



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 13th October 2013

Benslow Music Trust, Little Benslow Hills, Hitchin SG4 9RB

PRESENT:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	items 6-14
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	
Moira Usher	Training/WBF Chairman	items 4 (part), 5-7
Naomi Wellings	Chairman, NYRO sub-Committee	items 1-5, 6 (part), 7
Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser	items 6-14
Sue Eades, for Zoe Eades	Festival 2014	
Caroline Jones	Committee	
Vic Morris	Committee	
Frances Tuffery	Committee	

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.30am.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Eileen Silcocks and Colin Touchin (Musical Advisers), Pamela Flanagan and Sheila Richards (Committee members), Anthony Hall (Web Editor), Dick Pyper (Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator) and Emily Bannister (Publicity Officer).

2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting

2.1 Evelyn Nallen pointed out that, contrary to minute 10.1, she was not considering the scope for a composition competition in 2015. Subject to that amendment, the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11th May 2013 in Dublin were approved.

3. Actions and matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Gift Aid (minute 4.1): The Chairman reported that HMRC had replied to Dick Pyper's request for advice on the application of the Gift Aid scheme to Branch subscriptions. This reply referred to guidance on the HMRC website refusing Gift Aid eligibility on subscriptions that give members personal use of a charity's facilities. However the Chairman noted that other Guidance on the website stated that subscriptions that allowed members to take part in activities forming part of a charity's objectives ARE eligible and she felt this is a better reflection of branch meetings. Further tests relate to the financial value of benefits to members over non-members. The complexity of the rules and HMRC's intensive application of them had caused at least one Branch to cease claiming Gift Aid on its branch subscriptions.

3.2 The Chairman said that there is still a possibility that the Society may be able to negotiate a global agreement with HMRC concerning the eligibility of branch subscriptions, taking into account any benefits

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received (e.g. tuition by conductors and discounted meeting fees) but it could prove difficult. At the moment, the Society could help Branches with a brief summary of the Gift Aid rules and references to Guidance on the HMRC and Making Music websites, but each branch must currently remain responsible for its own dealings with HMRC on Gift Aid issues. However, the Society must ensure that Branches do nothing that might jeopardise the Society's own position under the Gift Aid scheme. It was agreed that the Chairman and Dick Pyper should prepare draft guidance for Branches on the application of the Gift Aid scheme to them.
Action: TESSA ROLPH, DICK PYPER

3.3 Investments (minute 4.4): It was noted that at its next meeting the Committee would need to decide how the Society should reinvest its funds with Barclays and Nationwide since these would then be due to mature. It was agreed that the Chairman and Treasurer should prepare options for the next meeting, including consideration of the scope for equity-based and ethical investments.

Action: TESSA ROLPH, ULLI BURCHETTE

3.4 Adopt a Composer (minute 10.2): This scheme, promoted by Making Music, sought to pair amateur orchestras and ensembles with composers to work together for a year to produce a new piece and give its first performance. Sandra Foxall noted that one of the pairings for 2013/14 was between the Cobweb Orchestra, an award winning community orchestra in North East England, and Michael Betteridge, a composer and musical arranger from Manchester. The Secretary agreed to draw this scheme to the notice of Branches and Affiliated Orchestras and to offer support from the Society, where possible, to any group interested in entering.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

3.5 CD for Schools (minute 10.3): The Committee agreed that the Society should be aiming to stimulate interest in learning and playing the recorder in schools, particularly when time and funds for many areas of music education were under great pressure. Further thought should be given to the content, target audience and media used for any material that the Society might produce, drawing on existing items such as the NYRO and Brian Bonsor CDs and linking to other material such as YouTube clips and to groups such as Music for Youth. The scope for sponsorship should also be explored. Sandra Foxall and Caroline Jones were invited to think further about this issue to help the Committee decide how best to proceed.

