



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

16 OCTOBER 2011

Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts

PRESENT:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	David Powell	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	April Munday	Committee
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Tessa Rolph	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Membership Secretary	Matthew Taylor	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Country/Overseas Sec	Naomi Wellings	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Anne Martin	Festival/Conference 2012
Andrew Collis	Musical Adviser, WBF, Competition Admin.	Dianne Charles	NYRO Administrator (by invitation)
Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser	Anthony Hall	Web Editor (by invitation)

1. Apologies for absence

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.30. Apologies for absence were received from Colin Touchin, Madeline Seviour (invited as SRP News Editor) and Laura Justice (invited as Editor of The Recorder Magazine).

2. Welcome of Committee member and guests

The Chairman welcomed Committee member Naomi Wellings to her first Committee meeting and guests Dianne Charles and Anthony Hall.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

After Anne Martin had pointed out that it was Graham Danbury who had organised the 50th anniversary event (11.2 para.1) and the Secretary had noted that The Recorder Magazine copy dates were in fact 1 January and 1 April (11.2 para.4) the Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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

4.1 Item 7. Progress with recorder web sites. Mat Taylor regretted that due to pressure of work he had been unable to progress the concept of the overarching UK recorder web site. He hoped to do more during the forthcoming half-term break. The background to the concept of the site was explained by Moira Usher in response to a query from Anthony Hall.

4.2. Item 10. Support for affiliated orchestras. The Secretary regretted that due to the amount of business on the Agenda this item had had to be postponed to the next meeting.

4.3 Item 11.1. Written financial procedures for future Festivals. The Secretary regretted that due to the amount of business on the Agenda this item had had to be postponed to the next meeting. It was noted that the Festival guidelines probably needed to be updated and that any revision should take account of the participation of ERTA in the Festival.

4.4 Item 11.2. 75th anniversary and the 2012 Festival. It was decided to hold an event separate from the Festival to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Society.

5. Officers' reports

5.1 Treasurer's report. The Chairman noted that £224.50 had been received after the winding up of the Northampton Branch. He added that the audit fee had been £200 and not £150.

The Treasurer explained that only ten Branches were claiming Gift Aid on the Branch fraction of their members' subscriptions even though the Society had managed to get back £5207 for itself from the central subscriptions in 2009-2010. She noted that the procedure was more difficult for some Branches if it could be argued that a proportion of the subscription covered tuition (which is not eligible for Gift Aid). The Chairman agreed that, yet again, he would go back to Branches to explain the procedure and to encourage them to take advantage of claiming Gift Aid. **[Action Chairman]**

Anne Martin suggested that a short session be held at the Festival to help Branch treasurers and other interested members to understand the Gift Aid procedure because evidently there were misunderstandings about the system. It could, for example, help to keep Branch subscriptions down. The suggestion was accepted by the Committee. **[Action Anne Martin, Chairman]**

The Chairman agreed to send Tessa Rolph a copy of the current form and explanation that he had produced for Branches. **[Action Chairman]**

The Chairman then asked what was being done, given the current very low rates of interest, to invest the Society's funds in accounts that yielded a better rate of return than what was offered by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). He noted that the current rate of the CAF accounts was not more than 0.7% per annum whereas it could be as much as 1.95%. He undertook, with Tessa Rolph, to research the options for the Society. **[Action Chairman, Tessa Rolph]**

5.2 Walter Bergmann Fund. Andrew Collis reported that the Fund was currently helping two groups with educational projects that involved 200 children in Woking and Essex. He suggested that to celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary a concert could be put on in 2012-2013 by beneficiaries of the WBF and by winners of the Competition. They could play pieces that had been commissioned by the Society. Anne Martin said she would provide copies of her biography of Walter Bergmann for sale and donate part of the proceeds to the Fund. Evelyn Nallen offered to seek a venue for the concert in Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge possibly in Autumn or late November 2012 when the Jonathan Dove piece should be finished. **[Action Andrew Collis, Anne Martin, Evelyn Nallen]**

Anne Martin suggested that a 75th anniversary reception could be included too (but see Item 10.2).

