



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 19th February 2017

Hughes Hall, Cambridge CB1 2EW

PRESENT:

Vic Morris	Chairman	April Munday	Training Co-ordinator
Mike Wilkinson	Secretary	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
David Rollason	Membership Secretary	Isobel Clarke	Publicity Officer (from para 3.3)
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Rodney Callow	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Pamela Flanagan	Committee
Sarah Langdon	Competition Administrator	Caroline Jones	Committee

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 12.30pm and welcomed those present. Apologies for absence were received from Evelyn Nallen and Eileen Silcocks (Musical Advisers), Anthony Hall (Web Editor), Allyn Richardson (News Editor) and Josée Beeson, Ciara Flanagan and Frances Tuffery (Committee). The Committee also noted the resignations of Emily Bannister (Publicity Officer) and Ross Winters (Musical Adviser) and asked that its appreciation be conveyed to them for their services to the Society.

2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting, and matters arising therefrom

2.1 The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16th September 2016 were approved.
Proposed: April Munday Seconded: Caroline Jones

2.2 Training (minutes 5.2 and 5.3): April Munday reported that she was still considering options for providing conductors and potential conductors with guidance or training on rehearsal techniques, music selection etc and for collecting feedback from participants on conducting courses.

2.2 Publicity Officer (minute 7.4): The Chairman announced that, as agreed, he had conducted a search for a new Publicity Officer, to succeed Emily Bannister, and was pleased to report that he had found two well-qualified volunteers, details of whom he had circulated to the Committee on 27th January. He proposed that both be appointed to make best use of their different skills and experience to undertake the important task of promoting the Society to a wide audience. Accordingly, the Committee was pleased to welcome the appointment of **Isobel Clarke** as Publicity Officer and **Louise Findlay** as Deputy Publicity Officer.

2.3 Membership benefits (minute 7.8): Alyson Lewin had been unable to find the note that Marion Panzetta had written some time ago on this subject.

3. Officers' Reports - record of issues discussed: the Reports themselves are on the website.

3.1 Chairman: The Chairman's paper reported good progress on several issues since the previous meeting – including the selection of a new President, the introduction of a monthly e-mail Newsletter to members, the appointment of new Publicity Officers, continuing assistance with Gift Aid claims and a volunteer (Wessex Branch) to host the 2018 Festival. Matters requiring further consideration included recruitment and the factors that affected it, such as the benefits offered by the Society, how well these

were appreciated, and the linked issue of the costs and structure of membership. It would be important to get away from a “one size fits all” approach to membership, with more options to attract and cater for students, schools, the individual members of affiliated Orchestras, and the many informal recorder groups that existed and whose members might not be aware of the Society. The Chairman and Membership Secretary agreed to bring forward proposals on new membership options for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Chairman, Membership Secretary

3.2 In further discussion of activities that might appeal to players not yet attracted to the Society, it was noted that the ambitions of players who found the demands of Branch playing insufficiently challenging should be considered, perhaps by arranging more advanced workshops and masterclasses. Continuing to develop links between Branches and U3A groups could also ensure that players found groups commensurate with their abilities. The Society might consider advertising in the U3A magazine, *Third Age Matters*, to raise its profile and promote its activities with that age group. Branches could be encouraged and assisted to hold Open Days, or take stands at local events, when anyone could try playing and learn about the activities of the local Branch and other groups. Offering workshops etc to schools could stimulate interest, at least in the short-term, though many schools were reducing the role of music (and other arts subjects) in the curriculum in response to the demands of the English Baccalaureate. Committee members and others in a position to promote the Society should have ready access to information about the Society and the benefits it offers, as set out for example in the “Welcome” leaflet, to assist them in that task.

3.3 Treasurer: Revisions to the projected budget may be needed to cover some of the new initiatives just discussed. Despite this, the Treasurer would not be recommending any increase in subscriptions for 2017/18. She then invited the Committee to approve her full version of the accounts for 2015/16 and the version (CC17a) required by the Charity Commission. The Secretary would circulate a draft of the Trustees’ Report for 2015/16 for comments in due course. He would submit that Report and the CC17a accounts to the websites of the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator by their deadlines of 30 June and 31 May respectively.

* That the Society’s accounts for 2015/16 be approved.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall Seconded: Alyson Lewin Carried unanimously.

