



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2009

Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin

### PRESENT:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Caroline Jones	Committee
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Evelyn Nallen	Committee
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Jane Sellek	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Country/Overseas Sec	Pam Smith	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Mem Secretary	Matthew Taylor	Committee

**1. Apologies for absence:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.33 a.m. Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Collis, Eileen Silcocks and Moira Usher.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Ulli Burchette asked for the last sentence in the first paragraph of Item 7 to be amended.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. To receive Officers' Reports

**Secretary's report.** The Secretary added to his report that he had recently been advised of new Secretaries in the Isle of Man, Cumbria and Cheltenham & Gloucester Branches. Details will appear in the Winter issue of The Recorder Magazine. Alyson Lewin noted that the South Staffordshire Branch secretary would also change soon. The Secretary also mentioned that the Daily Mail had published an article on 2 July comparing playing of recorders and ukuleles in primary schools for which he had been interviewed by phone. Finally, he informed the Committee of a new version of the pamphlet 'Do you play – or have you played – the recorder?' which described the advantages of Society membership. Copies are available on application to the Secretary.

**Treasurer's report.** Sandra Foxall commented that Festival 2009 had in fact balanced its books. A potential loss had been foreseen by the organisers but, by raising funds from concerts, etc and donating them to the Festival, they had been able to avoid making a loss. The financial situation had been made more difficult by two conductors unexpectedly requesting to be paid a fee after the event.

Pam Smith queried the NYRO Account relating to the cost of bass instruments (£6504) and office costs (£2251). The Treasurer responded that £6504 was used to buy two Küng great basses and two Paetzold contras with £5000 from the Arthur Ingram Fund and the balance from NYRO's own reserves. Andrew Short responded that office costs included the distribution of a newsletter three times a year plus publicity leaflets. It was suggested that many paper copies sent to Branches, which had few if any members young enough to play in NYRO, were thrown away. Andrew Short agreed to take the matter back to the NYRO Sub-Committee for discussion [**Action: Andrew Short**].

Caroline Jones asked what benefit was obtained from the Society being a member of Making Music. The Treasurer replied that it meant that the Society could obtain CRB clearance for people working for NYRO at a reduced rate and that a reduced rate was charged by the Performing Rights Society for NYRO concerts and other events. Andrew Short added that free legal advice could also be obtained for MM members. It was suggested that articles about NYRO, the Moeck competition etc. could be

submitted to the Making Music magazine [Action: Andrew Short re NYRO article]. The Secretary undertook to inform the Committee and Branches of the password to the Making Music web site [Action: Secretary].

**Membership Secretary's report.** Mike Wilkinson asked who was entitled to receive The Recorder Magazine because he had found that the Peacock Press and Society membership lists did not agree. He was informed that this had been an ongoing problem for some time and needed to be sorted out.

**Training Co-ordinator's report.** In the absence of Moira Usher, Training Co-ordinator, the view was expressed that new additions to the workshop tutors list, which was not the same as the Panel of Visiting Conductors List, should be approved by the Committee [Action: Moira Usher to submit any new names].

**NYRO Sub-Committee report.** Jane Sellek asked how many people were attending the concurrent NYRO Playing Day in Birmingham. It was subsequently established that 20 had attended many of whom were new to NYRO. It was suggested that Making Music magazine could be used to reach out to more recorder teachers. The Chairman asked that the current NYRO Membership List be circulated to Branches so that contact could be made with younger players [Action: Andrew Short].

Two proposals had been received from the NYRO Sub-Committee.

First, that Naomi Winterburn should fill the vacant position on the Sub-Committee.

Proposed: Andrew Short, Seconded: Jane Sellek. Carried nem. con.

Second, that the honorarium of the NYRO Administrator should be increased by 10% to £6600 per annum. The Chairman said that, because the new Administrator was already in post, he had already taken executive action to approve this increase. The Committee agreed with the decision.

There were no other comments on the Officers' reports.

## **5. To discuss the Trustees' Annual Reports to the Charity Commissioners for England/Wales and Scotland**

After noting a small number of typos the Committee agreed the draft version of the report.

Andrew Short noted that although the new Irish Charity law was now in force, and would apply to the Ireland Branch, it would take several years to appoint Charity Commissioners and he suggested that the Committee should wait and see how matters developed before taking any further action.

## **6. To discuss the Society's response to Alex Ayre's bequest**

The Secretary began by explaining how he been contacted by Alex Ayre in a letter dated 3 July 2009 in which, under certain conditions, Alex had offered his musical arrangements to the Society. The Secretary noted with deep regret that Alex had died only two weeks before the meeting. Although attempts had been made after receiving the letter to ascertain the turnover of his sheet music business no information had been forthcoming. This lack of information significantly hampered the following discussion.

It was noted that the profit from the sales of the sheet music was unlikely to be large. Alyson Lewin stated that from personal experience she knew that a lot of effort was required to run a sheet music business. Mike Wilkinson noted that a Society volunteer might not be attracted to working unpaid for up to one day a week. Evelyn Nallen noted that the collection would now be a static entity so that the market for new sales might not be great. Ulli Burchette concurred noting that the Society obtained

only £10 per year royalties from the sale of sheet music, the copyright of which is held by the Society, by Forsyths Music.