6. The National Youth Recorder Orchestras

Andrew Short began by noting that NYRO's Terms of Reference, which had been agreed in July 2011, needed to be confirmed by the Committee. The Secretary undertook to seek the Committee's formal approval for the Terms of Reference. **[Action Secretary]**

Andrew Collis asked when the loan of £4000 to NYRO would be repaid. Andrew Short replied that no limit had been specified and it was up to the Committee to set terms. Dianne Charles noted that part of this sum (£1000) had been needed to set up NYRO's new CAF bank account. The Treasurer suggested that NYRO should begin to pay back some of the loan. Moira Usher said that some members regarded the financial support of NYRO as a 'bottomless pit'. The Chairman pointed out that members' subscriptions had never been used to support NYRO; the funds came directly from the Arthur Ingram Fund. Moira Usher stated that this needed to be explained better to Branches. Mike Wilkinson queried whether in fact NYRO should be expected to break even. The Society could afford to support NYRO from the Arthur Ingram Fund and this support could be regarded as part of its

charitable activities. The Chairman replied that he was comfortable with this view; he believed the Society would not get more funding if it didn't make use of the capital in the Arthur Ingram Fund.

Anne Martin asked whether, to increase the number of students, the NYRO Sub-Committee could consider the inclusion of non-recorder orchestral activities in the Summer course. Andrew Short replied that this already happens in that students are encouraged to bring other instruments to play in their free time. Dianne Charles added that if there was an attempt to formalise the inclusion of orchestral instruments this would add enormously to the problems of organisation and staffing. The idea needed to be discussed by the NYRO Sub-Committee. **[Action Andrew Short]**

Dianne Charles then presented her written report. She began by saying that she was passionate about NYRO having joined the Sub-Committee several years ago and then become a member of the house staff before applying for the part-time Administrator post. She referred to some of the students' comments to illustrate that they too were passionate about NYRO.

She stated that, in an attempt to increase numbers, students were now taken down to the age of 8 years and at a lower minimum grade (Grade 3). She noted that once students had joined NYRO they remained very loyal and many, after reaching 21 years, wanted to return as house staff. When they first joined NYRO many had never played with other recorder players before. In answer to a question Dianne noted that the teenagers didn't mind playing with younger students.

She continued that it was only in the last two years that NYRO had encountered financial problems probably because of the widespread economic downturn. Even so 2011 had been less unsuccessful than 2010; 70 students new to NYRO had been recruited. In a survey 22 (100%) had responded that they had enjoyed their course. Only a few had said that the courses were too expensive or that possibly the standard was too high for them personally. Students were also very keen to help with advertising future NYRO events.

Andrew Short concurred that problems had arisen only in the last two years. Obviously NYRO could be wound up but maybe the problem was only temporary. Tessa Rolph asked if NYRO had a budget for 2012. She suggested that such a budget should be examined and approved by the Committee. Andrew Short agreed. Dianne Charles replied that budgeting was done by Rosemary Byde (NYRO Treasurer) and suggested that she should be invited to the Committee.

It was proposed that Rosemary Byde should be invited to present NYRO's budget for 2012-2013 at the next Committee meeting.

Proposed: Tessa Rolph

Seconded: April Munday

Carried Nem. con.

[Action: Secretary inform Rosemary Byde]

Dianne Charles said she thought they were doing all the right things but they still needed to 'get the word out'. She said that Andrew Collis had very helpfully provided access to his database of contacts. It had also helped to invite teachers to the Taster Days and to work with some county music services. She concluded that word of mouth was probably the very best way to find new students. Helen Hooker said she wanted to get information out directly to recorder teachers.