Action: SANDRA FOXALL, CAROLINE JONES

4. Officers' Reports

4.1 The Chairman reported that the Sound Clouds CD by *I Flautisti*, towards which the Society had given a grant, was now available (for £12 or more from www.iflautisti.com) and, as required for all such grants, included acknowledgement of the SRP's support.

4.2 The Chairman had attended Norfolk Branch's Playing Day on 12th October and presented Ron Skins, who was retiring after 50 years as Musical Director, with a certificate (designed by Evelyn Nallen) in recognition of his sterling service. The Branch would send a report and photographs of the event to the *Recorder Magazine*.

4.3 The Committee agreed that the Society should do more to recognise long-serving Branch officials and that it would be appropriate to do so after 25, 40 and 50 years' service. The Secretary was asked to contact Branches now to identify officials already deserving recognition and, periodically in future, to request notice of others qualifying.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

4.4 The Secretary asked if the Committee would in future be willing to consider by e-mail assessors' reports on candidates applying to join the Panel of Visiting Conductors. This would avoid candidates having to wait for the next Committee meeting for a decision. The Committee agreed to this proposal provided that, assuming a favourable assessor's report, at least half the Committee had supported the appointment and none had expressed reservations within 7 days of the assessor's report being circulated. If there were any

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reservations, the application should be referred to the next Committee meeting. The Committee also agreed that Visiting Conductors' details could be placed on the website provided the conductors were told in advance of this intention and given opportunity to edit the information about them to be made public. The Secretary could act as the point of contact for any conductor not wishing to disclose detailed contact information.

4.5 The Treasurer noted that holding the 2013 Festival in Ireland had made the £/€ exchange rate relevant to the 2012/13 Accounts, and that Branches' differing treatment of their £150 Jubilee grants in their accounts had added a further complication. She also noted that the Arthur Ingram Fund had net expenditure of about £20,000 over the year, reducing the balance in the Fund to about £145,000.

4.6 Web Editor: The Committee asked that its appreciation be conveyed to the Web Editor for the latest improvements to the website, as described in his report, and for the excellent way he was developing and operating the Society's website. The site was attractive and provided a wide and growing range of very useful information. There were a few queries and suggestions that the Web Editor was asked to consider for the future:

(a) Would it be possible to have a "Newsflash" box on the front page for important announcements or reminders, a topical example being the logo decision (see item 8 below), although non-flashing in the interests of epileptics. Such a box could retain on the opening page a key item from the "Recent News" log since only the most recent 2 or 3 items in the log were initially visible on that page.

(b) Could the links to the Branch list, and hence to details of Branch activities, on the opening page be made more prominent? Although the tab and text links to the list are obvious when pointed out, some members had reported difficulty spotting them initially.

(c) Although some changes had been made to improve accessibility for colour-blind readers, could the colour scheme used, for example for some of the hyperlinks, be further checked to ensure the site was as accessible as possible to people with dyslexia?

Action: ANTHONY HALL

4.7 The Committee then noted the Web Editor's reminders of web pages which were overdue for writing or revision. The Secretary agreed to review the "Benefits of membership" section using material from the recent Welcome leaflet, to contact Helen Hooker for a view on whether the existing "Guide for Teachers" should be adapted and updated for the website, and to contact Emily Bannister to discuss the feasibility of a section on "Performers and Ensembles". The Chairman now has some help with the proposed "Recorder Makers" section, which would overlap significantly with the existing "Instrument Suppliers" section, on which the Web Editor and Sheila Richards were working.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON, HELEN HOOKER, EMILY BANNISTER, TESSA ROLPH

4.8 In discussion of the "Teachers" page it was accepted that the Society was not in a position to compile and maintain a list of recorder teachers, but it should provide links to organisations that did. The existing page already includes links to www.musicteachers.co.uk ("an essential resource for anyone who wants ... to find a music teacher") and the European Recorder Teachers Association at www.erta.org.uk, which maintains a list of recorder teachers and "facilitates communication between teachers, players, composers and makers". It was suggested that a link also be added to the Incorporated Society of Musicians at www.ism.org, the UK's professional body for musicians, which was currently campaigning to protect music education. The page might also mention new developments in music teaching, such as lessons by Skype.

