

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2008

Held at St John's Church Hall, Merrow, Guildford.

PRESENT:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Eileen Silcocks	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Beryl Craven	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Caroline Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Jane Sellek	Committee
Andrew Collis	Chairman, WBF	Mary Steele	Committee
Andrew Short	Chairman, NYRO	Alistair Read	Guest
Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser		

1 Apologies for absence: The Chairman welcomed everyone and said apologies had been received from Helen Jones, Petrina Lodge, Jim Rowley, Madeline Seviour, Margaret Shearing, Colin Touchin and Mary Tyers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 October 2007 were AGREED after adding the words '... should not ...' after 'branch committees' in Item 3, Matters Arising. Proposed: Mary Steele; seconded: Moira Usher and approved *nem. con.*

3. Matters arising

There were no Matters Arising not otherwise on the Agenda.

4. Officers' Reports—see attached documentation. Unless the officer had anything to add to his/her written report, details are not repeated below.

4.1 *Secretary:* noted that due to a Branch's confusion over the requested year of a Pastoral Visit the total for 2008-09 was now 4 and for 2009-10, zero.

4.2 *Chairman Walter Bergmann Fund:* reported that he had now received nine applications for funding, an increase of three.

4.3 *News Editor:* had proposed some recommendations which were taken later in the Agenda (Item 10).

4.4 *Training Co-ordinator:* regretted that only one or two workshops were being held per year and sought ideas for increasing this number. It was noted that since her report was written Leicester Branch had requested a technique session. She emphasised that anyone can organise a workshop; it doesn't have to be done on behalf of a Branch or even, to meet the Society's charity remit to serve the public, by Society members. It was AGREED that up to date information should be posted on the Society's web site, that advertising material should be distributed at the annual Festival and that a short article could be written for the Recorder Magazine. Another idea was to combine a Saturday Pastoral Visit with a one-day training workshop on the following Sunday.

4.5 *Membership Secretary:* had proposed some recommendations which were taken later in the Agenda (Item 9).

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4.6 *Treasurer*: It was noted that: Gift Aid had still to be claimed for the years 2006/07 and 2007/08; the Employers Liability was there to cover the NYRO Administrator; Pastoral Visitors' Expenses were up because of the increase in fuel costs and as a result the Treasurer recommended an increase of £0.50 in the national subscription for the coming year. The drop in income from NYRO Friends was explained by a falling off in renewals and also by some accounting difficulty in separating income from friends and sponsors.

The Treasurer said that the accounts needed to be adjusted for the capital value, if more than £500, of purchased instruments which represented an asset. It was also noted that any significant expenditure on instruments should be balanced in the accounts by an equivalent asset and that the Society needed to develop a policy of writing down such assets on an annual basis. The Treasurer said that she would adjust the accounts, after the meeting, to allow for instruments bought. On that basis it was proposed that,

The Trustees APPROVE the Charity Accounts subject to the addition of bought instruments and after discussion with the Auditor.

Proposed: Mary Steele: Seconded: Eileen Silcocks Carried.

The Committee thanks the Treasurer and Auditor for their time spent on the accounts.

Proposed: Andrew Collis: Seconded: Moira Usher Carried.

Finally Moira Usher pointed out that Trustees of the Society had to inform the Treasurer when they had been paid for any work connected with the Society, other than travelling expenses. It was noted that new Committee members and Musical Advisors needed to be made aware of this requirement [Action Secretary].

5. Report on the status of planning for Festival 2008

Ulli Burchette asked whether two combined class rooms would be an adequate space in which to hold Conference; the Committee agreed that it would. She also asked for suggestions about how the Vote of Thanks to the organisers would be managed. It was suggested that this could take place after the Sunday Mass Playing (with a report on Conference) or even on Saturday evening.

Ulli Burchette asked about how a piece that Andrew Challenger was writing for the Festival attendees would be published and paid for. She had had a quote of £4 per copy. Others present offered to explore cheaper alternatives.

Evelyn Nallen explained the status of the piece that she was trying to commission for the Society. She explained that she had contacted 6 composers or their agents. Some were much too busy, although not entirely disinterested, but Gavin Bryers had agreed. He had been given the date of the Festival and had been asked to write for around Grade 6 level; Schotts would publish the piece (this could happen immediately if the Society waived the normal 12 month embargo). It would have 4-5 parts with optional great bass and contrabass parts. If the piece was available for the Festival Evelyn, with some of her students, would give the first performance. The Chairman said that he had already committed the Society to pay £1000 for the piece and that £6-7k were expected from Gift Aid for the past two years which would easily cover it.

Evelyn concluded by saying that she hoped that commissioning works like this from professional composers would be an ongoing project for the Society. Although it was not uncommon on the continent it was not happening in UK. She added that the Society should try to be on the lists of several composers in an effort to raise the profile of the recorder.

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It was proposed that;

The Committee APPROVE the expenditure of £1000 for a piece to be played at Festival 2008.

Proposed: Eileen Silcocks Seconded: Beryl Craven Carried.

And;

Subject to approval of the costs, the Society would seek out commissioned works for the recorder in future.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded: Andrew Collis Carried.

6. Review the conduct of the Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Playing Competition

This item was taken in the context of Mary Tyers recently announced resignation from the post of Moeck Competition Administrator. There had also been criticisms of the conduct of the Adjudicators in the 2007 Competition related to the fact that the winner had been a pupil of one of the Adjudicators. After discussion the Committee AGREED that the best approach in future would be to seek three adjudicators as follows: one UK recorder player, one non-UK recorder player and one other, non-recorder playing, professional musician.

