



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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

### PRESENT:

Tessa Rolph	Chairman	Madeline Seviour	News Editor (items 1-4)
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser, and Festival 2015
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Vic Morris	Committee
Sarah Langdon	Competition Administrator	Frances Tuffery	Committee
April Munday	Training Co-ordinator		

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.30am by welcoming all present, especially Madeline Seviour (News Editor), who could rarely attend meetings. Apologies for absence were received from Emily Bannister (Publicity Officer), Anthony Hall (Web Editor) and Eileen Silcocks (Musical Adviser). Following the launch of NYRO as a separate charity on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, the NYRO sub-committee no longer existed (which would require a revision to the Rules) and its former Chairman, Naomi Wellings, was no longer a member of the Committee.

Action: SECRETARY

### 2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting

2.1 The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Truro were approved.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Caroline Jones

### 3. Actions and matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Instrument insurance (minute 4.1): Dick Pyper had confirmed that Lark Insurance, which was offering preferential terms for all musical instrument insurance to SRP members, was willing to supply periodic returns of the take-up of this offer so that the Society could be reassured that Gift Aid rules were not being breached. On that basis the Committee again welcomed Lark's offer and agreed that it should be publicised to members.

Action: SECRETARY

3.2 Committee membership (minute 4.4): Despite Branches and some individuals being made aware that the Society was looking to recruit members for two Committee vacancies, a new Gift Aid Secretary, and a possible new Treasurer, there had as yet been no formal nominations. The Secretary was asked to contact some further individuals and to ensure that, if vacancies remained, they were again publicised in good time for Branches to consider making nominations to Conference on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Action: SECRETARY

3.3 Investments (minute 4.7): The Treasurer reported that, as agreed, both the £80,000 already invested with Nationwide and the £20,000 previously invested with Barclays were now invested in Nationwide bonds.

3.4 Paul Clark (minute 5.2): Discussion of how the Society might commemorate the work of Paul Clark was deferred. The Secretary was asked to discuss this with Helen Hooker, who had produced *Bravo Bonsor!* Caroline Jones said that Birmingham Branch also wished to be involved.  
Action: SECRETARY to contact HELEN HOOKER

#### 4. Officers' Reports

4.1 Chairman: Tessa Rolph noted the recent publication of a few items sympathetic to the recorder. For example, in an article entitled "Can the recorder ever be sexy?", in *The Telegraph* on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, Ivan Hewett had enthused that the sound of the recorder "may come as a surprise to someone who's never encountered the instrument outside the school classroom". Tessa had replied, pointing to the many playing opportunities available, including those offered by the SRP and the U3A. In discussion it was noted that one Branch was finding it difficult to attract applicants for funds it had available to train recorder teachers, one possible reason being that Arts Council England appeared to have a policy of supporting only orchestral instruments, effectively discouraging the teaching of recorder. The Society's concerns on this issue might be something that it should consider taking up with Arts Council England and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Music Education (current Chair, Diana Johnson, MP for Kingston upon Hull North).  
Action: CHAIRMAN

4.2 Secretary: Mike Wilkinson noted with sadness the death of Frans Brügger, one of the Society's Vice Presidents, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the age of 79. A link to the *The Telegraph's* obituary of him had been posted on the website. It was agreed that the Chairman should send condolences to his family on behalf of the Society.  
Action: CHAIRMAN

4.3 This prompted discussion of the role of SRP Vice Presidents, which needed to be better defined, and a suggestion that the Society should appoint further VPs to recognise their role in promoting the recorder. Several names were suggested – Piers Adams, Tom Beets, Michala Petri, Philip Thorby - and the Secretary was asked to draft invitations for the Chairman to send. The appointment of new Vice Presidents becomes effective when confirmed by Conference.  
Action: SECRETARY / CHAIRMAN

4.4 Mike also reported that South Cotswold Branch had closed, that three Branches had recently appointed new Secretaries – Cambridge (Anne Smellie), South London (David Moses) and South Downs (Shuna Neilson) – and that he had to date approved 19 conductors' visits in 2014/15 and 1 in 2015/16. He had also received some further nominations for long-service certificates for Branch officers.