Action: ANTHONY HALL

4.9 Noting the Society's increasing use of Facebook and other social media, the Committee agreed that the Society's rules should be amended to allow the Society to invoke the expulsion procedures in Rule 3.7 against any member bringing the Society into disrepute, for example by posting personal attacks or other inappropriate material in any medium associated with the Society. The Secretary was asked to draft such an

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amendment to the Rules for the Committee to consider at its next meeting. Thereafter formal revision to the Rules would, under Rule 7.8, require a Conference resolution supported by at least three-quarters of those voting.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

4.10 Noting the increasing requirements of the website, the Committee agreed that the Web Editor should have authority to spend up to £120 per year on a webhost package with increased storage.

4.11 The Training Officer's report, discussed in her absence, stated that she was standing down with immediate effect to allow her to concentrate on her role as Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund and overseeing the setting and editing of the Alex Ayre music. April Munday had volunteered to take over. The Committee expressed its great thanks to Moira for all the work she had done to develop and promote the programme of workshops, and its confidence that April was well qualified to take on the training role. Under the Rules April could be co-opted to the Committee now and would be eligible for formal election at Conference 2014.

Resolution:- that, in accordance with Rule 5.12, April Munday, a member of Wessex Branch, be co-opted as a member of the Committee to serve as Training Officer until the date of the Society's Conference in 2014.

Proposed: Caroline Jones Seconded: Mike Wilkinson

For: 9 Against: 0 **Carried**

4.12 It was suggested that the appointment of a new Training Officer provided an opportunity to review the range of workshops offered, the people available to give them, and whether the target audience might be expanded, for example by offering a workshop specifically for school teachers, similar to ones Ron Skins had led in the past in the Norfolk area. It might also be useful to have data by Branch on workshops, Pastoral Visits and Playing Days in recent years to help identify those Branches that might appreciate more information about these opportunities, though the Society's records would not include activities arranged by Branches independently of the Society. It was agreed that this should be taken forward when April Munday had settled into her new role.

Action: APRIL MUNDAY

4.13 The Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund, now present, spoke about the 7 grants approved and 5 refused between October 2012 and June 2013. Applicants had to provide sufficient information about their financial position to enable the WBF Committee to judge whether they needed financial support, though the Committee took care not to be intrusive. Grants were refused for "insufficient budget information" only after applicants had been reminded and given chance to submit the details required by the WBF Committee. No applications had been received from NYRO course members although the Chair of the NYRO subcommittee had understood that two had intended to apply. The Chairman noted that, since not everyone knew that the WBF was part of the Society, it should be a condition of any grant awarded that acknowledgement of the grant should be made in any recipient's publicity (e.g. course material, concert programme) by mention of the WBF, its relationship with the Society and the Society's logo, as appropriate to the recipient.

5. Festivals

5.1 2014: Sue Eades reported that negotiations with Truro School were proving difficult. Hire charges for use of the theatre, common room and refectory had been agreed, but some other costs remained uncertain. She thought that Russell Pascoe, the Cornish composer commissioned to write a piece for the Festival, would follow tradition by delivering the piece not long before the Festival. Moira Usher, who has been invited to conduct the piece, said she would need the score at least a month beforehand and that Ruth Burbidge would need the score and parts in time to print copies to give to Branches at the Festival. Russell Pascoe had quoted an upper limit for his fee, and Sue Eades would check whether this was subject to VAT.

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5.2 Sue Eades also reported that there would be Cornish dancing on the Friday evening (11th April), mass playing to open the Festival on the Saturday morning, a junior ensemble tutored by the Audite Nova quartet (www.consortauditenova.co.uk), and that 11 schools had already entered the junior ensemble competition. Given the welcome number of young people taking part, it would be important to ensure that publicity about NYRO was widely available.