Andrew Short added that NYRO was considering applying for grants for outreach activities. Dianne Charles responded that NYRO's experience with a fundraiser had not been positive but she was hoping to prepare some proposals herself. Helen Hooker offered to provide a list of funding sources. **[Action Helen Hooker]**

Mike Wilkinson asked why a flyer had not been inserted in The Recorder Magazine as discussed by the Committee in October 2010. Dianne Charles stated that there had been a problem in doing so in 2011 but it would be done in future. A flyer would be distributed via the Early Music Shop too. Anne

Martin offered to put a flyer in the Festival Programme which would advertise the Blockwork Concert and Blockwork and mention that it received support from the Arthur Ingram Fund. [Action: Anne Martin and Secretary draft Festival advertisement] She added that the Blockwork Players participating in the concert would be given free access to the rest of the Festival.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Dianne Charles for coming to speak to the Committee.

7. To review progress with Festival 2012

Anne Martin began by saying she had talked to Peter Bowman and had invited ERTA to attend the Festival. She expected them to put on a workshop on 'Recorder in education in the last 75 years' and to hold their AGM during the Festival. A discount of £5 per person on the £50 room hire would be given to ERTA for each member attending the Festival up to a maximum of £110. Peter Bowman had also been invited to conduct a session.

The Treasurer opined that ERTA should be given 10% of any surplus from the Festival, with 30% going to each of the central funds, Arthur Ingram Fund and the host Branch. The Chairman commented that any such new scheme would have to be formally adopted by the Committee and Conference. Moira Usher commented that ERTA contributes nothing to the organisation of the Festival. Andrew Short cautioned that ERTA is not even a charity so it might not be appropriate to contribute to their costs but he supported Anne Martin's proposal for discounting.

It was proposed that a discount of £5 per person on the £50 room hire would be given to ERTA for each ERTA member attending Festival 2012 up to a maximum of £110.

Proposed: Andrew Short Seconded: Mike Wilkinson Carried For: 8 Against: 1

Finally Anne Martin produced samples of bone china mugs and a bag which could be used as 75th birthday anniversary gifts to Festival attendees.

The Chairman suggested that a display on the Society's 75 year history could be put on at the Festival. It could include NYRO and the Moeck/SRP Competition. Anne Martin noted that Theo Wyatt had a complete set of Recorder Magazines, which could provide historical data, and Helen Hooker noted that Steve Marshall was writing a history of the Society. The discussion ended inconclusively.

8. To discuss Trustees' Annual Reports 2010-2011

A few minor corrections and additions were suggested to the three reports. Andrew Short reminded the Committee that the reports would have to be signed off at the next Committee meeting. The Chairman thanked Andrew Short for his continuing help with producing these reports.

9. To receive a report on the Alex Ayre bequest

9.1 The Chairman began by noting that he had produced a draft contract between the Society and the Agent to be appointed to sell Alex Ayre's recorder music. He intended to send it to Making Music for professional legal comment in the next few days. The eventual contract would be sent to Alyson Lewin, Recorder Music Mail and Steve Marshall all of whom had expressed an interest in running the business. He proposed that, of any surplus that went to the Society, 10% would go to Anne Ayre (as provided for in Alex Ayre's will), and Society members would get a reduced price. Tessa Rolph asked how people would prove they were members. The Chairman replied that that would depend on the system for ordering; NYRO members should also be eligible for a discount.

9.2 Moira Usher reported that, out of a total of 520 titles, 102 of the original titles had been re-set and 100 were presently with the team of setters. She had yet to find time to edit the re-set music. She added that some parts included vocal music but only some of the words were given on the original manuscript. She asked whether the missing words should be added, perhaps in italics. **The**

Committee agreed that the re-set parts should be copies of the originals and not contain the full words.

