



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, 12th May 2013

All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland

PRESENT:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Vic Morris	Committee
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Sheila Richards	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Frances Tuffery	Festival 2013/Committee
Moira Usher	Training/WBF Chair	Sue Eades, for Zoe Eades	Festival 2014
Anthony Hall	Web Editor	Emily Bannister	Publicity Officer

The Chairman opened the meeting at 12 noon.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Andrew Short (Chairman, NYRO sub Committee), Naomi Wellings (Committee member and Chairman elect, NYRO sub Committee), and from Evelyn Nallen, Eileen Silcocks and Colin Touchin (Musical Advisers).

2. Newly elected members

2.1 The Chairman especially welcomed those new to or with new roles on the Committee:

Emily Bannister : Publicity Officer

Eileen Silcocks : Musical Adviser

Zoe Eades : co-opted for Festival 2014

Frances Tuffery : Committee member

Vic Morris : Committee member

Mike Wilkinson : Secretary

David Rollason : Membership Secretary

3. Minutes of previous Committee meeting

3.1 The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17th February 2013 at the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, were approved.

4. Actions and Matters arising

4.1 Gift Aid (minute 3.4) : The Chairman reported that Dick Pyper, who deals with Gift Aid issues for the Society, was waiting for advice from HMRC on some details of how the Gift Aid regime, as modified in September 2011, applied to national and Branch subscriptions. Meanwhile, he was looking for someone to take over responsibility for the annual national claim, from which the Society derived significant benefit (£4,458 in 2011/12). One suggestion was that this task might be done by the Membership Secretary, who already collected the necessary data from Branches. David Rollason offered to discuss this with Dick Pyper.

Action : David Rollason and Dick Pyper

4.2 The Chairman noted that Branches reported differing experiences of dealing with HMRC on Gift Aid. While the Society nationally could offer guidance to Branches, not least to ensure that its own position on Gift Aid was not inadvertently compromised, each Branch had a different financial regime and, if it chose to participate in the Gift Aid scheme, had to take responsibility for doing so correctly. The Chairman also noted that her report for the Summer 2013 issue of the *Recorder Magazine* contained further advice for Branches on Gift Aid, and a reference to guidance on the Music Making website. Key issues were whether payments made by non-SRP members for attending Branch meetings, Playing Days etc subsidised members who paid an annual Branch subscription, and the extent to which Branch activities constituted tuition.

4.3 In future, therefore, it might be necessary to reduce or eliminate any difference in charges for members and non-members attending Branch meetings, Playing Days, workshops etc, though there was concern that this could risk reducing the incentive for membership. It was agreed that, as a start, there should be a single charge, initially of £12 in most cases, for attendance at future workshops, irrespective of SRP membership.

4.4 Investments (minute 3.9) : The Chairman recalled that the Committee had reservations about investing Society funds in equity-based accounts, though in the past such accounts had produced better long-term returns than accounts where the capital was not subject to market fluctuations. The Chairman suggested that the Committee might consider this issue further before the Committee meeting in February 2014, at which it would be necessary to decide how to reinvest funds when the Society's current investments with Barclays and Nationwide matured.

4.5 Publicity leaflet (minute 3.11) : The Committee noted that Evelyn Nallen and Mike Wilkinson were continuing to work on preparation of this leaflet, taking account of comments from the Chairman and others. The aim now was to have the leaflet ready for Branches to issue to new and rejoining members at the start of the 2013-14 season in September.

Action : Evelyn Nallen and Mike Wilkinson

4.6 Website pages (minute 10) : Anthony Hall noted that at the meeting on 17th February David Powell, then a Committee member, had sought volunteers to draft entries for particular pages on the website and/or be in charge of reviewing pages as often as necessary to keep them up to date. The action outstanding for existing and possible further pages was:

About the recorder	Evelyn Nallen had drafted this section though it had not yet been posted on the website.
Benefits of membership	Mike Wilkinson to provide a draft, using some of the text prepared for the publicity leaflet.
Concerts and courses	Anthony Hall already obtained some details from organisers but invited all Committee members to send him details of any events they thought should be included.
Guide for Teachers	Helen Hooker to consider whether the Guide for Teachers produced several years ago remained or could readily be updated to be a useful document worth putting on the website.
Introductory page	Anthony Hall volunteered to produce a draft.
Music publishers	Sheila Richards had already provided a list. This would need only infrequent checking and updating, which she agreed to do.
Performers and ensembles	Emily Bannister agreed to be in charge of updating this page.
Recorder makers	Tessa Rolph agreed to be in charge of updating this page.
Recorder suppliers	Sheila Richards agreed to be in charge of updating this page. While there was clearly overlap between makers and suppliers, it was agreed they should be listed separately.