The Committee considered a number of tabled options for how it might respond. It was generally agreed that the Society should accept the bequest and retain control of the collection. From there a number of options were open. New commissioned pieces could be added to the collection. Eventually, after at least three years as requested by Alex, the whole collection could be set and re-published using Sibelius software but in the first three years it might be hard to break even financially if people preferred not to purchase manuscript copies. Assuming the Society did not want to become a music publisher in its own right it might be better to employ 'economies of scale' by coming to an arrangement with a commercial music publisher. Alyson Lewin emphasised the likely amount of work involved if the Society or one of its members took on the job and the necessity for easy access to an A3 duplex (two-sided) photocopier or printer. Another option was to make copies of Alex's music available to Society members only or to offer a discount to members if a profit was made. It was felt that whatever final arrangement was made that Alex's music should continue to be available to all recorder players in line with his wishes and in recognition of his support of the Society over many years.

Finally it was agreed unanimously that the Chairman, Secretary and Alyson Lewin should work together to continue to explore the options and report back to the Committee in February 2010 [Action: Chairman, Secretary, Alyson Lewin].

## **7. To review matters regarding the List of Visiting Conductors and Pastoral Visits**

7.1 The Secretary advised the Committee that after its decision to invite Marion Docherty to join the Panel of Visiting Conductors at its October 2008 meeting he had written to her twice, at her home and work addresses respectively, and received no reply. It was agreed that the invitation had therefore lapsed.

7.2 The Secretary advised the Committee that he had received a nomination from Frances Tuffery and Genevieve Mullins (Ireland Branch) for Marion Scott to be appointed to the Panel of Visiting Conductors. The nomination was proposed by Sandra Foxall and Seconded by Alyson Lewin and accepted nem. con. [Action: Secretary to write to Marion Scott].

7.3 The Secretary pointed out that some ambiguity existed in the Committee's Minutes of 18 February 2007, which laid out what expenses could be claimed by visiting conductors and workshop tutors. He proposed the following text to supersede the earlier statement. *'Pastoral visiting conductors, and tutors undertaking SRP Workshops, may claim from the Society up to £50.00 per night for bed and breakfast for a maximum of two nights, where such accommodation is necessary and reasonable. Branches continued to be responsible for evening meal costs.'* The revised text was agreed.

## **8. To review co-operation with ERTA**

The Chairman reported that he had had two meetings with Peter Bowman of ERTA and that ERTA were going to hold their AGM/Conference at the Society's Festival in 2010. The objective was to encourage ERTA and the Society to work more closely together. He continued that ERTA in UK was only around 70 strong, with around 30% overlap of members with the Society, whereas it had around 1500 members in total, mainly on the continent. When asked what would be the benefits of merging with ERTA Andrew Short replied that it would improve the status of recorder playing and get more professionals involved. For example, in the USA 80% of members of the American Recorder Teachers Association also belonged to the American Recorder Society. He proposed that the Society could even change its name to the 'Recorder Society'. The Chairman suggested that the name change could be done without reference to ERTA. He added that he thought that, as the British Flute Society had found, there were a lot of players who were not members and the aim would be to entice them to

join. Evelyn Nallen countered that the Society at present had nothing to offer professional players. Alyson Lewin added that she had enjoyed attending an ERTA Conference which had involved less playing and more discussion than an SRP Festival.

The Chairman suggested that ERTA in UK could become a Branch of the Society but the consequent relationship with the rest of ERTA within continental Europe, where it was much stronger, was uncertain. Evelyn Nallen stated that it would be to the Society's advantage to take part in ERTA's activities, for example, workshops on teaching adults, the Alexander technique, etc.

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider, at its February 2010 meeting, the proposal to change the Society's name [Action: All].

The Secretary suggested that, given that ERTA and the Society were due to meet on the same site during Festival 2010 and even share some activities, it might be better to postpone any major proposal until Festival 2011 after more members had met and interacted with ERTA 'UK'.

### **9. To discuss future Festivals and review the distribution of proceeds there from**

9.1 A brief discussion took place on how future Festivals might operate. Suggestions included holding Master classes (Somerset 2011 were already planning such a class), having accompanists for hire and holding consort competitions (but this was considered to involve a lot of organisation).

9.2 It was confirmed that, contrary to the Committee Minutes of the 19 October 2008 meeting, that any proceeds from a Festival/Conference should be split three ways equally between the host Branch, the Walter Bergmann Fund and central funds.

### **10. To consider an extension of the Society's Child Protection Policy**

The Chairman explained that NYRO needed a new Child Protection Policy. If this was required for NYRO then the Policy should apply to the Society as a whole. The Society needed to consider the implications of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 under which it appeared that the Society could be construed as conducting a 'regulated activity'. The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) web site states, 'ISA-registration for the Vetting and Barring Scheme does not start for new workers or those moving jobs until July 2010 and ISA-registration does not become mandatory for these workers until November 2010. All other staff will be phased into the scheme from 2011. Further information on how to apply for registration will be provided in due course.'