It was also AGREED that the relevant page on the Society's web site was out of date and needed updating [Action Mary Tyers/Webmaster]. This needed to make clear in addition that 'solo' competitors could use an accompanist. The Chairman agreed to review the level of the prize money [Action Chairman].

It was AGREED that Moeck should be approached with a view to publishing the winning composition of Tim Galton provided that the Society's name was mentioned on the sheet music [Action Secretary].

It was AGREED that in future the Competition Administrator should not sign cheques but that this should be done by the Treasurer.

The Committee unanimously passed a Vote of Thanks to Mary Tyers for all her efforts over 10 years in support of the Moeck Competition.

Finally, to acclamation, Andrew Collis offered to stand as the next Moeck Competition Administrator.

7. Committee memberships and posts rotating at Conference 2008

7.1 Country & Overseas Branch. Jim Rowley had offered his resignation as Branch Secretary. Sandra Foxall had been approached and had offered to stand for the post of COS Secretary at Conference 2009.

7.3 Moeck/SRP Solo Recorder Playing Competition. See Item 6 for reference to the post of Competition Administrator.

7.2 National Committee. The Secretary reported that to date only one person had been nominated to stand as a Committee member at Conference. Since two members were due to rotate off the Committee each year at least one more nomination was required. Committee members undertook to approach several potential applicants.

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8. To wind up the SRP Working Party.

It was proposed that;

The SRP Working Party be wound up.

Proposed: Moira Usher.

Carried *nem. con.*

9. Implications of members who opt out of the computerised membership list

The Chairman reported that he had consulted the Data Protection helpline which had confirmed that there were no Data Protection issues involved in the way the Society currently handled its membership list. Further, although this list was provided to Peacock Press, to assist them with circulating The Recorder Magazine to members, the Press used the list only for that purpose and not for marketing their products. He continued that he proposed that the membership Application Form was amended so that attention was not drawn to the possibility of having one's details removed from the computerised list although, if a member requested it, this was still an option and the member's name alone would appear in the biennially published list. The Committee AGREED that the changes should be implemented and that Branch Membership Secretaries and Treasurers should be informed of the new arrangements [Action Membership Secretary].

10. To discuss new 'Guidelines for news items' in The Recorder Magazine

The guidelines prepared by Madeline Seviour were tabled and noted by the Committee.

11. Paper on 'Gift Aid Guidance'

Draft Guidance Notes for Branches about claiming Gift Aid were tabled by the Chairman. They will be circulated to Branches after Conference [Action Chairman]. However not all the Gift Aid Returns had been received from Branches. Two lists were circulated, one for 2006-07 and the other for 2007-08. These showed the Branches for which returns were still outstanding as well as the donations to the Society derived from subscriptions of those members who had made Gift Aid Declarations.

It was proposed that,

The Committee thanks the Chairman for his efforts in claiming Gift Aid for the Society.

Proposed: Moira Usher

Carried *nem. con.*

12. The use of the Course Checklist in The Recorder Magazine by non-members

This was judged not to be within the remit of the Committee because the courses appeared in the magazine outside the four pages allocated to the Society. However the Secretary confirmed that he was willing to continue to administer the List for The Recorder Magazine.

13. Any other business

13.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of the NYRO Sub-Committee held on 8 February 2008 were presented and discussed.

13.2 The NYRO Sub-Committee submitted an idea for transferring payments away from dual signing of cheques to telephone and internet banking. Ulli Burchette undertook to ask the Society's bank about their procedure for handling electronic payments for charities such as the SRP [Action Treasurer]. Alistair Read commented that perhaps the principle could be agreed at Conference and the details worked out later.

13.3 Andrew Short presented the draft of a new Rule for the Society which required approval by Conference. It related to the Society having to take account of the different laws for charities in both England & Wales and Scotland.

13.4 It was also noted that from 1 April 2008 all Society documents had to display the charity numbers of both England & Wales (282751) and Scotland (SC038422). The Chairman said that he would write to inform the Society's bank of this change [Action Chairman].

13.5 The Committee AGREED that in future its Minutes and other relevant papers would be distributed to Helen Shabatai (Editor of The Recorder Magazine) and Ashley Allerton (Web Editor) to keep them informed.

13.6 The Secretary pointed out that page 3 of the 2007 Membership List was in error in its listing of Officers of the Society. Only the first five names were in reality the Officers and the remainder, except for the NYRO Administrator and the Website Editor, were Committee members. The Committee AGREED that future editions should make this distinction clear.

13.7 The Committee AGREED to re-appoint the three members of the NYRO Sub-Committee (Diane Charles, Jean Murray and Rosemary Byde (Treasurer)), whose appointments lapsed in February 2008, for a further three-year term.

13.8 The Committee noted a request from the Woodhouse Recorder Weekend course for further financial support but declined to donate further funds on the basis that it was a commercial enterprise that already benefitted from a grant from the Walter Bergmann Fund.

13.9 After a short discussion it was decided that no changes needed to be made to the Foreword to the Pastoral Visitor List.

13.10 The Chairman thanked Beryl Craven, and Colin Touchin and Helen Jones (*in absentia*), who were retiring from the Committee, for their work in support of the Society.

13.11 The Committee AGREED unanimously to propose Alistair Read for a Life Membership of the Society at Conference 2008 in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Hon Secretary over many years.

13.12 The Committee recorded its grateful thanks to Jill Pyper for her assistance in providing refreshments for the Committee meeting.

14. Date of next meeting

Sunday, 20 April 2008 at Weald of Kent Girls' Grammar School, Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge. It was AGREED that the Committee would meet at Benslow for the 19 October 2008 and 15 February 2009 meetings.

RGP/RBW

Minutes (final), 17.02.08, amended 20.04.08

23/04/08