



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 17th August 2018

Central Library, Cambridge

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Vic Morris | Chairman | Helen Hooker | Musical Adviser |
| April Munday | Secretary | Evelyn Nallen | Musical Adviser |
| Ulli Burchette | Treasurer | Sandra Foxall | COS Secretary |
| Penny Clarke | Membership Secretary | Sarah Langdon | Competition Administrator |
| Alyson Lewin | Musical Adviser | Frances Tuffery | Committee |
| Caroline Jones | Committee | | |

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Apologies for absence were received from Debbie Nicholas (Committee), Josee Beeson (Committee), Moira Usher (WBF Chairman), Mary Tyers (Festival 2019) and Ciara Flanagan (committee).

April Munday and Sarah Langdon arrived late due to problems with public transport. Helen Hooker took the minutes for the first hour and a half of the meeting.

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

2.1 Subject to the following corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously as a true record of the meeting held on 18th February 2018 in Birmingham.

- Note at the start of the minutes that Sarah Langdon left the meeting early.
- Item 4.2 Line seven: move 'the' before SRP and delete the appearance of 'the' after SRP.
- Item 8.1 Visiting Conductors Scheme: Caroline Jones noted that the minutes do not reflect her and Alyson Lewin's thoughts about the scheme, showing only Mike Wilkinson's ideas. They believe two more Musical Advisers should be appointed to make the scheme run more efficiently. Caroline Jones said she would be prepared to stand as a Musical Adviser.

Sandra Foxall queried whether Colin Touchin should remain a Musical Advisor, given that he spends much of his year abroad and is no longer a member of the Society of Recorder Players.

Caroline Jones will write a paper containing her and Alyson Lewin's proposals for consideration at the October Committee Meeting.

Action Caroline Jones.

- Item 8.2 ii: The wording does not reflect the current arrangements. Would-be conductors can still be nominated by others, rather than having to nominate themselves. The wording is

changed as follows: Delete first sentence of 8.2 ii. Second sentence should read *Candidates can be invited to apply, self-nominated or recommended by Branches or individual members with the candidate's agreement.*

- Supplement, page 9: This should be removed entirely, as the meeting on the Saturday of the Festival (14th April) was not an official committee meeting.

Proposed: Caroline Jones **Seconded:** Frances Tuffery **Carried**

3. Appointment of Secretary and Membership Secretary

3.1 The Chairman told the committee David Rollason's resignation as Secretary should formally be announced to the membership. Following an informal process by email, April Munday was co-opted formally onto the committee as Secretary. In accordance with Rule 5.12, she will retire at the 2019 Conference. The committee will seek actively for nominations for a replacement.

Proposed: Alyson Lewin **Seconded:** Ulli Burchette. 6 for, 2 against, with 2 present (Sarah Langdon and Penny Clarke) not eligible to vote.

Action: Chairman to notify membership

3.2 Penny Clarke was co-opted formally onto the committee. In accordance with Rule 5.12, she will retire at the 2019 Conference and will be eligible for re-election.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall **Seconded:** Helen Hooker

3.3 It was agreed that Penny Clarke will be given access to emails sent to the Membership Secretary address as soon as possible.

Action: Web Editor

3.4 Penny Clarke will contact David Rollason to arrange a handover.

Action: Penny Clarke

3.5 The treasurer would like to revert to subs being sent to the membership secretary unless paid by bank transfer, as it would be simpler and would reduce the Treasurer's workload. This will not require any rule changes, so it was deemed to be a matter that could be dealt with by the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary once the handover with David Rollason has happened.

Action: Treasurer

4. Schools Affiliation Programme

4.1 David Rollason was coordinating the Schools Affiliation Programme before he resigned, receiving suggestions from branch members as to how the scheme could be implemented. Some branches have already expressed an interest in affiliating with a local school, so information needs to be circulated to branches giving them more details about the scheme. The committee discussed possible ways in which the programme could be run, including the requirement for DBS checks (not necessary unless a branch member was to be left alone with children). Cambridge and South Staffordshire branches have already made a start on connecting with schools.

4.2 Evelyn Nallen suggested the scheme might be best overseen by the Walter Bergmann Fund and it was agreed this made sense from a financial and administrative point of view, given the age group in mind. She agreed to discuss the paper (which contains suggestions from branch members) with the music coordinator at the school in Ely, with which Cambridge are hoping to link up. This will enable her to come up with a more precisely composed recommendation as to how the scheme could work in practice, giving the best chance of success. This paper will be presented to the Committee as soon as possible so it can be sent out in a timely manner, to maximise the interest already shown by branches.

Action: Evelyn Nallen

4.3 Sarah Langdon queried what form Charlotte Barbour-Condini's role as Schools' Ambassador would take. Evelyn Nallen confirmed that this was a purely honorary role, allowing the SRP to use her name and publicity power to add weight to the scheme. If her role becomes more practical, involving costs (travel expenses for instance) a budget will be presented to the Committee for approval. It was suggested that any costs could be covered by the Walter Bergmann Fund.

4.4 It was suggested that the schools initiative could also tie in with NYRO and the current SRP workshops. However, given the current state of recorder music in schools, it was generally agreed that these would probably be at a more advanced level than most schools taking part.