The Chairman said that a new policy was required for the Society by the February 2010 meeting and that he would be seeking the advice of the Liability Insurers [Action: Chairman to draft new policy].

### **11. To consider the constitution of the Committee up to and after Conference 2010**

It was agreed that Tessa Rolph would be invited to be a co-opted member of the Committee with the intention that she would be nominated by the Committee as a full Committee member at Conference 2010 [Action: Chairman to write to Tessa Rolph]. The Chairman asked the Committee to consider who else might be nominated at that time [Action: All].

### **12. Any other business**

12.1 The Chairman explained that he had been approached by Pamela Thorby with an generous offer to donate £1.00 from the sale of each copy of her new CD to the Society. He said he hoped to arrange for a flyer announcing the CD to be placed in The Recorder Magazine. Pamela had asked that any proceeds should be used for Educational Purposes and specifically for younger members.

12.2 The Chairman reported that he had received a request from Glasgow Branch for financial assistance to commission a musical work to celebrate the Branch's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in time for it to be played at the Scottish Festival in 2011. He proposed that the Committee consider this request at its next meeting.

12.3 The Secretary reported that he had received an offer by email from a bookshop in Hitchin to buy up a large quantity of second-hand recorder sheet music for £400. After consultation with the Chairman the decision was taken to make an offer of £300 which was accepted. The Chairman

collected the music and it was intended to sell as much as possible, for the Society's benefit, at Festival 2010.

12.4 The Chairman explained that Andrew Collis is holding two bass instruments, a Moeck Great Bass and a Paetzold Contrabass, obtained some years ago by the Walter Bergmann Fund. Both instruments had been used by NYRO and were in need of some maintenance. It was suggested that responsibility for the two instruments should be transferred to NYRO and that NYRO should reimburse the WBF £1000. Andrew Short pointed out that NYRO would only need to use the instruments for one week each year and that at other times they could be loaned to affiliated orchestras or, failing that, to Branches, for a fee. He added that NYRO could not afford to reimburse the WBF. After discussion it was finally agreed to transfer the instruments to NYRO and that the Arthur Ingram Fund should reimburse the WBF £1000 [Action: Andrew Collis, Andrew Short]. Funding of the required refurbishment of the instruments was postponed until quotes became available. The Chairman confirmed that the instruments would still be covered by the Society's insurance policy.

12.5 The Chairman reported that the Society now has a single insurance policy covering all the instruments owned by the Society. This includes those instruments purchased by Branches and some instruments purchased by Orchestras of which the Chairman has been informed. The Chairman said he had approached insurers to see whether in addition they would provide cover for Branch sheet music libraries. The underwriters had provided a quotation to cover sheet music up to £20,000, with a limit of £500 in any one location, with an annual premium of £210 including Insurance Premium Tax. The Committee agreed that this offer be accepted [Action: Chairman].

12.6 The Secretary reported that he had received an enquiry about setting up a new Branch in Orkney. After consideration of the basic requirements to set up a new branch the party involved had decided not to pursue the project.

12.7 The Secretary introduced a proposed change to Branch model Rule 3.9 which was designed to spell out more explicitly what assets should be returned to the Society if a Branch should close down. After discussion it was agreed to present the following new text to Conference 2010 [Action: Secretary].

*'Branch Rule 3.9. The Branch may be dissolved by resolution passed at a general meeting of the Branch. If any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such assets shall be transferred to the Society. Assets shall include all Sheet Music, Musical Instruments and Records of the Branch as well as any balance remaining in the Branch Funds.'*

12.8 The Treasurer explained that she required clarification of the procedures to be followed in paying expenses incurred on business of the Walter Bergmann Fund and the Arthur Ingram Fund. The Chairman and Andrew Short opined that all expenses, other than minor items such as postage, should be charged to the relevant fund.

12.9 Evelyn Nallen reported that the next commissioned piece was being composed by Jim Sutherland but no publisher had yet been found. She explained that she could either approach commercial publishers or the Society could print copies for the Festival and then offer the piece to be downloaded over the internet. It was agreed that generally sheet music sold by commercial publishers appeared to be very expensive in relation to sources such as Oriel Music or the Chiltern Recorder Consort Series. She ended by suggesting she should approach a mainstream publisher first but if unsuccessful ask Alyson Lewin (Hawthorn Press) to help. Finally, in view of the likely expense of music sold by a major publisher, Alyson Lewin agreed that she would publish Jim Sutherland's new work for Festival 2010 [Action: Alyson Lewin].

### **13. To confirm dates and times of future meetings.**

The Secretary confirmed that the next Committee meeting would take place on Sunday 7 February 2010 either at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin or at a venue in Wolverhampton [Action: Alyson Lewin to cost Committee travel expenses to Wolverhampton] and the following meeting at Felixstowe on Sunday 9 May 2010 during the Festival. The Secretary undertook to request that the SRP and ERTA

Conferences did not run in parallel [**Action: Secretary**]. The last meeting in 2010 was planned for Sunday 17 October at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15.30.

RBW/RP

Minutes\_FINAL\_18.10.09\_v3.doc