Mr Price wondered whether there should be more publicity for the Fund, but Miss O'Sullivan said they had enough applications to cope with at present - if there were too many applications, much greater funding would be needed. Mr Sturgeon said that Nottingham Branch had contributed £50 to the Fund from the proceeds of their twice-yearly playing days.

9. Extension of SRP activities

(a) The Chairman reported that Central Committee were thinking about producing a series of leaflets on the recorder, playing, history, repertoire etc., designed for ordinary players not budding professionals. Mrs Usher gave a brief outline of the proposed subjects:

- i) Tempi in general, with special reference to dance movements etc: Mr Clark had agreed to deal with this subject.
- ii) Listing of "standard repertoire" for various ensembles was being undertaken by Mrs Anne Martin.
- iii) Mrs Usher would prepare a list of recorder publishers.
- iv) Suffolk Branch were already drawing up a list of recorder composers/arrangers, and would continue to expand it.
- v) Mr Clark would also do a paper on ornaments, with a possible later paper on ornamentation.
- vi) Mr Wyatt would try to expand his earlier assessment of plastic instruments to incorporate other materials.
- vii) Music available on tape and records. Miss Seviour had already started a collection for Essex Branch and had made a 90-minute tape of examples, and would continue searching. Mrs Usher would welcome suggestions for other subjects.

(b) There was a possibility of producing a "Player's Guide" as a companion to the "Teacher's Guide", and members of Committee were working on this.

(c) Moeck and Schott competitions. Miss O'Sullivan reported that these were not held this month through lack of applicants, and not all of competition standard (only 6 applicants for each competition). It was difficult to explain the reasons for the poor response, the educational changes in colleges could have caused unsettlement in the background of young people, and through pressure of her own work she might not have been able to spread the publicity net wide enough. However, she now

proposed a further drive to hold the competitions in November this year at the Horticultural Halls to coincide with the Early Musical Instruments Exhibition if there are enough applicants to justify it. The Moeck concert prize might be presented at the 1992 Early Music Festival.

There followed a general discussion on grading of both personal ability and that of the standard repertoire. Mr Chapman suggested that Visiting Conductors could give Branches an indication of their standard of playing. As for improving one's own playing, Mrs Panzetta suggested that mixing up the voices in Branch ensemble playing, instead of being in blocks (although more difficult for the conductor) would allow players to feel an individual part rather than relying on their fellows in the block; and Miss Palmer felt that attending consort courses, rather than perpetual ensemble work, was an ideal road to improvement. Mr Price reported that people attending this year's Festival had asked him about the standard of the works to be played but was unable to give an answer. He suggested that the music chosen should be graded, but Mrs Lewin said that they had asked the conductors to state what they considered the grade to be and were unwilling to do so for fear of "frightening people off", as it is rather subjective and difficult to do. However, Miss Finlayson said that the Alva Festival grades the music chosen quite satisfactorily and felt, therefore, that some indication of grading might be given in the 1992 Festival programme.

10. Any other business

(a) The Secretary reported that the new edition of the Visiting Conductors List, to up-date CVs and include new additions, was delayed while awaiting replies from a few members of the panel. The two latest additions were given to Delegates: Alex Ayre of Chesham, Bucks (publisher of the Chiltern Recorder Consort Series) and Virginia Brookes (Chairman of the new Wessex Branch).

(b) Miss Hogg reported the death of Joy Dodson before Easter, who will be a sadly-missed scribe for the Oriel Library and many other works.

(c) Dr Dolmetsch reported the death of Dr Reginald Johnson, a County Music Adviser, who played a great part in the Dorset Branch.

(d) Mr Corbishley announced that West Riding Branch would be celebrating their 30th Anniversary with an all-day meeting on 14 September at Headingley. Various other playing days were reported at Guildford, West Suffolk and Exeter.

The Conference closed at 11.45 a.m., to be followed by a buffet lunch. The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to the two Staffordshire Branches and their members for a most enjoyable Festival, with pleasant Conference venue at the Stafford Borough Hall, and excellent catering. Thanks were also due to the many members of both Branches who offered hospitality to Delegates.

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12 05 '92



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 10 May 1992

Sixth Form College, Cambridge

Present:

Committee:

Mr G. Danbury
Prof. A. Parkin
Mrs A. Blackman
Dr J. Allen
Mrs D. Reddaway
Mrs A. Martin
Mr E. Chapman
Mr P. Clark
Dr C. Dolmetsch
Mr E. Hunt
Mr H. Hersom
Miss E. Nallen
Miss B. Newton
Miss P. O'Sullivan
Mr M. Sharman
Dr A. Short
Mrs M. Usher

Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
COS Secretary
CSRP Secretary

Musical Director
Vice-President & Musical Director
Vice-President & Musical Director
Musical Director
Musical Director
(also Manchester Branch)
(also Branch Review Editor)

Other Musical Directors

Mr B. Bonsor
Mr C. Martin
Miss E. O'Kelly
Mr T. Wyatt

Branches:

Aberdeen
Bath
Beds & Nth Herts
Birmingham
Bristol
Cambridge
(Observer)
Cheltenham/Glos
Cleveland
Devon
Dorset
Edinburgh
Essex
(Observer)
Guildford
High Wycombe
Kent
Leicester
Lincolnshire
(Observer)
London
(Observer)
Manchester
Mid-Herts

Mr D. Haston
Mr L. Brooks
Mr G. Parry
Mr J. Rowley
Miss E. Hunt
Miss J. Garratt
Mrs E. Sharman
Mr G. Dalziel
Miss S. Foxall
Mrs J. Fletcher
Mrs B. Harrison
Miss E. Finlayson
Miss M. Seviour
Mrs M. Panzetta
Mr H. Prosser
Mr C. Thorn
Mr A. Alexander
Miss J. Finns
Mrs H. Sullivan
Miss N. Sullivan
Mr M. Windisch
Mr A. Collis
Miss B. Newton/Ctee
Mr B. Fraser-Hook

Newcastle
Nth London
Norfolk
(Observer)
Northampton
(Observer)
Nth Staffs
Oxford
Roxburgh
Sheffield
(Observer)
Somerset
(Observer)
Sth London
(Observer)
Sth Staffs
Suffolk
Wessex
W. Dorset
W. Riding
W. Suffolk
(Observer)
Nth Cotswold
(elect)

Mr M. Evans
Miss B. Hogg
Miss J. Barber
Mr R. Skins
Mr B. Pack
Mrs Pack
Mr N. Coulton
Mr O. St. John
Mrs M. Bonsor
Mr P. Roscoe
Miss M. Long
Mr K. Imrie
Mrs Imrie
Mrs M. Crocker
Miss P. Marsh
Mrs A. Lewin
Mrs M. Halliwell
Mrs E. Pick
Mrs A. Dumbreck
Mr R. Corbishley
Miss H. Hodgson
Mrs P. Lodge
Mrs R. Cornwallis