9.3 David Powell noted that the British Library had declined to accept Alex Ayre's original manuscript scores and parts because they already had copies. The Secretary asked whether they might swap the copies for the originals which would safeguard the originals in perpetuity and also free up a set of copies for the Society to use if it wished. David Powell agreed to pursue this option. [Action David Powell]

10. To consider suggestions for a 75th birthday appeal and a special issue of The Recorder Magazine

10.1 The Chairman noted that NYRO had already initiated a 10th birthday appeal for 2012 and he wondered whether the Society should also have a 75th anniversary appeal. This was not favoured on the grounds that the Society was unlikely to be successful because it held very considerable assets in the Arthur Ingram Fund.

Various suggestions were made including spending on the membership from the Arthur Ingram Fund, giving a present to every Branch, subsidising the Competition, providing one free workshop to every Branch, giving everyone an A4 zip-folder for sheet music and giving out bone china mugs at the Festival. Anthony Hall interposed that, speaking as a Branch Treasurer, the last thing people wanted was a present, which might be seen as 'insulting' and Evelyn Nallen considered that temporarily reducing the subscription might be seen in the same way.

Tessa Rolph suggested that some sort of free event should be organised such as a Playing Day per region or per Branch. Dianne Charles suggested combining a number of NYRO Taster Days with Branch Playing Days. Mike Wilkinson concurred and proposed that.

In celebration of the Society's 75th anniversary, £150 be offered to any Branch(es) arranging a Playing Day, which could be incorporated with a NYRO Taster Day, in calendar years 2012 or 2013 to a limit of one award per Branch.

Proposed: Mike Wilkinson

Seconded: Moira Usher

Carried Nem. con.

Sandra Foxall asked that the invitation letter, in a suitable birthday format, be sent to each Branch should mention that funds to underwrite the events would come from the Arthur Ingram Fund. [Action Secretary] The letter could also explain that Branches jointly arranging an event could share an award and that in such circumstances a Branch could qualify for more than one payment, if it helped to arrange more than one event, with an overall limit of £150 to any one Branch.

10.2 The Secretary continued that he had received an email from Laura Justice, Editor of The Recorder Magazine, who had offered to publish a special issue of the Magazine in Summer 2012 to commemorate the 75th anniversary. Suggestions were made for items to include in such an issue. They included an arrangement of Happy Birthday for the centre pages, interviews with past Chairman such Theo Wyatt, a contribution from a NYRO student, an interview with Alistair Read (by the Chairman), something about the Walter Bergmann Fund and the Moeck/SRP Competition, photos from the past, snippets of items from past issues of the Magazine (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago etc.). The Secretary agreed to coordinate production of this issue with Laura Justice. [Action Secretary]

Tessa Rolph suggested that extra copies of the special issue Magazine should be printed perhaps with an information pack on the history of the Society being sent to each Branch. Anthony Hall offered to create a suitable birthday home page for the whole of 2012 with content provided by the Committee. [Action Anthony Hall, Secretary]

It was proposed that,

A 75th birthday reception should be held after the 2012 Moeck/SRP concert in Greenwich.

Proposed: Moira Usher

Seconded: Mike Wilkinson

Carried: Nem. con.

The Chairman offered to help organise the reception. [Action Chairman]

A discussion followed about how to obtain publicity for the 75th anniversary. Anne Martin said that she would arrange local (Guildford and Surrey) publicity for the Festival. Evelyn Nallen opined that the press/media need an ‘angle’ or ‘hook’ for a story to be reported. She suggested holding a flash mob event somewhere, probably indoors, where a large number of recorder players would make an impact. This was agreed. [Action Tessa Rolph, Evelyn Nallen and Moira Usher]

A more general discussion followed on the Society’s need for a Publicity Officer. The Secretary was asked to prepare an advertisement to go in the earliest possible issue of The Recorder Magazine, and on the web site, and to contact all Branches to seek someone to fill the voluntary post of Publicity Officer for at least 12 months during the 75th anniversary year. [Action Secretary]

11. To receive a report on SRP 2020 and to approve draft Terms of Reference of a Working Group

11.1 Tessa Rolph briefly mentioned her previously circulated report and asked for opinions on what the focus of the Society should be. If it was intended to be the Branches then setting up other projects might draw the focus away from Branches. It was commented that the Society should avoid appealing only to people in their twilight years, that Branches had to recruit new members to survive and that more adults should be made aware of the Society’s existence e.g. via the U3A.