5.3 Despite the uncertainties, Sue Eades and her colleagues had circulated a draft budget for the Festival, based on an estimated 125 participants paying an average of £60. The next version of the budget would show separately the number expected to attend for both days (75%) or for just one day (25%) and would be submitted to the Treasurer for approval. Some fund-raising, including a workshop by Piers Adams later in October, might help. The shops would not be charged but would be invited to make a donation and/or pay for an advertisement in the programme. The Treasurer, in consultation with the Secretary, agreed to revise the form that conductors and delegates used to claim expenses in the hope of making the process more straightforward than in previous years

Action: SUE EADES AND COLLEAGUES, NAOMI WELLINGS, ULLI BURCHETTE, MIKE WILKINSON

5.4 2015: South Staffordshire Branch, assisted by Birmingham Branch, was hosting the 2015 Festival and had chosen the independent Wolverhampton Grammar School (www.wgs.org.uk) as the venue. The proposed dates were 11/12 April or 18/19 April, i.e. one or two weeks after Easter, and did not clash with the Northern Recorder Course. Alyson Lewin had agreed to write a piece for massed recorders. Composers Peter Hope (www.peterhopemusic.co.uk) and Karel Janovicky (www.karel-janovicky.co.uk) had been approached about possible compositions, and the I Flautisti quartet about a possible performance, though nothing had yet been agreed with any of these.

5.5 Subsequent years: The offer by Cambridge Branch, which Vic Morris explained was jointly with Beds & North Herts and Peterborough Branches, to host the 80th anniversary Festival in Cambridge in 2017 was warmly accepted. That left the 2016 slot to be filled, and the sequence of locations for Festivals suggested that a northern venue would be appropriate. The Secretary was asked to contact Branches in the north of England and in Scotland to enquire whether any of them would like to host the Festival in 2016.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

6. National Youth Recorder Orchestras

6.1 The Chairman began by expressing the Society's gratitude to Andrew Short for his many years' service to NYRO within the Society. His expertise would continue to be available to the independent NYRO since he had agreed to be one of their founding Trustees. A presentation had been made to Andrew at the NYRO Summer Course concert in Denbigh on 27th July, at which Charlotte Barbour-Condini had been guest soloist.

6.2 The Chairman also referred to the critical letter from her predecessor in the Summer issue of the Recorder Magazine about the Society's decision that NYRO should be a separate charity, and to her reply in the Autumn issue emphasising that an independent NYRO would be able to access support from a diversity of sources that would most certainly include the Society. While the Society's action had not attracted wider criticisms, this episode underlined the importance of the Society being proactive in explaining itself to members and more widely.

6.3 The Committee then noted with approval NYRO's progress towards becoming a separate charity with effect from 1st September 2014. The website of the Charity Commission for England and Wales confirmed that "The National Youth Recorder Orchestras of Great Britain" had been registered on 6th September as Charity number 1153705. The first meeting of the Trustees (Naomi Wellings, Jean Murray, Dianne Charles, Rosemary Byde and Andrew Short) was scheduled for 25th October.

6.4 The Committee then considered two submissions from NYRO: an application for funding from the Society for 2-3 years from September 2014; and a request that instruments, CDs and office equipment used

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by NYRO, but of which the Society was necessarily the legal owner, be transferred to the ownership of NYRO. To assist its consideration of these submissions the Committee had copies of NYRO's draft accounts for 2012/13, a commentary on NYRO's finances for 2012/13 and earlier years, and reports from the NYRO sub-committee Chairman and the NYRO Administrator on the courses held in 2012/13 and planned for 2013/14.

6.5 NYRO's application for funding had three sections:

- (a) £6,600 per year for 2 years for the post of NYRO Administrator;
- (b) £4,990 per year for 3 years to support Recorder Days; and
- (c) £1,000 per year for 3 years for a Bursary Fund to support course participants.

Item (b) included £1,750 from item (a), so the total bid was for £10,840 per year in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The Chairman explained that NYRO's application had not initially included item (a) but that this had been added at her suggestion so that the Committee would appreciate the full cost of a paid Administrator, not just the element in item (b), and could be more flexible in its response.

