



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

22 APRIL 2012

St Teresa's School, Effingham Hill, Surrey RH5 6ST

PRESENT:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	April Munday	Committee
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Naomi Wellings	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Membership Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Country/Overseas Sec	Frances Tuffery	Festival 2013
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Anthony Hall	Web Editor
Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser	Dick Pyper	By invitation
Ross Winters	Musical Adviser Pool		

1. Welcome

The Committee convened at 11.15. Andrew Short welcomed Tessa Rolph to her first Committee meeting as Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Jones, Pamela Flanagan, Moira Usher (as the new Walter Bergmann Fund Chairman), Frances Tuffery (on behalf of Festival 2013) and Ross Winters (as a new member of the Musical Adviser Pool). She noted that new Committee member Sheila Richards was unavailable.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Powell, Colin Touchin and Sheila Richards.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and were signed by the previous Chairman.

4. To review Actions and Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda

- 4.1 SRP/Moeck Competition. Dick Pyper, who had offered earlier to assist with the competition, noted that he was not musically qualified to coordinate the competition. Therefore he had asked Jill Kemp to help him. Together they had prepared a tentative list of judges. He noted that no one yet appeared to have a clear idea of all the costs involved although itemised information was available in the Treasurer's records for those costs previously paid by the Society. The Treasurer said she is working with Peter Booth, Early Music Shop, to compile this financial information for the 2011 Competition.

Dick Pyper concluded by saying that he was willing to carry on with coordinating the competition if asked. Eva Fegers' recital would now take place in Greenwich on 10 November 2012; this would be announced on the SRP web site once the time had been confirmed. **[Action Dick Pyper, Anthony Hall]**

Evelyn Nallen questioned the *raison d'être* of the competition because she noted that most competitors now came from outside the UK when once there had been more than 40 from within the country. She wondered what was the Society's role in the competition as a charity?

Pamela Flanagan said that the Dublin Piano Competition, a comparable event, arranged more than one recital for the winner after the competition. She suggested that Moeck could provide more support in this regard. For example, there could be a special prize for the best UK competitor.

When Moira Usher suggested postponing the 2013 competition Dick Pyper replied that it was too late; the arrangements for 2013 had to be set in motion soon. Naomi Wellings suggested that it would be better to plan for any changes in 2015.

The Chairman thanked Dick Pyper for his offer and concluded that the Committee was very happy for him to continue making the competition arrangements for 2012 and 2013 while noting that neither he nor Jill Kemp were Trustees (Rules 4.2 and 4.8 state that the Competition Administrator shall be a Trustee). The Committee should re-visit the suggestions made at a later date. **[Action Secretary]**

- 4.2 Chiltern Recorder Consort Series. Dick Pyper summarised the state of play with finding a publisher for Alex Ayre's re-set music. He said that Recorder Music Mail was the only publisher, of three which had been approached, which had responded positively. A draft contract was in preparation.

The Chairman concluded that the final version of the draft contract, after consultation with Recorder Music Mail, should be considered at the Committee's October meeting. **[Action Dick Pyper to finalise contract]**

- 4.3 The Society's records. The Secretary explained that he had made an appointment to hand over archive material (original Committee and Conference Minutes from 1937 until 2000 or 2002) to the British Library in May. He would again suggest that the British Library might like to exchange photocopies of Alex Ayre's arrangements for the originals but noted that preliminary approaches by David Powell had not been met with enthusiasm. **[Action Secretary]**

- 4.4 The Society's logo. Ross Winters revealed that his mother had designed the current logo in the mid-1970s. There was majority agreement, after a show of hands, that the logo needed to be changed at some point because it looked slightly dated and would not reproduce sharply at all scales but immediate action was not required. It was decided that a competition for all members should be announced in the next issue of The Recorder Magazine (1 July copy date) with a prize of one year's free Branch membership. **[Action Secretary]** No constraints would be placed on the design and members would be asked to score the submitted logos at Festival 2013.

- 4.5 Recorder magazine copy dates. It was suggested that Laura Justice, Editor, be requested to publish all four of the regular copy dates in every issue of The Recorder Magazine. **[Action Secretary]**

- 4.6 Affiliated orchestras. It was noted that all affiliated orchestras now get copies of music commissioned for each Festival.