Action : those listed above

4.7 Anthony Hall noted that, while he remained happy to update webpages when asked to do so , he could provide login details to enable Committee members and Branches themselves to update the webpages for which they were responsible. All items for or about the website should to be sent to him at webedit@srp.org.uk and copied to Emily Bannister at publicity@srp.org.uk when appropriate.

4.8 Anthony Hall also agreed to consider whether it would be feasible to indicate on each webpage when it had last been reviewed or updated.

Action : Anthony Hall

5. Complaints procedure

5.1 Following comments on a draft complaints procedure considered at the Committee meeting on 17th February 2013, a revised draft had been circulated. This included a new paragraph to deal with vexatious complaints that could not be resolved at branch level. In that event, the Branch could ask the national Committee to consider terminating the complainant’s membership of the Society in accordance with Rule 3.7 of the Society’s Rules (2011).

** That the revised draft complaints procedure be approved*

Proposed by : Pamela Flanagan

Seconded by : Caroline Jones

Agreed unanimously

6. A new logo for the Society

6.1 Emily Bannister announced the results of voting on the 28 entries for the competition to find a new logo for the Society. These entries, plus the existing logo, had been on display over the Festival weekend and those attending had been invited to indicate a first and second preference. The logos attracting the most votes were:

					
1 st choices only	19	10			
1 st & 2 nd choices	25	20	18	15	9

So the existing logo was the clear choice of those expressing a view in Dublin.

6.2 There was some debate on the role of the logo. It needed to be distinctive, informative and to convey a succinct message promoting the Society principally to those not already familiar with it. For existing members, the logo served to designate the Society’s documents, events etc. The current logo, designed many years ago by Ross Winters’ mother, had been described as old fashioned. Some people meant this as a compliment, though most as a criticism. It was suggested that there might be scope to modernise the existing logo while retaining its underlying design.

6.3 The Committee acknowledged that few members had yet had opportunity to vote and that their views might not be representative of the wider membership. It was therefore agreed to invite all members’ views. Anthony Hall would post the 28 competition entries and the existing logo on the website with a form for members to vote for up to 2 logos and to leave comments. Mike Wilkinson would draw this to the attention of Branch Secretaries and ask them to inform their members and help those without access to the website to participate in the voting process.

Action : Anthony Hall and Mike Wilkinson

6.4 While the Committee could not justify the expense of professional design, it could make use of members' expertise. Accordingly, Emily Bannister was asked to seek the views of Moira Hay, a member of Wales Branch, and Vic Morris offered to contact a graphic designer whom he knew.

Action : Emily Bannister and Vic Morris

6.5 The Committee agreed to discuss this issue further at its meeting in October in the light of the results of the actions recorded above.

7. Revised cheque signatories

7.1 The Committee resolved that Bob Whitmarsh (former Secretary) be removed from and Mike Wilkinson (current Secretary) be added to the list of those authorised to sign cheques and authorise electronic transactions on behalf of the Society. All banking transactions would continue to require approval by two authorised officers of the Society.

Action : Ulli Burchette and Mike Wilkinson

8. Moeck/SRP Competition

8.1 The Chairman reported that there were 29 entries, the highest for many years, for the 2013 Competition to be held at the Greenwich Early Music Festival on Friday 8th November. Moeck had increased the value of the first prize to £1,500. Dick Pyper had agreed to continue administering the Competition until November, though he was finding the task very time consuming. The Society urgently needed to find a successor. Charles Matthews (Caroline Jones' accompanist) had been appointed as an adjudicator in place of Steven Devine, who had withdrawn. The other adjudicators were David Bellugi and Rachel Brown.

8.2 The Committee then considered a note written by Evelyn Nallen in March asking if the Competition in its present form had "run its course"? Evelyn felt that, after 30 years, it probably had. In her view it no longer served to engender talented UK soloists, who were poorly equipped to compete with overseas players, who often had the benefit of public funding. Evelyn's note suggested alternative formats for competitions, primarily for ensembles and consorts, that could have a wider appeal while continuing to promote the highest standards of performance.

8.3 In discussion it was noted that much of the prestige of the existing Competition derived from the participation of competitors of many nationalities. Discontinuing the Society's support would do nothing to encourage talented UK entrants, and switching that support from a well-established Competition to more "popular" ones could be seen, rightly or wrongly, as "dumbing down". In Emily Bannister's experience the existing Competition was highly regarded in UK conservatoires and did serve to inspire budding soloists. The Committee's view, which it was known that Dick Pyper shared, was therefore that any new competitions on the lines suggested by Evelyn should be in addition to, not instead of, the existing Competition. The Committee agreed to discuss the scope for and format of any such new competitions at its next meeting.