6.6 The Chairman of the NYRO sub-Committee spoke in support of the application. She said that, while the Trustees collectively had yet to make decisions, she did not envisage early or major changes in NYRO's activities as a consequence of its independence. The 2012/13 accounts and reports were therefore a reasonable guide for the next year or two. In response to questions about why NYRO needed a paid Administrator when all SRP officers, including some with comparable workloads, gave their services voluntarily she said that the post, taking on average 11/2 days per week, carried substantial responsibilities and required professional project management skills. It might be possible to cut costs by splitting out some of the secretarial work, though such a job share would require careful supervision. The Committee noted that the expectations placed on a paid post were inevitably greater than those on a voluntary post and that it would be increasingly important for an independent NYRO to ensure that any paid staff took every opportunity to promote NYRO, for example through its website and a wide range of publicity, and so help to sustain the income from which they were paid.

6.7 The Committee acknowledged that a professional administrator could be a vital asset to an organisation, and that core funding for such a post was always more difficult to raise than funding for tangible activities. However, there was general concern that NYRO's financial ambitions risked being seen as unrealistic, especially compared with some other groups delivering similar activities at significantly lower cost and in relation to the number of participants that NYRO (along with many other music course organisers) could currently attract. This might also be of concern to other potential funders and no doubt to the NYRO Trustees when preparing future funding bids.

6.8 In relation to NYRO's request for transfer of ownership of instruments, CDs and office equipment, the NYRO sub-committee Chairman said that if the Society expected NYRO to take any liabilities with it when it became independent it was only reasonable that it should also own the assets that it used.

The Chairman of the NYRO sub-committee left the meeting while the Committee continued its discussion.

6.9 Looking firstly at a possible transfer of assets, while the Committee was content to transfer ownership of the CDs and office equipment, which are of depreciating value, it was noted that any valuable instruments owned by NYRO would be assets available to creditors if NYRO ever became insolvent, but not if they were on loan to NYRO. This prompted some discussion on the extent to which any funds remaining in NYRO's bank account on 31st August 2014 might transfer to the independent NYRO. The Committee agreed to consider this further at its next meeting.

6.10 The Committee was keen to facilitate a successful start for an independent NYRO within a realistic financial regime that included significant but clearly defined support from the Society. Further, the NYRO Trustees should be given maximum freedom to discharge their responsibilities as they saw fit, without the Society imposing its views by specifying the roles or activities that its funding should support. For this reason, and those discussed earlier, the Committee agreed almost unanimously that the Society should not provide

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funds explicitly for NYRO to employ a paid Administrator – item (a) above. For similar reasons, the Committee did not wish to provide support explicitly for Recorder Days – item (b).

6.11 The Committee was reluctant to commit funding beyond 2014/15 until an independent NYRO had had chance to develop its longer-term plans. While NYRO would naturally prefer the certainty of longer-term funding, it could make bids for 2015/16 onwards to the Committee by Spring 2015 in the light of its achievements in 2013/14 and its first few months as an independent body in 2014/15.

6.12 It was therefore proposed that the Society should offer NYRO a grant of £5,000 for 2014/15 only, not constrained to any specified role or activity. In preparation for considering future bids from NYRO, the Committee would wish to see, at its next meeting, NYRO's targets for numbers of course participants in 2013/14 and 2014/15, a publicity strategy, details of NYRO's plans to raise funds from other sources, and any other relevant matters. These were no doubt matters that the NYRO Trustees would in any case wish to consider.

Resolution:- that, in accordance with Rule 6.4, the Society awards a grant of £5,000 to the National Youth Recorder Orchestras of Great Britain for the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015.

Proposed: Vic Morris Seconded: Evelyn Nallen

For: 10 Against: 0 **Carried**

6.13 Turning to the proposed Bursary Fund to be managed by NYRO – item (c) – the Committee saw no reason why applicants for NYRO courses should not continue to apply directly for support from the Walter Bergmann Fund. This would be a more flexible arrangement since the total cost of accepted applications was likely to vary from year to year. Noting concern that the timing of WBF Committee meetings to consider applications did not necessarily fit with NYRO course applicants, it was agreed that the WBF would review its procedures to ensure as far as possible a good fit with NYRO's course schedule.

