



Reg. Charity No. 282751

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2002

HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Present:

Andrew Short	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Alistair Read	Secretary	David Beare	Committee
Brian Fraser-Hook	Treasurer	Hilary Oliver	Committee
Jim Rowley	COS	Peter Sturgeon	Committee
Colin Martin	Musical Adviser		

Helen Beare (as an invited guest) was also present.

**1. Welcome/Apologies for absence:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was with the greatest pleasure that Andrew asked that Brian Bonsor's MBE be recorded in the minutes. He confirmed that he had written to Brian on behalf of the Society. Apologies were received from John Allen; Graham Danbury; Sandra Foxall; Mary Tyers; Bob Horsley; Madeline Seviour; Norma Herdson; Margaret Shearing; and Sylvia Davies.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** were AGREED and approved *nem. con.* Proposed: Colin Martin; seconded: Jim Rowley.

### 3. Matters arising

3.1 The Chairman said that ERTA have arranged a competition for young players, to be held on 31 May 2003 at Kent Music Schools, Maidstone, and Evelyn Nallen, ERTA's chairman, had gratefully accepted the SRP offer of £1,000 prize money. The chairman went on to say that he hoped our sponsorship would encourage closer links with ERTA. The Treasurer undertook to contact Evelyn to discuss when the funding should be made available. (Action: Treasurer).

3.2 As there had been no news of the music cataloguing project, the Chairman undertook to discuss the matter with Douglas Haston. (Action: Chairman).

3.3 The Chairman also undertook to discuss with Ashley Allerton (SRP Website editor) the matter of costs. It was said that the present provider, Corpex, appeared to be unduly expensive. (Action: Chairman).

**4. Officers' Reports** were circulated to the Committee, and are attached; they constitute an integral part of the Minutes of proceedings. The notes below reflect discussion on the reports submitted.

4.3 *Competition Administrator.* It was confirmed that new terms of service, including financial implications, were being drawn up. Clarification with The Administrator was being sought that the costs for the three adjudicators were to be: chairman, shared SRP and Moeck; cost divided equally between SRP and Moeck for the other two members.

4.8 *Walter Bergmann Fund.* Nothing to add to report (attached), but see Minute 7.

4.9 *Treasurer.* While Brian Fraser-Hook said he had nothing to add to his previously circulated report, he said he would like to take the opportunity to make the following observations:

4.9.1. *National Youth Recorder Orchestra (NYRO).* This account would be administered by David Beare, Project Manager, and presented to Brian ready for audit, and should be set out similar to that of the Walter Bergmann Fund. He noted, with regret, that the accounts for NYRO I (to 31.08.02) were not presently in an auditable state.

4.9.2. *Auditor.* Brian said he had been in touch with two accountants, neither of whom were able to give him a satisfactory package suitable to meet Charity Commission requirements. From information received, it would appear that there is a difference in opinion as to what form of audit the Society now required post-Ingram bequest. (Action: Treasurer to contact Charity Commission for guidance). It was AGREED that he should then seek out two suitable accountants and accept the lower of two quotes, to a maximum fee of £2,500. Proposed: COS; seconded: Hilary Oliver.

4.10 *Policy on Equal Opportunities.* The Chairman said that, as a consequence of making grant applications for NYRO, it had become necessary to produce a paper on equal opportunities. Following a brief discussion it was AGREED that the Appendix to Officers' Reports be adopted. Proposed: Treasurer; seconded: Alyson Lewin.

4.11 Although no written report had been circulated to the meeting, Helen Beare gave a presentation on her draft proposals for a handbook of branch details and activities. This was very much in the early stages and would require a great deal of time and effort. She undertook to develop her proposals at the Committee's February 2003 meeting. The Committee were enthusiastic about the project and the Chairman thanked Helen for the work done so far.

## 5. **National Youth Recorder Orchestra (NYRO)**

5.1 *NYRO I.* Colin Touchin's report was circulated at the meeting and the Secretary undertook to distribute copies with minutes of the meeting. Whilst the 2002 concert was not David Beare's responsibility as project manager, he said much of the administrative chaos appeared to have landed at his door, chief among these was the sales and administration of the concert's CD. It had been extremely time-consuming and he still had 120 copies left to sell at £10 each. Neither was the accounting for NYRO I his responsibility and there was insufficient evidence to produce final accounts for NYRO I.