1. Apologies for absence were received from: (Musical Director) Dr R. Coles; (Committee) Mr P. Sturgeon (also Nottingham); (Branches) Ayr & District, Cumbria, Durham, Glasgow, Hillfoots, Ireland, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Sth Wales and Warwick.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference were taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs Lewin, seconded by Mrs Reddaway and agreed that they be signed by The Chairman as a true record.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. Officers' reports
 - (a) Membership Secretary. Dr Allen drew attention to his recent move from North London to Bury St. Edmunds. He reported that last year's membership had to be revised downwards because one Branch (Sth Wales) had submitted more names than were subsequently paid for, hence the 1990-91 membership was 1631. This year 4 Branches have not yet submitted their returns (Cheltenham/Gloucester, High Wycombe, Ireland and Nth Staffs), so that so far this year 8 Branches have no change, 15 show a gain (especially Birmingham, Dorset, Guildford, Mid-Herts and Nottingham) and 19 a loss, giving a net loss of 28 (COS membership not included). However, the new Branch of North Cotswold brings in 16 new members (corrected from the floor to 18 by the new Branch Delegate, Mrs Cornwallis). Dr Allen also reported that the new format of the magazine appeared to be popular with many members, resulting in a 20-30 increase in those members now taking the magazine. He had a few computer print-outs available at Conference for collection by Delegates, and would post the rest direct to Branches; he also had 1991 Membership Lists and membership cards for those Delegates wishing to take them. He said it is probable that a new Membership List would be undertaken next year. Dr Allen also reported that Ayr & District was probably withdrawing as a Branch but would continue as a playing group.
 - (b) The COS Secretary, Mrs Reddaway, reported that there are 210 paid-up members in this category: 164 in the UK, 21 in Europe and 25 world-wide. There are 22 new members since the 1991 Membership List was published, but there have been 4 resignations and 2 deaths. Only 10 are students (paying the reduced rate), one of whom is Natalie MacGeorge, grand-daughter of Carl Dolmetsch. There are 8 family memberships (paying the £9.50 rate), and no transfers to Branches had been notified.
 - (c) The CSRP Secretary, Mrs Martin, was pleased to report that Sheila Richards, a teacher from London, had been awarded the Certificate in February. She reported that there is still a steady interest in the examination. The examination sub-committee is at present seeking a replacement for Eve O'Kelly, and is also working to promote the CSRP and to see if there is any possibility of linking it with the new diplomas in Music Education now awarded by Trinity College of Music.
 - (d) The Treasurer, Professor Parkin, circulated copies of the audited Accounts, which showed little difference between last year and this. He explained that the Accounts have become more complicated over the last few years, and involving more work, with the addition of the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund, merchandising and the workshops, which are run by third parties,

so that he had had to enlist professional assistance in preparing the year's final Accounts ending September 1991. There had been delays in getting the accounts for last year's Festival and the Alva Scottish Festival, so that neither appears in the Society Accounts. He explained that all aspects of the merchandising are handled by Miss Patricia O'Sullivan: choice of articles, employing designers and manufacturers, ordering and keeping the books. While the Accounts show a deficit for the merchandising, this is offset by the hidden reserve of stock in hand, making it a profit. Up to date the merchandising accounts have been compiled from Miss O'Sullivan's bank-book, and transfers to the Fund made from this; but in future a more orthodox form of accounting might be needed for the Fund. By keeping the Society and Bergmann Fund accounts together, it had been possible to obtain the extra interest allowed on funds of £25,000 and over. The Treasurer pointed out that interest income had now returned to a lower level, partly as a result of lower interest rates and partly because the previous year's interest included 5 quarters following the transfer of accounts. The interest on the Higher Rate Business Account was divided equitably between the Central and Bergmann Funds by reference to the average of their opening and closing balances. The overall outcome of the Accounts is satisfactory, and he sees no need to change the subscription rates for another year. It was proposed by Mr Martin, seconded by Mrs Martin and Conference agreed that the Accounts be accepted, and with thanks to the Treasurer. In asking Delegates to submit their travel expenses for reimbursement, he said that sometimes the Delegates have been pleased to donate their expenses to the Bergmann Fund.

(e) Mr Danbury, in a brief farewell report to Conference, pointed out that as Chairman he did not do much work, the Society being actually run on the tasks undertaken by the Officers and Members of Central Committee, to whom he was most grateful for their support and endeavours over the years of his chairmanship. A warm vote of thanks to Mr Danbury (and to his ability to keep AGMs short!) was proposed by Dr Dolmetsch and carried with acclamation.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and other posts

The Chairman reminded Delegates that Branches are always invited to put forward nominations for election of Officers and Committee, but for the last three years none has been forthcoming and Central Committee has had to provide nominations themselves, in order to fill vacancies.

(a) With the resignation of Mr Danbury, the following nominations were put forward by Central Committee for Chairman:

- i) Michael Sharman (Cambridge) proposed Carl Dolmetsch
seconded Anne Martin
- ii) Andrew Short (Edinburgh) proposed Moira Usher
seconded Peter Sturgeon
- iii) Moira Usher (Suffolk) proposed Andrew Parkin
seconded Andrew Short

The ensuing ballot elected Michael Sharman.

(b) All Officers, including the Hon. Auditor, being willing to stand, were re-elected en bloc.

(c) Central Committee. Betty Newton and Andrew Short were retiring after their term of service. Since Michael Sharman was still a serving member of the Committee, 3 people were to be elected from the following nominations proposed by Central Committee:

- i) Douglas Haston (Aberdeen) proposed Andrew Short
seconded Herbert Hersom
- ii) Alyson Lewin (Sth Staffs) proposed Anne Martin
seconded Carl Dolmetsch
- iii) Petrina Lodge (W. Suffolk and Cambridge) proposed Michael Sharman
seconded Eric Chapman
- iv) Marion Panzetta (Essex) proposed Moira Usher
seconded Diana Reddaway

The ensuing ballot elected Douglas Haston, Alyson Lewin and Petrina Lodge.

(d) Musical Directors on Committee. With the automatic retirement of Paul Clark as one of the 3 Musical Directors serving on Central Committee, only one Musical Director from the pool, Theo Wyatt, was available to stand, who was then proposed by the Chairman and elected by Conference.

(e) Central Committee had pleasure in proposing Guy Layton Ring as a Musical Director of the Society, and Conference agreed to the election.

New Branch

Under the guidance of Mrs Rosalie Cornwallis (Oxford) a Branch, with 16 (18) fully-paid new members had been formed in Chipping Norton, and Central Committee were pleased to propose the new Branch of North Cotswold for ratification and Conference agreed.

6. Amendments to Rule 5(f) - Musical Directors

The Chairman outlined the past and present role of the Society's Musical Directors. In the beginning the Society itself was merely what is now the Central London Branch and the Musical Directors were directors, in fact, of the music and conducting of meetings, whereas now, with the development of regional Branches with their own Officers (including a Musical Director), the role of the Society Musical Directors had become one of adviser on musical matters when called upon rather than that of director - they had thus, in the past, a much more active role in the affairs of the Society than at present, although their musical expertise continues to be drawn upon. The opinion of all Musical Directors had been sought, Central Committee had discussed the question, and there was general agreement that two amendments should be put to Conference. It was therefore proposed by Central Committee that

- (a) the title "Musical Director" should be changed to that of "Musical Adviser". Conference agreed.
- (b) the Rule 5(f) which reads "The Musical Directors shall be responsible for advising and assisting the Committee as to the musical affairs of the Society" should now read "The Musical Advisers shall be responsible for advising and assisting the Society, its Branches and Members on musical matters." Conference agreed.

8. Future Festivals

The Chairman expressed warm thanks to the Cambridge Branch and the many members involved in planning and providing a splendid Festival which, in spite of the weather, was a credit to the organizers and a pleasure for the participants.

1993 Wessex Branch are the hosts for the Festival and Conference in Winchester on 17/18 April at the St. Swithen's School. The Secretary, Mrs Pick, would be sending notices to Branches in due course.