The Chairman of the NYRO sub-committee returned to the meeting.

6.14 The Chairman summarised what the Committee had decided, as follows:

(i) Items (a) and (b) : A grant of £5,000 for the period September 2014 to August 2015, with no limitations on how the NYRO Trustees could allocate this.

(ii) As feedback on the intended use of this grant, and in preparation for expected future grant applications, NYRO to devise and inform the Society for its next Committee meeting of NYRO's targets for the number of course participants in 2013/14 and 2014/15, its publicity strategy, its plans to raise funds from other sources, and any other relevant matters.

(iii) Item (c) : No grant award, but NYRO course applicants to continue to be eligible to apply for support from the SRP's Walter Bergmann Fund, which would review its procedures, in discussion with NYRO, to ensure as far as possible a good fit with NYRO's schedule.

(iv) Ownership of CDs and office equipment to transfer to NYRO on 1st September 2014.

(v) Instruments legally owned by the Society but currently used by NYRO to be placed on loan to NYRO on 1st September 2014, this arrangement to be subject to revision by agreement and termination by either party subject to 1 year's notice. NYRO to ensure that these instruments are covered by appropriate insurance and to remain eligible for cover under the Society's instrument insurance policy subject to paying the appropriate premium. NYRO to discuss with the Society, in advance, how it will ensure the general availability of these instruments for loan outside course times, and the terms of and arrangements for such loans, are widely publicised.

(vi) The Society to ask Jeanette Hipsey, who had donated recorders to the Society for specific use by NYRO, whether she wished these recorders to be owned by or loaned to NYRO when NYRO became independent.

In due course the Society and NYRO will need to sign a formal agreement, listing the items involved, to give effect to (iv), (v) and (vi).

7. Alex Ayre music

7.1 Moira Usher reported continuing progress by her team on the setting of Alex Ayre's 500+ arrangements in readiness for sale by Recorder Music Mail, though it was not possible to set a timetable for completion of this project. She considered it important that one person (not necessarily her) did the final editing of all items, which could take 1 1/2-4 hours per item, to ensure consistency. Ruth Burbidge had asked her to concentrate on baroque items. Discussions were continuing on the scanning of the hand-written scores for posting on the website.

8. Logo Competition

8.1 The Committee considered the results of the poll to choose the Society's future logo. The majority of votes on the 30 options in the poll, and comments on these and two late entries, had been submitted online and were available to view on the website. The small number of votes submitted by post did not affect the ranking of the logos. In total about 325 people, equivalent to over 24% of the membership, had voted.

8.2 The existing logo had won 26.2% of the votes, and the second and third choices 17.6% and 11.1% respectively. The winning margin might have been even greater if the many voters who commented "IF we have to change the logo ..." had been able to cast both their permitted votes for the existing one. The late entry designed by Moira Hay of Wales Branch as a modernised version of the existing logo had attracted many positive comments, though it was debatable whether it would have secured more than 1 in 4 votes if it had been in the formal poll. Vic Morris observed that a poll of existing members would not necessarily select a logo to attract new members, though Caroline Jones reported that she had found almost unanimous support for the existing logo even amongst non-members and younger players. Evelyn Nallen suggested that the use of 2 colours could give the existing logo a new look for use in some contexts.