Action: Secretary

3.4 Membership Secretary: The Membership Secretary reported that he had asked Recorder MusicMail to print the 2017 Membership List and to distribute copies to members with the Summer issue of the *Recorder Magazine*. There would be increased postage costs for that issue but overall he considering the deal to be good value for money and would ensure that members received Lists without having to rely on Branch representatives passing on copies collected at Conference. Before the List was printed he would ask Branches and others to re-check their entries for which they were responsible.

Action: Membership Secretary

3.5 Web Editor: The Committee again congratulated the Web Editors on further improvements to the website, including the section for cataloguing Branch music libraries, clearer links to Facebook etc, and the system for managing bookings and payments for Festivals and other events online. This last was working well for the Festival in Cambridge in April and would be a valuable tool for the organisers of future events. The progress towards creating a Forum on the website specifically for Committee discussions was also welcome. When this was operational it would be important for Committee members to opt in to ensure they received automatic notification of relevant items.

3.6 News Editor: In response to questions asked in the report submitted by the News Editor, the Committee suggested that the list of forthcoming events in the monthly e-news might look slightly more than one month ahead to avoid unduly short notice of key events at the start of the following issue; that it would be helpful to include occasional tips, Society news etc, as well as details of forthcoming concerts and courses; and that the general tone of the letter was about right – anything more discursive might deter some readers. A bi-product of issuing the e-news was the “bounces”, of which there had been about 50 for the first issue in November 2016, which indicated when members’ e-mail addresses had changed.

3.7 Gift Aid Administrator: The latest news from the Gift Aid Administrator (Tessa Rolph, who had kindly accepted the role on a temporary basis) was that the claim to HMRC for payment for 2013/14 was now in progress. Claims for later years should be less difficult since they could use information in the membership database. The Society was still looking for someone to take on the role of Gift Aid Administrator for the longer term.

3.8 Walter Bergmann Fund: The Chair of the WBF reported that the Fund’s income continued to exceed expenditure and that more applications for grants, properly supported by evidence of financial need, would be welcome. While many of the Fund’s grants went to individuals, the Fund also wanted to sponsor more events such as courses and workshops for young players. In such cases the Fund would normally specify that its grant should be used for a particular element of the project. In discussion it was suggested that donors appreciated being told what their donations were spent on, and that such information might also assist potential applicants better to understand what applications the Fund might be able to support.

3.9 The Chair of the WBF invited the Committee’s views on an application that fell outside the remit of the Fund in both cost and purpose. The Committee had seen details of this application, which was for a grant to **Olwen Foulkes** (one of the performers in the WBF concert at the Greenwich Early Music Festival in November 2016) to cover part of the recording and production fees for her first solo CD. The WBF sub-committee considered this was not essential for her development as a recorder player but recalled that the Committee had supported a similar application in the past. It was noted that many young players would no doubt welcome funds to produce CDs and that the Society risked setting an expensive precedent. However, after further discussion the Committee agreed to a grant subject to the usual condition that the Society’s support was properly acknowledged.

Action: WBF Chair

3.10 SRP/Moeck Competition Administrator: There was considerable interest in the 2017 Competition and the Administrator was confident of another high quality field of entrants. To pre-empt unexpected claims for expenses, which had happened recently, she had discussed costs with the Early Music Shop and agreed arrangements to make clear to participants when and what expenses could be claimed. She had also agreed modest increases in the adjudicators’ fees and expenses. The fact that the Society no longer received the income from the sale of tickets for the winner’s recital had to be taken into account when assessing the Society’s net contribution to the costs of the Competition. The name of the Competition, with Moeck cited first, cast doubt on whether the Society was getting proper acknowledgement of its major contribution to the organisation and costs of the Competition, but it was probably unrealistic to seek changes to the established order. These points should be taken into account if the Society wished to enlist a sponsor to support new competitions in future.

4. Festivals

4.1 Cambridge 2017: The Chairman, in his capacity as one of the organisers, reported that arrangements for the Festival in Cambridge on 7th -9th April 2017 were proceeding very well. About 300 participants had already registered and some expansion of the programme, including splitting the mass playing on 8th April into two sessions, had been undertaken. It might be necessary to close bookings soon. About 350 tickets for the All-Stars concert on 7th April had been sold and, with local publicity yet to be launched, he was confident of a near capacity audience.