5.2 *NYRO II.* David Beare said it was hoped that applications for NYRO II would be despatched December 2002/January 2003 with auditions taking place during the Easter holiday break 2003 and the concert planned for August 2003. On the matter of fund-raising, Helen Beare said she was in the process of telephoning and writing follow-up letters to 18/19 companies, and stressing how time consuming applying for grants was. She pointed out, however, that applications for grants was not the answer to NYRO's financial situation in as much as foundations usually made once only grants. Rather, it was a question of finding continuing sponsorship for the whole project. David Beare's letter dated 04.10.02 to committee members and others, together with a note on obtaining sponsorship was discussed and it was AGREED that these documents should be circulated with these minutes David then circulated

budgetary details, one costed with voluntary labour (inserted for grant application purposes only), the other without. Following lengthy discussion, a vote of thanks was proposed by Hilary Oliver; seconded by Alistair Read, to David and Helen Beare for their hard work. It was further AGREED that all administration, financial, legal and charity aspects of NYRO should be vested in David Beare who would act as guardian of the Society's interests. It was also AGREED that David Beare should administer an appropriate bank account, with a second signatory. The Secretary undertook to furnish appropriate documentation consistent with the Society's registered charitable status to enable this to be effected. (Action: Secretary). Colin Touchin would have responsibility for the musical aspects of the project. Proposed: Chairman; seconded: Treasurer. Approval for NYRO II to proceed was granted, subject to external funding being available. A review of the position would be made at the committee's February 2003 meeting. Matters would be reconsidered then if funding was inadequate.

## **6. SRP Development**

Having considered Dick Pyper's proposal of 9 May 2002 on improving standards of recorder playing, both within the Society and outside; and needing to increase membership of the SRP through a voluntary giving scheme, the committee felt that, laudable though this was, it was inappropriate to the general membership. It may, however, be a good way of assisting funding for NYRO activities. It was AGREED that the Chairman would contact Dick Pyper. (Action: Chairman).

## **7. Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund**

It was AGREED that, upon the WBF sub-committee's recommendation, Andrew Collis would be nominated to Conference to take over as chairman with effect from Conference 2003 upon Graham Danbury's retirement. Further, it was the sub-committee's decision that a replacement for Andrew Collis would not be sought for the present. The Secretary was reminded to ensure that the three-year rule for re-election to this sub-committee did not expire. He said that matter was in hand.

## **8. Branch name changes**

8.1 The secretary, Lincoln Branch, requested that for the future their branch be known as Lincolnshire. Proposed: Peter Sturgeon; seconded: Brian Fraser-Hook

8.2 Although Peter Sturgeon (also Nottingham Branch secretary) said they had always regarded themselves as the Notts. Branch, since the Branch meets outside the city in Southwell, he had not previously considered the matter. It was therefore AGREED that the Membership List and the Secretary's records be amended to fall into line with the branch's own wishes. Proposed: Colin Martin; seconded Brian Fraser-Hook.

## **9. 'Making Music'**

Following discussion of the documentation previously circulated by the Chairman, it was AGREED that he should negotiate with the National Federation of Music Societies ('Making Music') for a full membership of a single society £258 p.a. (Action: Chairman).

## **10. New Branch**

The Secretary was happy to report that under the chairmanship of Bob Cook, a new branch had been formed at Plymouth. Officers and a committee had been elected and the Treasurer had reported a total of 24 paid-up members. Specimen branch rules had been accepted with

one or two minor adjustments, a copy of which had been lodged with Alistair Read. The branch had been fortunate in receiving a donation of a significant personal collection of mostly recorder music—over 200 titles, many with multiple sets of parts. The committee praised the speed with which Mr Cook had ‘got his act together:’ negotiations had only started on 4 July 2002 and the first branch meeting was held on 4 September! It was AGREED that Plymouth Branch be welcomed into the Society. Proposed: Brian Fraser-Hook; seconded Peter Sturgeon. Ratification would be sought at Conference 2003. Ratification would be sought at Conference 2003 (Action: Secretary).

## **11. Any other business**

11.1 *Festival/Conference 2003* Colin Martin said that, in addition to the usual attractions, there would be solo and ensemble competitions, both divided into under 18-year-olds and over 18-year-olds. The budget estimate was passed to the Treasurer. The Treasurer then outlined the rule with regard to responsibility for cost of overnight accommodation for festival conductors who were staying on for the Sunday Conference where they were delegates and confirmed that the cost should be borne by the festival account.

11.2 *CSRP*. It was agreed that Sandra Foxall should present a paper on her proposals for a new CSRP syllabus to the February 2003 meeting of the Committee. (Action: Examination Secretary).

11.3 *Conducting workshops*. It was agreed that the Chairman should contact Moira Usher and then Eileen Silcocks to ascertain whether further workshops would be organised. (Action: Chairman).

11.4 *Charity Commission News*. Brian Fraser-Hook gave a copy of the Charity Commission News to the Chairman, who undertook to draw the attention of Committee members, as the Society’s trustees, to the copy on the web at: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/ccnews16.asp>.

11.5 *‘Recorders put children off recorders’* The Chairman said that there had been a flurry of media activity following Dr Susan O’Neill’s research paper that purported to show that “...many children become disillusioned with music when they arrive at secondary school because their instrumental experience is limited to the ‘childish’ recorder.” He himself had aired the Society’s view on several radio programmes and there had been several letters in the national press from members, including Bob Horsley, our Publicity Officer. Jenny Barton had responded to the correspondence in the *Music Teacher*. The Chairman concluded that this old chestnut would come around again at some future date, as it had in the past. The committee agreed that, as a Society, we were powerless to make any impact in schools, music teaching being in the state it was.

## **12. Date and time of next meeting**

Sunday, 16 February 2003, 10.00 for 10.30 hr at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin.

The meeting concluded at 15.50 hr.