11.2 **The draft Terms of Reference for the 2020 Working Group were approved** after some minor changes. The only substantial change was to revise paragraph 3 which now reads,

’3. Membership of the Working Group will consist of a maximum of four suitably qualified persons, at least two of whom are currently members of the Society. Members will be appointed by the SRP Committee.’

After further discussion the Committee agreed to accept Tessa Rolph’s and Naomi Wellings’ offers to join the Working Group and to ask the Secretary to approach two other named individuals. [Action Secretary]

12. To amend and agree the procedure for appointing members of the Panel of Visiting Conductors

The Secretary began by pointing out that the current procedure was not working well because two applicants who had applied in October 2010 and March 2011 still had not been assessed by a Musical Adviser. The procedure was that an applicant had to conduct a largely unfamiliar group of players in the presence of at least one Musical Adviser. The onus was on the applicant to make the arrangements including contacting a Musical Adviser.

He added that Richard Lindsay (Lincoln) had been advised in May 2011 to contact either Evelyn Nallen or Andrew Collis to arrange an assessment but he had not done so; on that basis the application could be considered to have lapsed. Tessa Rolph offered to invite Richard Lindsay to conduct the Nottingham Branch and this was accepted by the Committee. [Action Tessa Rolph] It had been unfortunate that it had not been possible to assess Peter Bowman at Festival 2011 but Anne Martin said he had been invited to conduct at Festival 2012 and it was hoped that Peter Bowman could find a Musical Adviser to attend that session.

The Secretary concluded by saying that he had just received an application from Jack Brothwell (S Cotswold). April Munday (Wessex) offered to arrange for him to be invited to conduct at Wessex assuming that a Musical Adviser was available. [Action April Munday, Secretary]

In conclusion, **the Committee decided not to change the current procedure.**

13. To consider proposals for new Musical Advisers

13.1 Philip Thorby had been proposed by Moira Usher. The Secretary pointed out that unfortunately, as Philip Thorby is not currently a member of the Society, he is ineligible according to Rule 5.7 which states that all candidates for a named office, such as Musical Adviser, should be a member of the Society.

13.2 Ross Winters had been proposed by Eileen Silcocks. The Committee asked the Secretary to invite Ross Winters to become a Musical Adviser, subject to him agreeing to attend Committee meetings for three consecutive years, when the MA rota required it, and to ratification at Conference 2012. [Action Secretary]

14. To confirm the appointment of Anthony Hall as the new webmaster.

It was proposed that Anthony Hall be confirmed as the Society's new Webmaster.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Matthew Taylor Carried: Nem. con.

15. To review the privileges of the President/Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members

Following an approach by a member of the Society the Secretary invited the Committee to consider the current privileges enjoyed by the President, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members relating to voting at Conference, receiving The Recorder Magazine and paying subscriptions.

It was agreed that,

The President and Vice-Presidents could attend but not vote at Conference (Rule 7.7), should receive a free copy of The Recorder Magazine (new procedure) and did not have to pay an annual subscription. [Action Membership Secretary]

Honorary Life Members, like any ordinary member (Rule 7.1), could attend Conference, but could not vote unless they were an Officer, holder of a named office or Branch Delegate (Rule 7.6), and should receive a free copy of The Recorder Magazine (new procedure). [Action Membership Secretary]

16. To review suggestions for a memorial to Brian Bonsor

Sandra Foxall introduced the item by referring to her previously circulated note. It was proposed to record a CD of Brian Bonsor's music and arrangements. She noted that Mary Bonsor wanted to be involved at every stage. She, and her preferred accompanist Jim Letham, should be invited to attend the recordings at the Society's expense.