4.5 Treasurer: Ulli Burchette reported that the agreed fee of £1,500 to Paul Edlin for his 2014 commission *Quattuor Musicae* had been paid from the Arthur Ingram Fund (see the website to download the score and parts, and YouTube for a performance by Zero Gravity), that the accounts for the 2014 Festival in Truro had not yet been finalised, and that the Scottish Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (at which the Flanders Quartet had performed) had made a loss of about £600. Alyson Lewin asked to see the accounts from Truro, when finalised, to help with organising the 2015 Festival in Wolverhampton. Pamela Flanagan felt that the Scottish Festival had been well publicised, reasonably priced and musically very successful, but the budget had been based on 60 participants while only 40 took part. Ulli's advice was that Festivals should try to budget for a surplus to provide headroom for such uncertainties.

4.6 Ulli also reported difficulties over how the accounts of Workshops should be presented to ensure that internal payments between parts of the Society were properly identified. A new format would be trialled for a Workshop being organised by Durham Branch.

4.7 Membership Secretary: David Rollason described the new database that Anthony Hall had developed, with guidance from David and others, for handling membership data for 2014/15 onwards. David had issued guidance to Branches about this in September and would be monitoring operation of the new system to see whether further guidance or refinements were needed. For Branches submitting membership returns in 2014/15, there were few changes from the previous scheme, though the option to

record donations and Branch subscriptions had been added and, in the Committee's view, should be retained. It was important for Branches to use their most recent return when submitting updates. The new system greatly reduced the scope for error, could automatically compare SRP and Recorder Musicmail data to identify changes required to the *Recorder Magazine* mailing list, and could help with both Branch and national Gift Aid returns. The Committee asked that its thanks and appreciation be sent to Anthony for his sterling work in devising the new system.

4.8 News Editor: Madeline Seviour, who had just submitted copy for the Society's pages in the Winter issue of the *Recorder Magazine*, noted that the deadlines used by Recorder Musicmail and their printers for submission of copy and return of proofs were not always clear, although this did allow for late copy. The Editor, whose own editorial sometimes referred to events that had happened after the nominal copy deadline, had advised that she would always try to include late items (e.g. about the Benslow RecorderFest on 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September), especially if she had been alerted to save space for them. However, an agreed schedule and notes on how flexible this could be might be useful for all concerned. A note about whether and how visually impaired people could access the content of the Magazine was also requested. The Secretary was asked to follow up these points.

Action: SECRETARY

4.9 Possible future topics suggested for the SRP pages included the Workshops provided by the Society (April Munday) and the experience of the Arden Recorder Orchestra in being chosen to take part in Making Music's Adopt a Composer scheme and being paired with composer Kirsty Deveney to work on a piece to be premiered on Radio 3 in 2015 (Caroline Jones). To make more space for Branch reports and other items it might be possible to abbreviate the list of Branch Secretaries, for example by omitting postal addresses, in some issues of the Magazine.

Action: APRIL MUNDAY, CAROLINE JONES, SECRETARY

4.10 Walter Bergmann Fund: Moira Usher circulated her report giving details of applications considered at the WBF Committee's meetings in February, June and October 2014. Overall there had been 19 applications, of which 8 had been agreed (4 for instruments and 4 for courses) and 11 refused. The most frequent reasons for refusal were insufficient financial information and repeat applications for items/events previously supported. Moira also thanked to Julie Dean (Recorder Shop London) and Ruth Burbidge (Recorder Musicmail) for raising funds for the WBF by selling donated instruments and music. Moira herself had also raised significant sums by selling second-hand music.

4.11 Moeck/SRP Competition Administrator: Sarah Langdon, who had already appointed Bart Spanhove and Maria Martinez Ayerza as adjudicators for the Competition in 2015, hoped shortly to appoint Steven Devine to complete the adjudication panel. She would soon be circulating details of the 2015 Competition to a wide range of individuals and organisations that might wish to submit entries. Tessa Rolph would send Sarah a spreadsheet she had of possible interested parties.

Action: CHAIRMAN

4.12 Sarah also noted the continuing uncertainty that surrounded some financial aspects of the Competition. She planned to meet the Early Music Shop, which had agreed to pay some travel expenses for the 2013 winner's recital at Greenwich on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, to seek clarification. At present our understanding was that Moeck provided the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, the SRP provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes, and that other costs were shared in some way between Moeck, the SRP and the Early Music Shop. However, a clearer understanding of the Competition's finances might help all concerned.

Action: COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

4.13 Training Co-ordinator: April Munday had circulated some interesting statistics on course choices, numbers and host Branches. The most popular course was that on Technique, the highest number held in a year so far was 7 in 2013/14, and the Branch hosting the greatest number was Wessex, followed closely by Cambridge and Sheffield. April would be producing an updated leaflet on courses in time for the Early Music Festival at Greenwich in November. Encouraging neighbouring Branches to host courses jointly might help stimulate interest.