1994 The Chairman pointed out that with no offers there would be no Festival. Mr Douglas Haston said that Aberdeen Branch would be willing to undertake this year, though it was too small to offer accommodation. However, his many students might be able to provide "beds" and it would have to be in the University holidays at Easter or in July for University accommodation. His offer of Aberdeen Branch as hosts was gladly accepted, and the most convenient date to be left to the Branch to decide.

1995 The Chairman asked Delegates to give thought to this year and Mrs Martin said she would approach the Guildford Branch.

8. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

Mr Hersom reported that fund-raising was progressing and the Festival stall did good business (it can be reported, post-Conference, that the stall took c.£1200 over the 2-day Festival, of which £350 was profit). There is £2000-3000 worth of stock in hand. He said that c.40 awards had so far been made totaling over £3250, plus interest-free loans of £350 (now partly repaid). There are a few applications pending to be dealt with at the next meeting of the sub-committee on 1 June. The sub-committee now consists of Patricia O'Sullivan (chair), Graham Danbury and himself, but Paula Marsh, who joined last year, had had to resign through pressure of work; it meets thrice a year, in February, May and October. Miss O'Sullivan has opened a deposit account with a building society for ease of paying in cheques etc. from sale of fund-raising goods, the only payments from this account being for purchase of further merchandise and her own expenses; and contributions from the balance in hand are transferred to the Treasurer at intervals. Mr Hersom reminded members that bequests can be made to the Fund and, apart from donations from members and Branches (which have been very generous), that donations could be made in memory of friends. Miss O'Sullivan said that she would welcome suggestions for merchandise, designs etc. and also on aspects of running the Fund. She thanked Branches and members for their support. She reported that 20,000 cards so far had been sold and a new Xmas card was being planned. Mr Martin asked for a break-down of people receiving support from the Fund and Mr Hersom replied that they were young people of 13/14 up to early 20s, working for Grade 8 or diplomas or just starting college, and mostly needing a contribution towards an instrument. He said that he will write an article on this for the magazine.

9. Extension of SRP activities

The Chairman reported on the series of leaflets on the recorder and its repertoire etc. being planned under the editorship of

Mrs Usher, as reported at the last Conference, of which four were now well under way:

- i) ensemble repertoire (compiler Anne Martin)
- ii) discography - music available on tape/record (Madeline Seviour)
- iii) tempi etc. (Paul Clark, who will also prepare a paper on ornaments and ornamentation)
- iv) guide to composers (Suffolk Branch)

10. Any other business

(a) The magazine

Miss O'Kelly reported on her first year as Editor, which she said she had much enjoyed. She had received quite a lot of reactions, mostly complimentary, some critical, and she always welcomes suggestions. Her task is to provide a service for recorder players; but since the magazine is published commercially by Schotts, it is not solely for the SRP, although the Society is allotted 4 pages. She said that finance is critical: production costs are kept down but printing is expensive, and the advertising revenue has dropped considerably owing to the recession. Schotts have kept the annual subscription rates as low as possible, but the present £10 p.a. does not cover the 4 issues a year. Schotts are now keeping the magazine accounts separately. In the last 12 months 1500 copies were sold of each issue, of which c.1000 were Society purchases, 200-300 COS and individuals overseas, the rest being sales in festivals and shops etc. The magazine is losing some £8000 p.a. = £2000 per issue. She said that Mr Harper is willing to let this continue for another year, but he is soon to retire and the resultant change in the accounting department may mean the end of such an accommodation: so there is a strong element of risk here. She advised that if the present Society membership, for instance, does not include taking the magazine, and general sales are not boosted, everyone will lose. She suggested 3 possible courses of action to avoid losing the magazine in c.1994:

- i) annual subscriptions to be increased
- ii) increase magazine readership (and annual subscribers) and Society Branches which do not take the magazine should be encouraged to do so: she said she is prepared to send them complimentary copies as an incentive and to show its value. She would like articles of regional interest to increase interest in the magazine. She pointed out that an increase in the subscription rate would, however, affect the SRP subscription rates.
- iii) the SRP is well funded, and Miss O'Kelly wondered whether the Society could give a subsidy to Schotts as a concrete gesture of goodwill - in fact, Schotts might well be very pleased to receive some word that their magazine is well thought of.

Mr Hunt felt that the Society should consider some form of subsidy and Mrs Martin said that she much appreciated the magazine as a non-resident of London. Mrs Reddaway suggested that the Society might give copies to local libraries, since this is where she originally learnt of the Society; and Miss O'Kelly said that she would send such lists to Schott's marketing department for consideration. Although the magazine cannot be sold through newsagents and bookshops until it is bar-coded, more music shops should be persuaded to stock it. While a newsletter format might be a substitute, it was generally felt that

the magazine as it gives a better public image and more credence to the recorder as a musical instrument. The Chairman promised that Committee would look into these matters, though the question of subsidy could not yet be decided on. Schott's charter is controlled from headquarters in Germany, so a first move might be to back up the English branch to continue the magazine. However, Conference agreed that the new Chairman, on behalf of the Society, should write to Schotts expressing the Society's appreciation of the magazine, as had been suggested by Mrs Dumbreck.

(b) Competitions

(i) The last Moeck competition was held in November 1991, coinciding with the Early Music Exhibition. There were 6 very good competitors and the winner was Ashley Solomon. The next Moeck competition will be in September 1993, also to coincide with the Early Music Exhibition.

(ii) The Chairman reported that Miss O'Sullivan had been approached by Yamaha Kemble (UK) Ltd about the possibility of establishing an SRP-Yamaha School Recorder Competition. Miss O'Sullivan reported that Yamaha are commercially concerned about the deterioration of instrumental music in schools, but also want to be seen to be encouraging what remains of teaching and learning instruments; and also want an agency outside themselves to give credence to the competition. She had consulted Mr Danbury, who felt that the proposition was worth pursuing, so she and Michael Copley of the Classic Buskers met Gordon Higginbottom of Yamaha and put together a format for a possible competition: the heats would be held in November 1992 with the finals in Birmingham in February 1993. There would be 2 age groups from UK schools, of up to 11 and up to 13 years, in groups of 3+, playing music in at least 2 parts, entries for the heats to be on tape (maximum 6 minutes), and prizes to be Yamaha instruments provided to the school's requirements. The SRP is not expected to contribute financially to the competition but to arrange for experts to vet the tapes and provide the adjudicators. Although there is a dichotomy of purpose here (Yamaha want to increase their sales and the Society wants promotion in local schools etc.), the Chairman said he had felt that this was an excellent opportunity for the Society in terms of publicity and encouraging young players and had therefore taken it on himself to encourage Miss O'Sullivan's involvement on behalf of the Society. Although there was no formal resolution taken, he wanted to raise the idea now for guidance for the Committee when considering the matter at their next meeting. Dr Short was generally in favour of the collaboration but was concerned that we would not be in the pocket of Yamaha, particularly in view of our links with other instrument makers (Schott and Moeck); Mr Clark also agreed with him, but wondered whether Yamaha were hoping for cheap labour from the Society. It was suggested by Mrs Usher that this might open the way for other instrument makers to seek collaboration with the Society, and the Chairman said that any such approaches would be considered separately. Mr Wyatt questioned whether the Society had sufficient adequate professionals to be adjudicators, though it was suggested that this was a task for the Musical Directors; and it was further suggested that the adjudicators should be paid a professional fee. It was agreed that the SRP would have to make it very clear that the Society would not be promoting

1981 September
Monday 26-10
Yamaha instruments any more than our running of the Moeck and Schott competitions endorses these instruments, i.e. the Society should not be seen as promoting specific commercial products rather than furthering the cause of the recorder.