- 4.7 Additional accounting sub-heads. It was agreed that the idea of having additional management style accounts for Committee purposes, so as to demonstrate the costs of running NYRO, workshops, visiting conductors etc. would be postponed until the October meeting. It

was not intended that this should create any additional work for the Treasurer at the current time. [Action Treasurer, Chairman]

- 4.8 Recorder Magazine article on workshops. Helen Hooker suggested that in future any articles written about individual workshops by participants, e.g. for The Recorder Magazine, should also be added to the relevant pages on the web site. [Action Moira Usher]
- 4.9 Publicity Officer. The Secretary said that a notice had been on display during the Festival seeking a Publicity Officer for the Society. It was agreed that the same text should be used prominently on the web site and also sent to Branch Secretaries with a request that they print it off and display on their notice boards. It was also agreed to place an advertisement in the Autumn issue of The Recorder Magazine. [Actions Web Editor, Secretary]
- 4.10 75th anniversary Playing Days. It was reported that several Branches had misunderstood the email sent out in December 2011, announcing the award of £150 for playing days in 2012 or 2013, to say that all such playing days had to involve a NYRO Taster Day. The Secretary undertook to repeat the message in clearer language. [Action Secretary]
- 4.11 Commissioned music. Evelyn Nallen commented on her task of commissioning an annual piece of recorder music (separately from the music commissioned by each Festival). She said that it was not possible to lay down fixed rules for each commission; every composer is different. Usually the contractual arrangements are in the hands of the publisher. In reply to a question from the Chairman it was noted that one published commission had not referred to the Society as the commissioning body.
- Evelyn continued that if the composer agrees, and many will, the music should be downloadable from the Society web site. She said she would send pdf's of the music to the Web Editor. She added that she sent a letter setting out conditions to the composer each time a commission was arranged. The Chairman asked that in future she would copy the letter to the Secretary. [Actions Evelyn Nallen]
- Pamela Flanagan noted that, for the commissioned piece for Festival 2013, Rhona Clarke would hold the copyright but the Society would be mentioned on the printed music. Evelyn Nallen explained that the 2013 piece was a special case because the commission would be partly supported by the Festival and partly by other funds from within Ireland. The composer understood that each Branch and affiliated orchestra would get a copy of the piece.
- 4.12 Complaints procedure. It was agreed not to proceed with developing a formal complaints procedure because the insurers were not insisting that one was available.
- 4.13 Brian Bonsor memorial CD. The Chairman explained that although the musical arrangements and venue hire were in hand the venue owners wanted the Society to provide £10 million Public Liability Insurance; the current policy only provides for £5 million. Helen Hooker said she would discuss possible solutions, of which there were several, with Dick Pyper. [Action Helen Hooker]. She added that Mary Bonsor wanted all royalties from the sale of the CD to go to the Society. The Secretary was asked confirm this in writing with Mary Bonsor and extend the Society's thanks for this generous offer. [Action Secretary]
- 4.14 Recorder Magazine article on subscriptions and the Society's finances. The Treasurer noted that she was unhappy that her article on the Society's finances would not be available until the Autumn issue of the magazine, as it would then appear, incorrectly, to have been written in response to the 2020 WG Report. It was agreed that the article would be published in its original form and dated.

5. To appoint Evelyn Nallen to the Walter Bergmann Fund Sub-Committee

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Mike Wilkinson Carried: nem. con.

6. To receive a report from the Investment Working Group

The Chairman, on behalf of the WG, proposed that £170,000 be moved into various accounts as follows.

- £50,000 on 1-year fixed term deposit with Cater Allen Private Bank (Santander) at 3%
- £50,000 on 3-year fixed term deposit with Scottish Widows Bank at 3.5%
- £70,000 in the COIF Charities Investment Fund with a distribution of about 4.5% pa. This is designed to be a longer term investment of at least 5 years, which allows for Fund fluctuations.