4.14 Website Editor: Anthony Hall had circulated a report about further improvements he had made to the website, including the introduction and operation of the new membership database and the treatment of Branch music libraries, and items for which he was awaiting material. Future developments on the database included the possibility of online management of returns for COS and affiliated organisations in 2014/15 and, in the longer term, an online option for Branch returns, though retaining the spreadsheet system for Branches which preferred this. Anthony would welcome feedback on the website and the database system from all users.

Action: Teachers Guide - HELEN HOOKER, Members' Benefits – SECRETARY, Recorder Makers - CHAIRMAN

4.15 In discussion of the proposed web page about performers and ensembles, which Anthony thought might be contentious and on which he was awaiting up-dated material, the Committee agreed that it was not in a position to vet those wishing to be included and therefore that all applications had to be accepted unless there was an obvious reason not to. However, the Committee also agreed that applicants should be asked to state their musical qualifications (if any) and to say if they regarded themselves as professional (i.e. earning some or all of their income from music) or amateur so that users of the web page could have reasonable expectations of the abilities of those listed.

Action: WEB EDITOR

4.16 Publicity Officer: Sarah Langdon, reporting on behalf of Emily Bannister, noted that an attractive website, frequently updated (which improved its profile in web searches), was an increasingly important tool for recruiting, informing and retaining members of many organisations. The website included links to the Society's Facebook page, which was thriving, and to the recently established Twitter feed, which was attracting growing interest thanks to Emily's follow-up of new users. Emily had also identified a number of options for further use of social media to raise the Society's profile – e.g. Google Ad Grants to help non-profit organisations advertise prominently on Google, BTmydonate to raise funds, a Google+ or YouTube non-profit account for uploading videos of concerts etc. It was recommended that there should be a Facebook and Twitter feed on the website (rather than a link) so that the website updates daily.

Action: WEB EDITOR

4.17 The Committee warmly welcomed the ideas put forward by Emily and invited her, Sarah Langdon and Vic Morris to develop some detailed, and if necessary costed, proposals for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.

Action: PUBLICITY OFFICER, COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR, VIC MORRIS

4.18 Festival 2015: Alyson Lewin reported that at the chosen venue, Wolverhampton Grammar School, the rooms used by the Festival would be on 2 levels, with good disabled access. Activities so far arranged included a Recorder Orchestra session by Caroline Jones, a performance by the Arden Recorder Orchestra, and renaissance music and dancing led by Eric Moulder (crumhorn). Sandra Foxall was being an excellent mentor on Festival issues. Further information and an application form would be posted on the website, with a quick link from the home page, as soon as this was available. Alyson asked the Secretary to send her a copy of the Society's Public Liability Insurance certificate since WGS needed to see this.

Action: SECRETARY

4.19 Festival 2016: The Secretary reported that, despite further requests, no northern or Scottish Branch had yet volunteered to host the national Festival in 2016. He therefore wondered if the Branch(es) to be chosen to host the 2016 Scottish Festival might be invited to expand the event to be a combined or national Festival. Pamela Flanagan agreed to discuss this possibility with her colleagues in Glasgow Branch.

Action: PAMELA FLANAGAN, SECRETARY

## 5. NYRO

5.1 The Committee discussed a draft of the terms to which funding for the newly independent NYRO, including the £5,000 grant awarded for 2014/15, should be subject. Naomi Wellings had already pointed out that, given NYRO's likely turnover, its accounts would be independently examined rather than formally audited. The Committee saw no need for a NYRO representative to attend its discussion of future grant applications – the written submission should provide all the necessary information. The Committee also

decided that, while NYRO should have access to 50% of the funding agreed for any financial year from the start of that year, release of the other 50% should be subject to the Society receiving NYRO's independently examined accounts for the previous financial year.

5.2 In discussion of the terms for the long-term loan to NYRO of recorders owned by the Society, the Committee asked that, when specifying the terms for these recorders to be made available to SRP Branches and affiliated orchestras, NYRO should be required to include a clause stating that they should be returned in good condition and by the date specified by NYRO. Subject to these amendments, the terms of both the grant conditions and the instrument loan agreement were approved. Subject to any further comments by NYRO, the Secretary would arrange for both documents, as amended, to be signed by the SRP and NYRO Chairmen.