(c) Mr Parry brought up the question of public liability insurance for Branch meetings, and asked whether the Society had such a policy. The Chairman said that the Committee would consider whether the Society should take up such over-all insurance.

The Conference ended at 12.12 p.m.

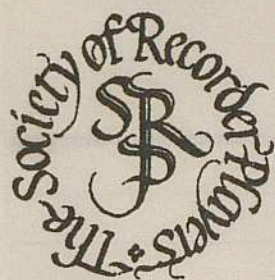
M. D. L.
Chairman
18 April 1993

Tuesday
26-10 Week 38

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Wednesday
26-10 Week 39
Autumnal Equinox

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THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Sir Michael Tippett

Registered Charity No. 282751

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 18 April 1993

(St. Swithun's School, Winchester)

Present:

Committee:

Mr M. Sharman	Chairman	Mr H. Hersom	Musical Adviser
Mrs A. Blackman	Secretary	Mr E. Hunt	Vice-President & Musical Adviser
Dr J. Allen	Membership Secretary		
Mrs D. Reddaway	COS Secretary	Mrs A. Lewin	
Mrs A. Martin	CSRP Secretary		
Mr E. Chapman			
Mr D. Haston			

Other Musical Advisers

Mr C. Martin

Branches:

Aberdeen	Miss P. Moberly	Norfolk	Mr D. Payne
Beds & N. Herts	Mr G. Parry	(Observer)	Mrs D. Finch
Birmingham	Mr R. Russell	Northants	Mrs H. Pillatt
Bristol	Miss E. Hunt	N. Cotswold	Mr C. Jewitt
Cambridge	Mrs P. Davies	N. London	Miss B. Hogg
(Observer)	Mrs E. Sharman	Nottingham	Mrs D. Plumb
Cheltenham/Glos	Mr L. Whitcombe	Oxford	Mr W. Gregson
Cornwall (elect)	Mrs A. Dumbreck	Sheffield	Miss C. Eyre
(Observer)	Mrs A. Chegwiddden	(Observer)	Miss D. Kenyon
COS	Mr C. Burgess	Somerset	Mr K. Imrie
Devon	Mrs J. Fletcher	(Observer)	Mrs K. Imrie
Edinburgh	Miss E. Finlayson	S. London	Mrs M. Crocker
Essex	Mrs M. Panzetta	(Observer)	Miss P. Marsh
(Observer)	Miss M. Seviour	S. Staffs	Mr J. Dunn
Glasgow	Mrs R. McGillivray	Suffolk	Mrs M. Halliwell
Guildford	Mr H. Prosser	Wessex	Mrs E. Pick
Leicester	Miss J. Finns	W. Dorset	Mrs C. Barker
London	Mr A. Collis	W. Riding	Mr R. Corbishley
Manchester	Miss B. Newton	W. Suffolk	Mr T. Robertson
Mid-Herts	Mr B. Fraser-Hook		

The Chairman welcomed Delegates to the Conference and congratulated the Wessex organizers for a very successful Festival and Conference arrangements.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: (Musical Advisers) Mr B. Bonsor, Mr P. Clark, Mr Layton Ring; (Committee) Dr C. Dolmetsch, Mrs P. Lodge, Professor A. Parkin, Mr P. Sturgeon, Mrs M. Usher, Mr T. Wyatt; (Branches) Ayr & District, Bath, Cleveland, Cumbria, Dorset, Durham, Hillfoots, Kent, Lincolnshire, Newcastle, N. Staffs, Nuneaton, Roxburgh, Warwick, Weald of Kent (elect), W. Dorset.
2. The Minutes of the last Conference having been taken as read, it was proposed by Mr Martin, seconded by Mrs Reddaway and agreed that they be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 10(c) The Chairman reported that the Society was taking out insurance for Basic Public Liability, at a cost of 10p per head premium, for claims of up to £1 million covering the Society's legal liabilities to third parties or as between members: covering property, hired halls and other parties if negligence can be proved. He pointed out that some halls for Branch meetings are not hired (e.g. church halls) but donation to funds is taken as an intention to pay, so that the policy covers these circumstances.

4. Officers' reports

(a) The Membership Secretary reported a record membership for 1992/93 of 1689 as against 1613 for 1991/92, and looked forward perhaps to 1700 next year. Twenty Branches had a gain (+101), 10 had no change, and 18 showed a loss (-65), giving a net change of +36. However, the two new Branches to be ratified brought in 40 new members (Cornwall Recorders 13 and Weald of Kent Recorder Players 27), giving a total increase of Society membership of 73 to 1689. Dr Allen said that there were significant gains in Bristol, Edinburgh, Mid-Herts, Oxford and Wessex; and Ayr & District, recently threatened with disbandment, had now doubled its membership; though S.Wales would probably not continue after this year. Dr Allen reported that the distribution of the March magazine by Schotts was a muddle in that Schotts had used an old membership list and the Society was still trying to make up the shortfall. He said that the new membership lists were now available in record time for the Conference, to be collected by those Branches represented at Conference, supplies already having been despatched to Branches unable to attend: grateful thanks were due to Mr Hersom and his team of collators for this tremendous effort. He did not anticipate a new list for another two years. Branch membership print-outs were also available, which could be used for next year's membership returns.

(b) The Treasurer was unable to attend and his report to Conference was read by the the Secretary: "I am sorry not to be here to present my report in person, but I have a long-standing performance engagement which I have decided must have priority. The audited Accounts have been circulated to Branches, together with further comments of the Auditor concerning the Merchandise activities. There was a surplus on the Central Fund of £1,914.47, bringing the reserves to £16,702.08. This is satisfactory. There was a surplus of £218.83 on the Walter Bergmann Fund, bringing the reserves to £11,733.57. This is also satisfactory. Because there was no Merchandise stock-take at the opening of the financial year, it has not been possible to estimate the profit (if any) on Merchandise activities. I recommended that a stock-take be made at 31 March 1993 in order to assess the profitability of the operation. Even if not profitable, members may feel that the higher profile that results for the Society may justify the Merchandise activities. Merchandising has been largely a one-person activity and I am sure that, if it is to continue, further volunteers would be welcome. This is my last year as Treasurer and I would like to thank all those who have put their trust in me over the last 6 years. The workload has increased in this period, and I apologise to all those who have had to endure my ever more terse responses to their colourful, interesting and lengthy letters. I wonder if I might make the

following requests, which I am sure will be appreciated by my successor. (1) Please send all subscriptions with membership information to John Allen. He collects up the cheques and sends them in batches to the Treasurer. (2) If desired, the normal claims for reimbursement of authorised pastoral visits can be met by Branch Treasurers deducting the amount due from the Branch subscriptions to the Central Fund. This saves the Treasurer drawing up cheques, as well as saving on postage and correspondence. (3) Please put your address on correspondence: this saves a lot of time. Special thanks to those few of you who sent me stamped addressed envelopes for my replies!"