8.4 Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the Society should continue to support the Moeck/SRP Competition in broadly its current form for the foreseeable future. The Chairman would convey this decision to Moeck, which had been seeking confirmation of the Society's continuing support for the Competition and contribution to its planning and management.

Action : Tessa Rolph

8.5 Returning to the subject of the Competition administrator, the Committee noted that the role required very significant time commitment, which was probably greater in the years leading to the final of the Competition than in the intervening years leading to the winner's recital. Dick Pyper could be asked to try to quantify the work involved. With the exception of the NYRO Administrator, the Society relied entirely on unpaid Officers and volunteers and there were strong arguments for maintaining this approach. It would be invidious to attach payment to some roles and not to other, equally arduous ones, though this could not be ruled out as a last resort if sufficient volunteers could not be found.

8.6 Aware of the Society's reliance on volunteers, Emily Bannister, Ulli Burchette and Sarah Langdon (a former NYRO member in the final year of a BMus course, with recorder as her first instrument, at Birmingham Conservatoire) had all expressed interest in learning more about the role of the Competition administrator. It was agreed that, in the first instance, they should be invited to contact Dick Pyper to discuss, for example, if they might assist him in the next few months and so get a better understanding of the role before deciding whether to offer any longer-term commitment.

Action : Emily Bannister, Ulli Burchette, Sarah Langdon and Dick Pyper

8.7 Arising from discussion of both the logo and the Competition, the Chairman asked Committee members to help raise awareness and recognition of the Society by using its full name when writing and talking to people not familiar with it. The initials SRP meant little to most people - Wikipedia lists 32 possibilities, all wrong! The Chairman intended to convey this message to all members in her Conference report for the Autumn issue of the *Recorder Magazine*.

Action : all

9. Festival 2014

9.1 Sue Eades reported that Cornwall Branch was delighted to be hosting the 2014 Festival, to be held at Truro School, Trennick Lane, Truro TR1 1TH on 12th and 13th April. The school, which is just over a mile from Truro railway station, has 75 rooms to accommodate guests and plenty of parking. To date 13 conductors, including the Branch's Musical Director, Sarah Whomersley, had been confirmed. Ben Cracknell and Daniel Rose Jones would be running a junior ensemble competition, and music had been commissioned from Cornish composer Russell Pascoe. It was also hoped to run sessions for a recorder orchestra. Sue advised everyone to keep watching the website, where details would be posted as they became available.

10. Any other business

10.1 Commissioned work 2014 : The Chairman reported that Evelyn Nallen had proposed that the composer for the Society's 2014 commission should be Paul Edlin, former Professor of Music at Canterbury Christ Church University. His extensive biography (see, for example, LinkedIn) includes many prizes for composition. The proposed fee was £1,500 including VAT. The Committee approved the choice of composer and the proposed fee. There would be no commissioned work in 2015.

10.2 Adopt a Composer : Ulli Burchette drew attention to the *Adopt a Composer* scheme, which pairs amateur choirs, orchestras and ensembles with a composer for a year. The composer and group work together to produce a new piece and give its first performance, which is recorded by BBC Radio 3. The scheme is funded by the PRS for Music Foundation and there is no charge for the groups chosen to take part. The Committee agreed to consider at its next meeting how the Society's ensembles and affiliated orchestras might be encouraged to apply to take part in the scheme in 2014/15. The closing date for applications was likely to be in June 2014.

10.3 CD for schools : It was suggested that the Society might raise its profile in schools and elsewhere by issuing a CD of music to demonstrate to pupils, and possibly teachers, the range and versatility of the recorder. Several Committee members welcomed this suggestion and proposed that Musical Advisers be consulted for their views, in the light of which the Committee could consider this suggestion further at a future meeting. Care would be needed to ensure that issues such as copyright were handled correctly.

Action : Mike Wilkinson to contact Musical Advisers

11. Future meetings

11.1 Next meeting : at the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, on Sunday 13th October 2013.

11.2 Future meetings : Mike Wilkinson agreed to consider whether, taking account of where current Committee members live, a different venue for meetings in 2014 might produce some net benefit in terms of costs and travel times. Caroline Jones suggested that a venue in the Midlands might be appropriate and agreed to consider options.

Action : Caroline Jones and Mike Wilkinson

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.