4.2 Wessex 2018: April Munday reported that Barton Peveril Sixth Form College in Eastleigh had been booked for the 2018 Festival, the dates for which were 14th and 15th April. Conductors had been contacted and flyers deployed. Details of the Festival programme and arrangements for booking, plus information about local accommodation and places of interest, would be posted on the website as it became available.

4.3 2019 and beyond: Edinburgh and Glasgow Branches felt unable to host a national SRP Festival in the years when there was a Scottish Festival. However, every third year (i.e. 2018, 2021 etc) there was no Scottish Festival and those Branches might consider hosting the national Festival then. So a Festival in Scotland in 2021 might be a possibility, though that ought not to preclude other Branches offering to be hosts. In the happy event that more than one firm offer was made for any year, some brokering between years might be necessary. Suffolk Branch would maintain its decennial tradition by hosting the Festival in 2020.

5. Appointment of new President

5.1 The Chairman reported that **Jonathan Dove** had agreed to accept the role of SRP President. His nomination would therefore go forward for confirmation at Conference on 9th April in Cambridge, when he hoped to attend to meet members and introduce himself. The Committee warmly welcomed this news, though some members expressed disappointment that they had not been more fully involved in the later stages of the selection process. The Chairman explained that he had been very aware of the sensitivities involved and had been anxious to avoid the risk of embarrassment, to candidates and the Society, in the event that any invitation to become President had been refused. The Chairman was confident that Jonathan would be an excellent ambassador for the Society and that the Society would benefit greatly from his guidance and hopefully his participation in some Society activities. The appointment of the Society's new President was an ideal opportunity for publicity to raise the Society's profile, and the Publicity Officer was asked to take the lead in arranging this.

Action: Publicity Officer

6. NYRO grant application for 2017/18

6.1 After a relatively brief discussion of NYRO's application for a grant of £5,000 for 2017/18, the Committee voted to make an award of £4,000. Of this, £2,000 is to become payable when the Society receives a copy NYRO's accounts for 2016/17 certified by the Independent Examiner, and £2,000 is conditional on NYRO raising matching funds from other sources during 2017/18. This represents an increase in the proportion of the Society's grant to NYRO subject to matched funding, a trend which the Society might be minded to continue in future. When writing to NYRO to inform them of this award, the Secretary would again emphasise the need for effective communication to ensure that the Society was aware of NYRO's activities and had the opportunity to enrol NYRO course participants as temporary, and hopefully in some cases longer-term, Society members.

* That NYRO be awarded a grant of £4,000 for 2017/18 subject to the conditions above

Proposed: Mike Wilkinson Seconded: David Rollason

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 **Carried.**

Action: Secretary

7. Preparation for 2017 Conference

7.1 The Secretary noted that, apart from the appointment of a new President, the business for Conference would be similar to that in previous years. Evelyn Nallen had indicated that she wished to stand down as an “ordinary” Committee member but would remain as a Musical Adviser. The Committee indicated that, in the event of there being more than one nominee for Committee members to present the interests of Branches, it would prefer to hold a ballot rather than increase the size of the Committee. Either option was permitted by the Rules. Some names were suggested for possible nominees, and the Secretary agreed to canvas those concerned. As always, it would be important to give Branch representatives an opportunity to express their views on the Society’s activities. In the light of the earlier discussion, topics on which views would be particular welcome included how better to engage the interest of younger players and the scope for the Society expanding its role in supporting ensemble playing.

7.2 80th Anniversary: The Festival/Conference in Cambridge on 7th to 9th April marks the 80th anniversary of the Society’s founding in 1937. The Committee considered how best to celebrate this birthday and, after some discussion, agreed that at Conference it should give each Branch a voucher for purchases up to the value of £80 from Recorder MusicMail. The Secretary was asked to prepare vouchers and agree with Recorder MusicMail and the Treasurer detailed arrangements for their use.

* That the Society gives each of its Branches a voucher for £80, to be spent with Recorder Music Mail, to mark the Society’s 80th anniversary.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded: Rodney Callow Carried unanimously.

Action: Secretary

8. Any other business

8.1 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

The next Committee meeting will be on Sunday 1st October 2017.

Committee meetings in 2018 are scheduled for Sundays 18th February and 7th October.

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