The Chairman explained that we had no expert to answer questions on the Accounts, but drew attention to the Auditor's report on the bottom of the Accounts (sent to all Branch Secretaries on 8 April, in time for the Conference) referring to Merchandise. All Society items were complete, but the Walter Bergmann Fund was incomplete as the Auditor could not ratify all the figures. Mr Sharman said that Merchandising activities would be discussed later in the Agenda. It was therefore proposed by Mr Prosser, seconded by Mr Gregson and Conference agreed that the Society Accounts be accepted for the year ended 30 September 1992.

The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Parkin, who over the years has not only handled the Society's affairs so well but also moved our money into the best places for good returns. Mrs Martin seconded the motion and Conference were happy to agree.

(c) The Chairman said his first year in office had been an eventful one in several ways; and he felt that the Society needs to change its way of operating and disseminating information to members and others. He was pleased to see an increase in membership this year, but figures showed that while new people joined each year, many left, and we need more to stay. We also need to attract the many enthusiastic recorder players outside the Society through more effective advertising and promotion. We not only need a loyal membership but a rejuvenation, and should therefore seek to find out what people want to do in their Branches. The Society does not seem to have much contact with other musical bodies (f.i. Early Music Fora) and we should explore such contacts. Another great need is to attract more young people to Branch meetings (though, certainly, some Branches do have junior groups). There followed a lively discussion on this perennial problem. Mr Robertson pointed out that the Cambridge Early Music Forum would print SRP advertisements if we became members. Miss Hogg said that an increasing number of people were playing in private groups; and when asked why they do not join the Society, she was told that they were not interested in mass playing once a month: and the outside picture of the Society (and some experience within it) is of just mass playing of indifferent quality - an observation echoed by Mr Jewitt. Branch meetings would be more attractive if it were possible to run them on the lines of a course. Mr Parry said that in his district youngsters attended Beds & North Herts meetings in defiance of their teachers, who considered the amateur status of the Society was a deleterious influence and therefore they should not be encouraged to join. Annual playing days for 7-12 year-olds advertised in schools were suggested by Mr Jewitt, pointing out that these children should in time become our regular members. Mr Gregson reported that some

peripatetic teachers deliberately wean youngsters away from the recorder in secondary school to other instruments; and Mr Martin said that more good recorder teachers should be enlisted from peripatetic teachers so that the same level of excellence would be available for the recorder as for other instruments. Miss Finlayson said that Edinburgh Branch runs separate groups for youngsters like a club, rather than mixing them with the adult players. Miss Newton reminded Conference of the flourishing Stockport Recorder College, which continues to receive funding from the Authorities. But Mrs Pick and Mrs Martin both pointed out that recorder playing for school children in the weekends would always be in competition with sport.

(d) The COS Secretary reported that paid-up Country & Overseas membership now totalled 241 (as opposed to 210 this time last year) made up of: 194 in the UK, 23 in Europe and 24 world-wide, though there had been 8 resignations this year (since September 1992) and 2 transfers. The Chairman thanked Mrs Reddaway for the personal interest she takes, not only in keeping in touch with her members, but keeping them in touch with Society affairs.

(e) the CSRP Secretary reported that Mr Denis Bloodworth had now replaced Miss Eve O'Kelly on the CSRP sub-committee. There are several candidates preparing for the examination. The CSRP syllabus has been slightly revised in order to invite candidates to submit their own arrangements as well as the prescribed two arrangements. Mrs Martin also reported that over the last year the CSRP committee has liaised with the Directors of the Recorder Summer School, and the Summer School is now a credit-bearing course for Trinity College Music Education diplomas, and also offers preparation for the CSRP, both of which are mentioned in the Summer School brochure. The Chairman thanked Mrs Martin for her continuing endeavours for the Certificate work.

5. Election of Officers

Should not all Delegates have seen the Society notice board during the Festival, the Chairman read out the biographical notes of the nominees for Committee vacancies.

(a) Treasurer. With the retirement of Professor Parkin, the only nominee was Mr Brian Fraser-Hook (Mid Herts), having been proposed by Andrew Parkin, seconded by Herbert Hersom and put forward by Committee. He was therefore proposed by the Chairman and Conference were pleased to elect him as the new Society Treasurer.

(b) Central Committee. Eric Chapman and Moira Usher were due to retire. Since Branches had not submitted any nominations, Central Committee put forward the following three nominations from whom two were to be elected:

- i) Denis Bloodworth (S.London) proposed Theo Wyatt
seconded Anne Martin
- ii) Marion Panzetta (Essex) proposed Moira Usher
seconded Alyson Lewin
- iii) Ena Pick (Wessex) proposed Anne Blackman
seconded Michael Sharman

The ensuing ballot elected Denis Bloodworth and Ena Pick.

(c) Musical Adviser on Committee. With the retirement of Evelyn Nallen, one Musical Adviser was to be elected from two members of the "pool" willing to stand: Paul Clark and Layton Ring. The ensuing ballot elected Paul Clark.

(d) All Officers of the Society, being willing to stand for re-election, were proposed en bloc by Mr Corbishley, seconded by Mrs Panzetta and elected by Conference for a further year.

6. New Branches

Central Committee were pleased to record the formation of two new Branches of the Society and to put them forward for ratification:

i) Cornwall Recorders proposed Mrs Lewin
seconded Mr Hersom

ii) Weald of Kent Recorder Players proposed Mr Hersom
seconded Mr Gregson

and Conference were pleased to ratify both Branches.

7. The Recorder Magazine

The Chairman reported briefly on the demise of the Magazine with the March issue and subsequent developments. It was generally agreed that it was essential to have a regular organ of communication with members as well as a specialist magazine for the recorder and its music. At first Central Committee, on the advice of various members and Musical Advisers, had approached a number of publishers, who all declined to take on the magazine. In this event the Committee had formed a small sub-committee (the Chairman, Herbert Hersom, Alyson Lewin and Anne Martin) to prepare some kind of magazine for June and December, to be called "The Recorder News". But in a sudden recent development a COS member, Ruth Mead, suggested that her husband, Jeremy Burbidge, who runs a publishing firm (the Peacock Press, producing regular specialist magazine, such as "The Beekeepers Quarterly" etc.) was interested and considered he could publish a magazine at present cost and subscription rates. Mr Burbidge had conferred with other publishers, Schotts and others and then purchased the title from Schotts as well as all the subscribers, at the end of March; and he estimated that he could continue supplying the magazine to all who had paid for it. Mr Andrew Mayes was accepted as Editor. In the meantime, the Society sub-committee will continue with a replacement magazine for June (which will be supplied to all Society members), and will keep an eye on the situation for the present, the new magazine beginning with an issue in late August. Central Committee felt that the Society should go ahead with this new magazine from the beginning and, hopefully, thus be able to influence its development. The Society needs a place in the outside world and so very much needs a journal of its own. The Chairman pointed out that Schotts did not appear to have promoted its magazine very well, whereas the Peacock Press wants to greatly increase the subscription lists; and he felt the venture needs the Society's full support, since little profit, if any, will be made for two years. For the coming Early Music Exhibition in November 4000 copies would be made available. The Peacock Press will keep the present Schott subscription rates and will hold the SRP lists and undertake distribution. Also, supply of the new magazine can commence at any time of the year and copy date will be reduced from 3 to 1 month in advance. Mr Jewitt questioned whether the Society should not have first reviewed this new development with regard to its quality, its particular relevance to the Society or to all recorder players; but Mrs Martin pointed out that the Peacock Press had bought the

title and subscribers and therefore the new magazine must now proceed as envisaged. The new Editor wants to retain the four pages for Society matters, but wants the magazine to reach all non-members, professional musicians etc. as well, and to have an editorial section. Production will not be of a glossy nature, but something between that and desk-top printing, a small specialist journal to break even and possibly make a small profit. The Chairman pointed out that we are not committing ourselves for ever, but to 2 issues this year and 4 next year, to start with.