4.5 The Treasurer suggested that there should be a reduced payment of £5 for young people to attend workshops.

5. Vote of No confidence in the Chairman

5.1 This item had been postponed until the arrival of the Secretary.

5.2 The committee had received negative feedback about the Chairman and his conduct from members of the Society, particularly with regard to his chairing of the Conference. As a result, the committee discussed holding a vote of no confidence in the Chairman. The discussion covered the responsibilities of trustees of a charity, personality clashes between members of the committee and the behaviour expected of a chair at meetings. The Chairman responded to these points and the Secretary read out an email sent to the Chairman praising his management of the Conference. The Chairman left the room and the remaining members of the committee held a vote of no confidence, which was carried. The members of the committee were aware that, since the Society's rules do not include a provision for a vote of no confidence, the vote was not binding on the Chairman. When he returned, the Chairman confirmed that he understood the concerns and would take the comments on board.

Proposed: Secretary **Seconded:** Frances Tuffery **Carried:** 7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention and 1 not voting.

5.3 The Chairman apologised for including in his Letter from the Chairman on 12th August a statement that members of the committee opposed some initiatives because they benefit from the status quo.

6. Composers' Competition

6.1 Evelyn Nallen said the Composers' Competition would soon be open for entries.

7. Finance Report

7.1 The Treasurer presented a report on the Society's special funds: the Philip Cole Bursary, the Walter Bergmann Fund, the Arthur Ingram Fund. She pointed out that it is not always clear which fund paid for the SRP/Moeck Competition third prize in the past. This will be presented clearly in the future. Due to exchange rates and bank transfer fees the SRP/Moeck Competition third prize is shown as expenditure of £398.51 in the draft accounts. The Treasurer would like to show this as £400, the amount agreed for the prize. The committee agreed.

7.2 The Chairman asked whether the Society has a separate bank account for dealing with euros. It does not.

7.3 The Treasurer asked whether Evelyn Nallen's expenses for the committee meeting of 18th February should come partly from the Walter Bergmann Fund and partly from the general fund. The committee agreed that it should remain as the Treasurer has shown it in the accounts.

7.4 The committee agreed that Moira Usher's expenses for representing the committee at the Early Music Festival in 2017 should come from the general fund, as should the expenses for Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke, who gave a concert at the event.

7.5 The committee agreed that the Society will make a donation to the Fitkin Concerto Fund equal to the amount of the outstanding loan.

Proposed: Sandra Foxall **Seconded:** Caroline Jones **Carried.**

7.6 The Treasurer proposed that branches receive more financial support with regard to visits by members of the Visiting Conductors' Panel, since the benefits are not equal for all branches. Caroline Jones will include a proposal in her paper. Evelyn Nallen suggested that there be a minimum fee for Visiting Conductors. The Chairman said that if branches are being told that they are receiving a benefit from the Visiting Conductors they should be receiving a benefit.

Action: Caroline Jones

8 The Role of the Competition Administrator

8.1 The committee agreed that, despite previous discussions to the contrary, Rule 3.11 prohibits the Competition Administrator from being paid.

8.2 The Chairman asked the Treasurer why a payment had been set up for the Competition Administrator. The Treasurer explained that she had done so since the payment of a fee to the Competition Administrator had been approved at the AGM in April 2018, and she was under the impression that this should be paid from June onwards. Mike Wilkinson also approved the payment, as the bank account had not been updated to replace him as a signatory with David Rollason.

8.3 It was suggested that a resolution to change Rule 3.11 be presented to the AGM in April 2019, but there was no vote on this.

9. Visiting Conductors

9.1 Helen Hooker proposed that, since she and many members of the committee have seen Michelle Holloway and Stephen Watkins conduct, they should be added to the Visiting Conductors' Panel without a formal assessment.

Proposed: Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Sandra Foxall **Carried**

Action: Secretary

9.2 On 13th August Helen Hooker attended a meeting of Cambridge branch conducted by Isobel Clarke. Her report was circulated to members of the committee and she proposed that Isobel Clarke be added to the Visiting Conductors' Panel.

Proposed: Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Alyson Lewin

Action: Secretary

10. Finance Management

10.1 The Secretary has been gathering information about finance systems created specifically for small charities. The committee agreed to her approaching companies on behalf of the Society in order to obtain more information. She will be able to call on the Treasurer, the Chairman and the Web Editor for assistance.

Action: Secretary

11. Any other business

11.1 Changes to the Society's Complaints Procedure. The Chairman will find out how and why changes were made to the Society's Complaints Procedure without him or the committee being aware of it.

Action: Chairman

11.2 An insurance company has expressed an interest in becoming a Corporate Member of the Society. Rule 3.12 states that Corporate Members must be businesses associated with the recorder. Sandra Foxall will advise them that the company cannot be a Corporate Member of the Society, but will suggest that they could advertise in the Recorder Music Magazine.

Action: Sandra Foxall

11.3 Caroline Jones has investigated prices for advertising in the U3A magazine. A quarter page in one issue costs £583. The cost for three issues is £1,626. It goes out five times a year to 247,000 households. It was proposed that the Society should take out an advertisement in three issues. Caroline Jones will investigate the cost of putting an advertisement together.

Proposed: Evelyn Nallen **Seconded:** Sandra Foxall **Carried** 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

11.4 The committee agreed that the Society should take a table at the Early Music Festival in November.

Action: Chairman

11.5 The committee agreed that a more central location for committee meetings should be investigated.

Action: Chairman

The meeting ended at 5.20 p.m.

The next committee meeting will take place on Sunday 7th October 2018 at Hughes Hall, Cambridge.