Resolution: that the Society's existing logo continue in use for the foreseeable future.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Frances Tuffery

For: 9 Against: 1 **Carried**

8.3 Following this decision, the Secretary would ask the Web Editor to announce the result on the website and would write to Ross Winters to inform him and his mother that the logo she designed in the 1970's looked set to serve the Society well for many more years. Vic Morris and the Chairman would inform the Early Music Shop and Moira Hay, since both were working on banners for use at Greenwich (see below), and Vic would add the Society's further thanks to Moira for her design.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON, ANTHONY HALL, TESSA ROLPH, VIC MORRIS

9. Moeck/SRP Competition

9.1 The Committee noted with approval Dick Pyper's report on final preparations for the Moeck/Society of Recorder Players Solo Recorder Competition at Greenwich in the afternoon of Friday 8th November. Dick had written an article about the history of the Competition and this year's finalists for the Autumn issue of the *Recorder Magazine*. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Dick for everything he had done to ensure the continuing success of the Competition.

9.2 The Committee considered the appointment of a successor to Dick Pyper as Competition Administrator. The Treasurer had put her name forward and was thanked by the Chairman for her offer but, while she continued with her vital work as Treasurer, there had to be some concern about the demands that a further key role would put on her, especially regarding the overlap of deadlines.

9.3 The other applicant was Sarah Langdon, whose CV the Committee had seen. Several Committee members had commented, all favourably, the only queries being whether Sarah had enough experience to locate Competition judges and whether she could afford the time commitment while developing her career. It was therefore suggested that, at least for one Competition cycle (i.e. until the Competition final in 2015), she should have a mentor whom she would be asked to consult as necessary and update each month. It was

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agreed that Dick Pyper should be asked if he could take this role, and Evelyn Nallen volunteered for the role if Dick was unable to do so. Under the Rules Sarah could be co-opted to the Committee now and would be eligible for formal election at Conference 2014.

Resolution:- that, in accordance with Rule 5.12, Sarah Langdon be co-opted as a member of the Committee to serve as Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator until the date of the Society's Conference in 2014.

Proposed: Caroline Jones Seconded: Mike Wilkinson

For: 10 Against: 0 **Carried**

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

10. Greenwich Early Music Festival : 7th-9th November

10.1 The Committee discussed plans for the stand that the Society had booked in the Painted Hall at Greenwich. It was agreed that only items with direct relevance to the Society should be displayed since other items might be distracting. Items for sale could include copies of the Brian Bonsor and NYRO CDs, and some of the set versions of Alex Ayre's arrangements. Items for display could include recent issues of the *Recorder Magazine* and copies of some of the Society's commissioned pieces.

10.2 Vic Morris and Moira Hay were preparing a banner, and the Secretary was preparing a flyer based on the Welcome leaflet, a map showing the location of Branches, and a simple membership application form from which applicants' details could be forwarded to their nearest Branch if they wished. He would also ask the Web Editor whether the website could be cached so that it could be used on the stand since wi-fi was unlikely to be available. Vic Morris agreed to ask all Committee members if and when they could volunteer to work on the stand. He and the Chairman, with others if available, would help set up the stand before the opening time of 10.30am on 7th November.

11. New competitions

11.1 This item was deferred to the next meeting, when it would be placed earlier on the Agenda.

12. Commissioned Music

12.1 The Committee had already approved the commissioning of a piece from Paul Edlin, former Professor of Music at Canterbury Christ Church University, for 2014 at a cost of £1,500 including VAT, though this was not yet covered by a written contract. The Secretary agreed to consider the drawing up of an appropriate contract for this and future compositions where the composer was not tied to a music publisher.

12.2 Evelyn Nallen reported that Bob Chilcott (see www.bobchilcott.com for his extensive biography) had agreed to write a piece for 2017 and that, to secure his services and fix his fee of £2,500 plus VAT, she had agreed a standard contract on behalf of the Society with him and Oxford University Press. The Committee welcomed Evelyn's choice and unanimously gave retrospective approval for her action. The Chairman requested that any future contracts should be approved by the Committee in advance of any payment.

12.3 The funds allocated for commissions some years ago were now fully committed, so it would be appropriate at a future meeting to review arrangements and funding for future commissions.

Action: MIKE WILKINSON

13. Any other business

13.1 No issues were raised under this item.

Next meeting: In the light of members' availability, the next meeting will be on Sunday 16th February 2014 at the Benslow Music Trust.

The meeting closed at 4pm.