There followed a discussion on the question of all members taking the magazine or preserving the two-tier membership.

Mr Hunt mentioned that the first arrangement with Schotts was that the magazine went to every member and it was a proper vehicle of the Society. Mr Russell said that Birmingham Branch had just reverted to an Old Style Branch and hoped that a cheaper membership would benefit; while Miss Hogg wondered whether people would leave the Society if everyone had to pay for the magazine. However, Mr Hersom reminded Conference of what it costs most people for weekly papers and, say, the Radio Times, and compared that with any extra per annum which would need to be paid for the magazine. He reiterated that members should be persuaded that the recorder world needs a magazine. Mr Robertson felt that having two types of Branch subscriptions was idiotic, pointing out that other societies supply their magazine to all members; and he then proposed, seconded by Mr Gregson, that for next year the subscription for all members should include the cost of the magazine, and Conference agreed.

The Chairman informed Conference that next year we need to cover heavier Conference expenses, and suggested a small extra 50p on subscriptions to help defray the cost of delegates going to Aberdeen as well as the new magazine for all members:

Full member (£8.50)	to be £9.00
Household (£9.50)	.. £10.00
Student (£6.50)	.. £7.00

There was some support for those on small incomes (e.g. pensioners, unemployed) not having to pay for a magazine, but Mr Martin considered that we should not just satisfy the needs of the elderly but consider the needs of youngsters. Mr Chapman pointed out that Branches could be saved money now that the Society was to pay for insurance cover, but he still felt that the Society subscriptions are too low and that we are under-selling ourselves. Mrs Martin also pointed to the difference between Society annual subscriptions and evening class fees; and Mr Gregson cited Oxford's weekly meetings and links with North Cotswold etc. whereby members can have 3 weekly meetings at £14.00 p.a. compared with professional tuition fees per hour. It was generally felt that the Society gives good value for the money. The Chairman then put the the new rates he had suggested, and it was proposed by Mr Martin, seconded by Miss Hogg and the majority agreed to the additional 50p being added to all subscriptions for the coming year (the Branch element of the subscription to remain discretionary).

It was decided that all details of the new membership rates would be included in the new magazine, and that we should compose a form of instructions to new Branch Secretaries on membership returns, rates, cards etc.

Delegates were told that Branches may make any of their members an Honorary Member of that Branch for a year (i.e. their President, Conductor or someone in return for outstanding services) where the Branch will pay the full subscription to the Society.

8. Future Festivals

1994 Mr Haston reported that plans were well in hand for 2/3 July for a 2-day Festival and that there was some University accommodation available, which must be booked by Easter either for the Festival and/or a Scottish holiday.

1995 would be held on the first or second Saturday in May at the Royal Naval School for Girls in Haslemere, organized by Guildford Branch.

1996 The Chairman asked Branches to give thought to this year. The Chairman thanked Ena Pick and her many helpers for a most enjoyable, well-planned Festival, with an enquiry desk always manned by a helpful team, smooth-running refreshments and meal arrangements. They were to be congratulated on the variety of playing groups to choose from and the well-thought-out "traffic" arrangements for getting from one room to another.

9. Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

In the absence of Miss O'Sullivan, Mr Hersom gave his report on the Fund. It has been found that a Charity may not sell goods to raise money, so that it is necessary to form a company, pay tax on sales, and then reclaim the tax as a Charity. He said that Miss O'Sullivan sells a good number of goods at courses. Some thousands of pounds are tied up in stock, and even if not much money should be raised, this nevertheless keeps the Fund (and the Society) in the picture. However, there have been a number of donations from Branches (some in memory of deceased members) and a £1000 p.a. covenanted donation had been received from an outsider. £5,310.00 has so far been granted to young people between 9 years and mid-20s, mostly for better instruments, such requests for grants being vouched for by tutors or teachers, and coming from students in upper grades in schools or from music colleges. One blind student had asked for music in braille.

The Chairman said that some Branches have stocks of Fund merchandise, and he asked if Branch Secretaries would be willing to fill in a stock check if a list was sent to them. General willingness was expressed. He thanked the Fund sub-committee for their work and also Miss O'Sullivan for all her effort in promoting the merchandise in outside avenues, and so promoting the Society itself. The Chairman went on to inform Conference that expert advice was being taken on the formation of a separate Company to sell merchandise. The profits would be donated to the Walter Bergmann Fund. In answer to a query, it was agreed to arrange that profits could be available to either the Bergmann Fund or Central Funds.

10. Extension of SRP activities

(a) Mr Hersom reported that The Teacher's Guide was now in its fifth 1000 copies.

(b) There had been several offers of help in printing the booklets on the recorder and its repertoire being organized by Mrs Usher. She has now received proofs from Edward Morgan and

four are ready for proof-reading. She hopes to have the first batch of completed booklets ready by September.

(c) Moeck and other competitions

Miss O'Sullivan had said she would wind up the 1991 Moeck solo competition and would then retire from administering the competitions. Patricia Davies (Cambridge) is interested in taking over this administration, but does not have enough time to make arrangements (i.e. advertising for entrants, collecting tapes to be considered by the adjudicators beforehand, etc.) for this year's Early Music Exhibition on 12-14 November. Mrs Davies conducts school workshops in Cambridge and runs a junior recorder group. She has further ideas for publicity. The Schott's competition for ensembles was not held in 1991 through lack of entrants. It was reported at last year's Conference that Yamaha Kemble (UK) Ltd had approached the Society about establishing an SRP/Yamaha school recorder competition and, although there had been preliminary discussions with Mr Higginbottom, later efforts to make contact with Yamaha had completely failed; so the Society had not proceeded with the idea. Mrs Martin felt that Festivals should encourage competitions to bring forward promising young players; and the Chairman felt that the Society should continue with joint manufacturers' competition projects, but on our terms and to ensure that the Society is not promoting their particular product.

(d) Society brochure. Mrs Martin wondered whether these were being used to promote the Society, and Mr Dunn informed Conference that the Staffs County Library Service has agreed to distribute 500 brochures to all their libraries. Mrs Martin also suggested that there should be a Society stall at every Festival. Mr Russell reported that Birmingham Branch had recently undertaken a recorder exhibition in the City.

11. Any other business

(a) The Chairman said that he had written to Miss O'Kelly expressing the Society's thanks for her work as Editor of The Recorder Magazine.

(b) Rubber stamps bearing the Society's charity number (now required on all Society and Branch documents) were available to Delegates for sale at £3.75 each.

(c) Mrs Pick drew attention to the brochures about various courses etc. displayed at the enquiry desk.

The Conference ended at 12.50 p.m., when a delicious buffet lunch had been prepared for Delegates by Mr Ron Pick.