Action: SECRETARY

## **6. Application for funding from Birmingham International Recorder and Early Music Festival**

6.1 The Committee considered an application from Annabel Knight, on behalf of the Birmingham International Recorder and Early Music Festival to be held on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014, for funding to support this event. The application gave details of the event, its aims and activities, which included an international competition for young solo recitalists, non-competitive ensemble playing, a NYRO taster session, masterclasses and a concert by Fontanella. Entries for both competition and masterclasses had exceeded expectations, though this meant that extra tutors and accompanists had to be recruited, as had further stewards to meet the venue's health and safety requirements. The Birmingham Conservatoire was offering its venue and services without charge, and some sponsorship. Despite this, the latest budget for the event forecast a loss of £1,150.

6.2 Moira Usher noted that the WBF had refused an application earlier in the year for support for this event on grounds that it was primarily a Conservatoire event using some of the Conservatoire's own staff. The Chairman said that the scope of the event now appeared to be somewhat broader and several of its activities fitted well with those of the Society. After further discussion the Committee agreed to award a grant of £500 to support this event, this sum to include the cost of a stand for the Society and on condition that the organisers acknowledge this support and use the SRP logo on any programmes etc yet to be printed. Sarah Langdon offered to take the Society's publicity material, including a flyer to be produced by the Secretary specifically for this event, to Birmingham and to staff the stand on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## **7. Greenwich Early Music Festival, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

7.1 The Chairman said that she felt the Society's stand at this Festival in 2013 had been successful in raising the profile of the Society, though the cost of the stand and publicity material had to be seen as an investment since income from membership fees and CD sales had been modest. She proposed, and the Committee agreed, that the Society should again have a stand this year. She had already recruited sufficient volunteers to staff the stand, and most of the publicity material produced in 2013 could be reused. NYRO had agreed to supply some new brochures.

## **8. Commissioned music**

8.1 SRP Commissions: Evelyn Nallen recalled that, some years ago, the Committee had agreed a budget of £1,000 per year for the Society to commission music. In some cases the budget for two or more years had been combined to commission particular pieces, as was the case for the piece commissioned from Bob Chilcot for 2017. Evelyn noted that choosing composers was always difficult, even if costs were not a limitation. After discussion the Committee agreed that its previous budget allocation was spent and that, before any further budget or commissions were agreed, it would be useful to have an agreed framework for financing and commissioning future works. This would need to include a mechanism for choosing a composer and specifying the type of work required and a draft agreement to form the basis for a contract between the SRP and the chosen composer, though if the composer was already under contract to a publisher then any agreement with the SRP would need to be compatible with that. The Committee

asked the Secretary, in consultation with Evelyn and others, to draft a framework for discussion at a future meeting.

Action: SECRETARY, EVELYN NALLEN

8.2 Other commissions: Evelyn Nallen also said that, when helping Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke choose their pieces for the BBC Young Musician competitions in 2012 and 2014 respectively, their teacher Barbara Law had noted how little repertoire was available to be played as a concerto for recorder and orchestra. To help remedy this Barbara and Evelyn wished to commission such a concerto from Graham Fitkin (see [www.fitkin.com](http://www.fitkin.com)). The cost would be £20,000, with a deposit of £8,000 needed by January 2015. With that in mind Evelyn asked whether the Society, or indeed individual Committee members, would consider making donations to help launch this project. The Committee commended this initiative and, after further discussion, agreed unanimously that the Society should award a grant of £3,000.

## 9. Any other business

9.1 Sophie Westbrooke: The Committee agreed that Sophie Westbrooke, winner of the woodwind section of the BBC Young Musician Competition in 2014, should be awarded a grant of £2,000 to purchase one or more recorders of her choice to help develop her expertise and expand her repertoire. This mirrored the award given to Charlotte Barbour-Condini after her similar success in the 2012 Competition.

9.2 Ron Skins: The Committee agreed a payment of £50 to Ron Skins in recognition of his donation of his collection of recorder magazines, which date back to the inauguration of the Society

9.3 Honorary Life Members: The Committee agreed to nominate Barbara Law, a long-standing member of the Walter Bergmann Fund sub-Committee and teacher of Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke, BBC Young Musician finalists in 2012 and 2014, and Bob Whitmarsh, former SRP Secretary, as Honorary Life Members for their outstanding service to the Society. These nominations were subject to confirmation by Conference in April 2015.

## 10. Future meetings

10.1 In the light of members' availability, it was agreed that the next Committee meeting will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at the Benslow Music Trust. The following meeting will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 during the Festival in Wolverhampton.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

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