In discussion it became apparent that the COIF Charities Investment Fund was based on an unknown range of equities and members felt that this was too risky for the Society to bear and might include unethical companies. It was also confirmed that the Society had received a letter from CAF Bank saying that its accounts with them were covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to a total of £85,000 for all the accounts. It was suggested that the Society should buy bonds at 3.5%. The Committee decided to approve the investments of £50,000 in Cater Allen Private Bank (Santander) and £50,000 Scottish Widows Bank but requested that the Chairman should look for a 5-year fixed-term investment for the remaining £70,000. [Action Chairman] April Munday declared an interest and said she wished to abstain from being included in the decision.

7. To receive views on developing the Society web site

Anthony Hall noted the overlap that existed between the aims of the Web Site Working Group and some of the recommendations of the 2020 Working Group.

He referred to the discussion in the earlier Conference about providing members with a clear list of advantages of belonging to the Society including relatively cheap access to The Recorder Magazine and said that he thought it was extremely important that such a statement should appear on the website.

He suggested that since the magazine is already available online (www.recordermagazine.co.uk/) that a contract with Peacock Press might be negotiated that would provide free online access with the option of a paper copy by post for an extra fee (similar to the offer already made by Peacock Press on their web site). Mike Wilkinson noted that if a significant number of people opted out of taking the printed version of the magazine this might risk undermining the viability of the printed version. The Treasurer reported that she had talked to Recorder Music Mail about the cost of the magazine and been told that the cost had been kept down by rearranging its business with the printer. The Chairman concluded that she needed to have a general discussion with Recorder Music Mail on the subject of the magazine. [Action Chairman]

8. To receive the report of the 2020 Working Group and to consider actions required

It was proposed that the Committee should accept the 2020 Working Group report and that the Working Group be thanked for its thorough work.

Proposed: Pamela Flanagan Seconded: Mike Wilkinson Carried: nem. con.

Discussion ensued about the circulation of the report recognising that one paper copy had just been given to each Branch after Conference. It was accepted that this had not been the ideal arrangement because it had not allowed the Committee to discuss the report first, although each Committee member had received a copy of the report at the end of March. Members were not unanimous about whether the report should or should not be made public before the Committee had formed a view. Finally it was decided that all Branches should be asked to email any initial comments by 12 May in time for the Committee meeting eight days later but that Branches and other interested parties should be able to comment after that meeting if they wished. [Action Secretary] It was also agreed that the report should be available to all and should therefore be posted on the Society's web site. Anthony Hall also agreed to moderate all comments received via a web site forum or email. [Actions Anthony Hall] It was also agreed that a copy should be sent to ERTA. [Action Secretary]

9. To consider a draft formal method of considering funding applications

The Chairman explained that a formal procedure was needed to deal with *ad hoc* applications for funding made to the Society. The form was accepted by the Committee after taking account of various detailed comments. [Action Secretary to finalise form]

10. Any other business

10.1 Honorary Life Member. A proposal to appoint an Honorary Life Member was postponed until October 2012.

10.2 Change of bank account signatories

It was proposed that the Trustees resolve that the mandates given to Barclays Bank PLC and other Society's accounts be amended to remove Dick Pyper so he no longer acts as an authorised person and to add Tessa Rolph to act as an authorised person.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded: Sandra Foxall Carried: nem. con.

10.3 75th Anniversary concert. Evelyn Nallen said that plans for the concert were currently in limbo. She was considering inviting David Gordon and the BBC Young Musician of the Year Woodwind Category Finalist, Charlotte Barbour-Condini. [Action Evelyn Nallen]

10.4 Festival organisation. Several members suggested that the Committee should annually review the guidance given to Festival organisers. Andrew Short suggested that the Committee should review and update, if necessary, the guidance at its October 2012 meeting. [Action Secretary]

10.5 75th Anniversary coasters. Sandra Foxall noted that Sue Robinson, who had made wooden coasters for several previous Festivals, had offered to produce a special 75th anniversary coaster (see www.cerambois.com). This could raise £1.50 for the Society for each coaster sold. [Action Chairman, Dick Pyper to investigate]

11. Date of next meeting.

A special meeting devoted to assessing and discussing the report of the 2020 Working Group was planned in Coleshill, Birmingham on 20 May. The following meeting on 21 October would take place in Hitchin. The Chairman closed the meeting at 13.10.

RBW/TJR