Mr. D. L.
Chairman 3 July 1994

1981

October

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 3 July 1994

St Machar Academy, Aberdeen

PRESENT:

Committee:

Mr M Sharman	Chairman	Mr P Sturgeon	(also Nottingham Branch)
Mr A Read	Secretary Elect	Mr T Wyatt	Musical Adviser
Mr B Fraser-Hook	Treasurer		
Mrs A Martin	Examination Secretary		
Mr D Bloodworth	(also S London Br)	<i>Other Musical Advisers</i>	
Mr H Hersom	Musical Adviser	Mr B Bonsor	
Mrs A Lewin		Mr C Martin	
Mrs E Pick	(also Wessex Branch)	Miss E Nallen	

Branches:

Aberdeen	Miss S Wright	Manchester	Mrs N Ross
Beds & N Herts	Mr G Parry	Mid-Herts	Mrs M Palmer
Bristol	Miss E Hunt	Newcastle	Mr M Evans
(Observer	Miss S Davies)	(Observer	Mrs M Evans)
Cambridge	Mrs J Bailey	(Observer	Miss J Brownlow)
(Observer	Mrs E Sharman)	Norfolk	Mrs S Philip
Cleveland	Miss S Foxall	North Cotswold	Mrs N Herdson
Cornwall	Mrs A Dumbreck	North Staffs	Mrs G Cheney
Durham	Miss M Tyers	(Observer	Mrs J Bridge)
Edinburgh	Dr A Short	Northampton	Mrs H Pillatt
Glasgow	Mrs R McGillivray	Roxburgh	Mrs M Bonsor
Gloucester	Mr P Dalziel	S Staffs	Mr J Dunn
Guildford	Mr H Prosser	Sheffield	Miss C Eyre
Hillfoots	Miss M Simpson	Somerset	Mr K Imrie
Leicester	Miss J Finns	Suffolk	Mrs A Gray
Lincoln	Mrs S Hardman	West Riding	Mr R Corbishley
London & N London	Mr M Windisch	(Observer	Miss D Kenyon)

The Chairman welcomed Delegates to the Conference and congratulated the Aberdeen Branch organizers for a very successful Festival and for the Conference arrangements. He confirmed that The Society would reimburse those attending for two nights' bed and breakfast plus one evening meal, together with the actual cost of air or rail fares or mileage at 12p/mile.

- (1) **Apologies for absence** were received from: (Musical Advisers) Mr P Clark, Dr C Dolmetsch, Mr E Hunt; (Committee) Dr J Allen, Mrs A Blackman, Dr R Coles, Mr A Collis, Mrs P Davies, Mr G Layton-Ring, Miss E O'Kelly, Mrs D Reddaway; (Branches) Ayr & District, Bath, Cumbria, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Ireland, Kent, High Wycombe, Nuneaton, Oxford, Warwick, Weald of Kent, West Dorset, West Suffolk.
- (2) **Minutes of the last Conference** having been taken as read, it was proposed by Mr C Martin, seconded by Mrs A Lewin and agreed that they should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- (3) There were no **Matters arising**.
- (4) **Officers' Reports**
- (a) On behalf of *The Secretary*, Mr Read said that
- (i) **New Branch Enquires**. Enquiries had been received from Mr D Grosvenor of York and Miss S Geldard of Dover.
- (ii) **Demise of Branches**. It was with regret that South Wales and Ayr & District Branches had been dissolved.
- (iii) **New Branch Secretary**. Mrs Audrey Illingworth was elected Norfolk Branch's Secretary with effect from May 1994. Her address is 37 Greenways, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 6PA ☎ (01603) 52776.
- (b) On behalf of *The Membership Secretary* the Chairman reported
- (i) that membership remains relatively stable. A revised figure for 1992-93 is 1,691; this year we have 1,663 members which, though less than last year's record, is still the second highest ever. There were now 48 branches. There were no changes in seven branches; 17 branches had increased their membership (+70); 25 branches reported a decrease (-78). With the demise of South Wales Branch there was a loss of 11 members; and East Berkshire had 14 new members. Net loss 5 members and 23 from COS (see below). There were significant increases in four branches, namely Cornwall, Glasgow, Guildford and Newcastle.
- (ii) **Country & Overseas**. On behalf of COS Secretary, he reported a branch membership of 215, a decrease of 23 from last year's peak, almost entirely confined to the UK section.
- (iii) **Recorder Magazine**. Contrary to expectations, obligatory receipt of the Magazine had no widespread general effect on the number of members.
- (iv) **Supplies of Membership Cards** were available for collection at the close of Conference.

(v) **Membership List.** Computer print-outs would be sent out before the start of 1994-95 session. Since it is proposed to reprint the Membership List it would be greatly appreciated if these could be amended and returned as soon as possible. Branches should particularly bear in mind forthcoming major revisions by BT to STD codes.

(c) *The Treasurer*

(i) said that the Accounts had been circulated to Branches and that these would be audited with those for 1993-94. Income was £11,812; expenditure, £13,471, deficit, £1,659. Subscriptions were £10,919. Pastoral visits cost the Society £886 (10% higher than the previous year). The Workshop Account had now been closed and the balance transferred to Central funds. The 1993 Winchester Festival had made a surplus of £588 and Alva 1992, £44. The Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund had received income of £4,482 (of which £2,552 had been from donations; £852 surplus on merchandising); expenditure in the form of grants totalled £1,975.

(ii) **Subscriptions.** The Treasurer recommended to Conference that there be no change to subscriptions for the year 1994-95.

(iii) **Housekeeping.** Mr Fraser-Hook asked, once again, that subscriptions should be sent directly to Dr Allen so that there was no delay in members receiving their first magazine. He also made a plea that reimbursement for pastoral visits be made as soon as possible and not delayed to the following year or deducted from subscriptions.

It was proposed by Mr Dalziel, seconded by Miss Hunt and Conference agreed that the Society Accounts be approved for the year ended 30 September 1993.

(d) *The Chairman* said he wished to take the opportunity to comment on communication. He suggested that the expertise and ability we had within the framework of the Society meant that playing and enjoyment were the chief benefits, which were not readily available outside the SRP. The framework was, however, embodied in its Rules which were there to help and, where necessary, to change the nature of the SRP according to the wants and needs of the membership. He believed in democracy within the Society and said the membership could always replace the Chairman and Committee. Branches should ensure that they were equally democratic. He concluded by saying that it was a matter of regret that some of the best members/players left, thereby depriving the newer and less experienced ones of help and guidance.

(e) *The CSRP Secretary* reported that one candidate had been examined and two were in preparation. She said that, despite the small numbers, it still had a rôle to play in music education. The Chairman thanked Mrs Martin for continuing her endeavours for the Certificate work.

(5) Election of Officers and Committee**(a) Honorary Life Membership**

(i) On the recommendation of Northampton Branch, the Central Committee proposed Dick and Monica Coles, in recognition of their outstanding work, both at branch and national level, should be elected Honorary Life Members of the Society. Conference was pleased to agree to this.

(ii) Having given 14 years' valued service as *Hon Secretary*, Anne Blackman has retired. In recognition of her services the Central Committee proposed and Conference was pleased to agree her election as Honorary Life Member of the Society. Guildford Branch wished to record their personal thanks to Anne for all her help. It was further agreed that should branches wish to make a donation towards a presentation (on a date to be arranged) they should contact the Treasurer.

(b) *Officers: Secretary.* With the retirement of Mrs Blackman, the only nominee was Mr Alistair Read (London Branch), having been proposed by Anne Blackman, seconded by Harry Prosser. Conference elected him as the new Society Secretary.

(c) *Musical Adviser on Committee.* With the retirement of Herbert Hersom, the only one member of the "pool" who was willing to accept the Committee's nomination to stand for election was Colin Martin, proposed by Theo Wyatt and seconded by Diana Reddaway. Conference elected.