Helen Hooker recommended a recording engineer she had previously used. She estimated that the whole package, including pressing 1000 CDs, would cost around £3000. She said the aim was to have the CDs ready for Festival 2012 but she was free to participate in a weekend recording only on 18-19 February 2012. The recording would involve an 11-part orchestra of 25-30 players and the ensemble music would require 2-3 players per part. Anne Martin suggested that Mary Bonsor should be entitled to royalties from the sale of the CDs.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee endorse the above plans and encourage Sandra Foxall and Helen Hooker to proceed with planning production of the CDs if at all possible in time for Festival 2012. Helen Hooker cautioned that she wished to put quality of the recording before delivery in time for Festival 2012.

It was proposed that,

£3000 be spent on the recording and production of a Brian Bonsor memorial CD.

Proposed: Moira Usher

Seconded: Tessa Rolph

Carried: Nem. con.

17. To receive reports on archiving the digitised Minutes of the Society

17.1 David Powell reported that the British Library had agreed to archive the original Minutes of the Society from 1937. He explained that legal ownership would have to pass to the British Library but transfer of copyright would be optional. He added that any data held by the British Library enters the public domain and the Society's records would become accessible to anybody.

The Committee agreed to proceed with handing over the Society's Committee and Conference Minutes from 1937 to 1994 inclusive to the British Library. [Action Secretary, David Powell]

17.2 The Secretary reported that he had recently received digitised files of Minutes from 1994 until 2000 (Conference) and from 1994 until 2002 (Committee) which previously had only existed in paper form.

17.3 Anthony Hall offered to store all the above files of the Society's Minutes on the same server as the web site and in addition to the copies held by the Secretary. [Action Secretary, Anthony Hall]

18. To consider dates and locations of future Festivals

Dublin 2013. Evelyn Nallen said she had talked to a member of the Dublin Branch at Festival 2011 and discussed whether a piece could be commissioned by an Irish composer. So far she had had no reply.

Cornwall 2014. No discussion.

2015. The Committee discussed the two alternative offers from S Staffs and Durham/Newcastle for 2015 and agreed that, for reasons of geographical balance, they preferred the Festival to be hosted by S Staffs in 2015 and by Durham/Newcastle in 2016. [Action Secretary to inform S Staffs and Durham/Newcastle Branches]

19. Any other business

19.1 Evelyn Nallen asked whether the 2011 commissioned piece could be published online as a pdf file. She suggested that a complete score version of the commissioned piece plus 4 complete sets of parts could be emailed to each Branch Secretary and the rest of the world could access it over the internet. Anthony Hall confirmed that this was possible. [Action Evelyn Nallen, Anthony Hall]

19.2 Moira Usher proposed, and it was agreed, that Marion Panzetta be proposed for election as an Honorary Life Member of the Society at Conference 2012. [Action Secretary]

19.3 Moira Usher enquired about the status of designing a new logo. She thought that the 75th anniversary year would be a good time to unveil a more modern looking logo. The Chairman offered to ask a friend, who was a graphics artist, for help. [Action Chairman]

19.4 The Secretary read out an email from Madeline Seviour concerning space for SRP News in The Recorder Magazine. It was reported that some Branches had been upset at their contributions being shortened or even postponed to a later issue. Mike Wilkinson made a plea for including more photos as well. The Chairman noted that the Society's allocation of four pages had been in existence for quite a long time and he undertook to negotiate with The Recorder Magazine to see if the allocation could

be increased since SRP members apparently make up about 80% of the Magazine's subscribers.
[Action Chairman]

20. Dates of next meetings

The Secretary reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be on 5th February 2012 at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin and on 22nd April 2012 in Effingham near Guildford after Conference.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15.50.

RBW/RP