(d) *Musical Advisers.* As less than half the total number of Musical Advisers wished to attend Committee meetings, two additional names were nominated by Central Committee. Alyson Lewin, proposed by Anne Martin, seconded by Herbert Hersom, and Anthony Rowland-Jones, proposed by Michael Sharman and seconded by Theo Wyatt. Conference elected.

(e) *Committee members.* Petrina Lodge and Peter Sturgeon were due to retire. Kent Branch has nominated Mr Hoult. No other branch having put forward any names, Central Committee put forward three nominations:

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| 1. Andrew Collis (London) | <u>proposed</u> Herbert Hersom,
<u>seconded</u> Diana Reddaway |
| 2. Martin Evans (Newcastle) | <u>proposed</u> Theo Wyatt
<u>seconded</u> John Allen |
| 3. Robert Hoult (Kent) | <u>proposed</u> Adrian Alexander
<u>seconded</u> Noreen Johnson |
| 4. Ann Lyall (Bath) | <u>proposed</u> Ena Pick
<u>seconded</u> Herbert Hersom |

The ensuing ballot elected Andrew Collis and Anne Lyall.

(f) All *Officers*, together with the Hon. Auditor, being willing to stand for re-election, were proposed en bloc by Mr Prosser and seconded by Mr Corbishley and elected by Conference for a further year.

(6) (a) *New Branch*

Acceptance of the new Branch of East Berkshire (EBK) was proposed by the Chairman and ratified with pleasure by Conference. Mrs Herdson, branch secretary, said they had 17 members; their musical director was Andrew Challenger and chairperson, Diana Phipps.

(b) *Demised Branches*

As reported above, the South Wales Branch and the Ayr & District Branch were both disbanded during the year. The Treasurer reported that assets of the branches had been lodged with him. Mr Prosser enquired whether there was any procedure for disposal of branch music and/or instruments. He was informed that, according to The Rules, all assets should be passed to the Central body.

(7) *The Recorder Magazine*

The Chairman said the feedback he had received was that the magazine was of a good standard. He had received a letter from Andrew Mayes, editor, Peacock Press, thanking everyone for contributions. The magazine now had a circulation of 3,000 in 41 countries. The Chairman went on to say that it was up to members to let the editor know their views. Members' subscription enquiries should, however, on all occasions be channelled through John Allen and not Andrew Mayes. Miss Hunt (Bristol) said they had recently used old Schott leaflets as fliers to advertise the branch. It was suggested that Peacock Press should be contacted for further publicity material.

There then followed a discussion with regard to magazine and subscription dates. In answer to many questions from Conference, the Chairman said that, provided a subscription was received a fortnight before publication, a member would receive a magazine. It is now also much easier to obtain back and current numbers. He did, however, reiterate that the onus was on branch secretaries to forward details to John Allen quickly, and not wait until all branch subscriptions had been collected. He went on to say that, with effect from 1994-95, all subscriptions received by 15 November 1994 would receive four issues of the magazine commencing with the December 1994 issue. Existing members had already paid for this issue in the previous year's subscription and this would be taken into account; members would receive all the magazines due to them on a rolling basis. He specifically discounted Dr Short's complaint that Edinburgh's subscriptions would be too late for the 15 November deadline by pointing out that members had already paid for the December 1994 issue. From the start of the 1994-95 membership year any new member, or unpaid-up old member, whose subscription is received by the national Membership Secretary shall receive four copies of the *Recorder Magazine* commencing with the next issue.

(8) Future Festivals

(a) *Guildford 1995.* Mrs Martin confirmed that arrangements for Guildford Branch to host the 1995 Festival and Conference at Haslemere were at an advanced stage. She pointed out that the Society's President, Sir Michael Tippett, would be 90 years old in January 1995 and next year would also be the 300th anniversary of Purcell's death; she suggested that these events should not go unrecorded. The occasion would be arranged over two days. There would be adequate parking at the Royal Naval School for Girls, Haslemere, Surrey, and it was envisaged that a shuttle bus service would be provided from Haslemere station to the venue. In answer to criticism that the date coincided with a bank holiday, Mrs Martin said she was of the opinion that traffic was frequently lighter on such a weekend, rather than heavier.

(b) *1996.* Mr Evans' proposal that Newcastle Branch host the 1996 Festival and Conference was warmly received.

(c) Mr Bonsor suggested that the time had come to abandon yearly festivals and proposed that the Society follow the Alva precedent with six regional ones instead. It would, he said, be easier to organise. Venues generally had poor acoustics for mass playing, it would be easier to organise; and Conference could rotate. Mr Dalziel suggested that four regional boundaries might be more advantageous. Mrs Pick thought that, whilst it was worth considering, there would be a great deal of work for branches too frequently. Dr Short said Alva had been organised over the past ten years, with the secretarial work being carried out by Scottish branches in rotation. Mrs Martin thought that a series of regional venues would put a strain on the availability of conductors and she queried whether shops would wish to man a number of venues.

(d) *1997.* A tentative offer was made by Mid-Herts, which would be for a one-day festival plus a conference day. The venue would possibly be Potters Bar.

(9) Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund

Herbert Hersom said he had nothing to add to the report contained in the annual accounts. He did mention that £2,000 had been disbursed to 19 applicants, mostly as an aid to buying a decent recorder. He said that now the profits from merchandising had ceased there were fund-raising difficulties. Stock had been written off, but there were still some items to be disposed of, not least some 1,700 Christmas cards. These were to be repackaged into ten mixed cards and he fervently hoped all branches would take some to clear the stock. They would be available from him. Asked if there would be any further trading of merchandise, Mr Hersom was emphatic in his negative response. He went on to say that forms for covenanting and making wills were available at Conference and from him in the future. The WBMF sub-committee comprised Graham Danbury, Patricia Davies, Andrew Collis and himself.

(10) Extention of SRP Activities

(a) *Competition.* There would be a SRP/Moeck Competition in 1995. Leaflets had been prepared and were being distributed to educational establishments. Following Andrew Collis's report new rules had been approved. Three adjudicators had yet to be appointed. Patricia Davies was organising it.

(b) *Booklets.* The Chairman reported that *The Recorder Player's Guide to Composers*, compiled by Bill Longley, was now available at Conference, £2.50 (direct sales) or £2.75 (by post). Mrs Martin asked Conference to join with her in thanking Moira Usher for all her hard work in acting as series editor for all the booklets and asked that the Chairman record this in a letter.

(11) Any other business

(a) The Chairman said that notepaper and charity status rubber stamps were available for purchase at Conference and reminded us that, under the Charities Act 1992, all paperwork, and particularly cheques and invoices, should bear the rubber stamp imprint.

(b) The Chairman said that, whilst he was aware that Cambridge and Somerset branches had experienced problems with insurance of instruments and music, he would like to know the demand for this type of insurance. After a very small response he said that the matter would be discussed at the October 1994 committee meeting.

(c) Mrs Cheney said that North Staffordshire branch was experiencing difficulty in obtaining the services of conductors to undertake pastoral visits. It was suggested that as it met on a Friday evening this might be a contributory cause which could be mitigated by offering overnight accommodation, although the underlying problem remained that the majority of conductors were working people and found a journey difficult at the end of the working day. It was also suggested that, for a pastoral visit, the branch meet on a Saturday.

The Conference ended at 1.00 p.m. The Chairman wished to record the Society's thanks to Douglas Haston and his many helpers for organising a successful Festival and Conference.

JAR
08.07.94
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Mr D.L.
Chairman
28 May 1995

