



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday 7th October 2018 Hughes Hall, Cambridge

PRESENT:

Vic Morris	Chairman	Debbie Nicholas	Committee
April Munday	Secretary	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary
Penny Clarke	Membership Secretary	Moira Usher	WBF Chairman
Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser	Frances Tuffery	Committee
Ciara Flanagan	Committee		

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting at 12:05 by welcoming those present. Apologies for absence were received from Josee Beeson (Committee), Tina Friedrich (Web Editor), Helen Hooker (Musical Adviser), Sarah Langdon (Competition Administrator), Caroline Jones (Committee) and Mary Tyers (Festival 2019).

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2018 were not approved, as the Chairman and one other member of the committee did not agree with the way in which the no confidence vote in the chairman had been recorded. The committee agreed that the Secretary will rewrite section 5 and distribute it by email. The committee's agreement will be sought and given (or withheld) by email.

The following changes were made to the minutes:

- 3.5 – Additional "The" removed from first sentence.
- New 4.5 inserted - The Treasurer suggested that there should be a reduced payment of £5 for young people to attend workshops.
- Section 6.1 was deleted and replaced with "Evelyn Nallen said the Composers' Competition would soon be open for entries."

Matters Arising:

- Early Music Festival - Although the Chairman had spoken to the organiser and asked them to keep a stand free until after the committee had had the opportunity to discuss it, the Early Music Festival is fully-booked and the SRP will not have a stand there. The Chairman will ask Peacock Press if they will allow an SRP banner to be displayed at their stand.
- Changes to the Complaints Procedure – The Chairman read out a statement from Mike Wilkinson in which he said that, having discovered that the version of the Complaints

Procedure on the website was not the final version agreed by the committee on 12th May 2013, he had asked Anthony Hall to update it. The Chairman asked the committee to vote on whether or not what was on the website was acceptable to them.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Alyson Lewin **Carried** unanimously

- Advertising in the U3A magazine – In the absence of Caroline Jones, this was carried over to the next meeting.

3. Co-opting of Sarah Langdon as Competition Administrator

3.1 The Treasurer suggested that the rule on paying committee members is interpreted too narrowly. There was a brief discussion about whether or not the word 'professional' in rule 3.11 could cover rôles other than solicitor and accountant. The committee concluded that it could not.

3.2 Sarah Langdon was co-opted to the committee as Competition Administrator.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Evelyn Nallen **Carried**

4. Finance

4.1 The Treasurer distributed a paper proposing some changes to rule 3.11, specifically the Competition Administrator. The Treasurer pointed out that trustees are paid when they conduct branches, or tutor workshops, or benefit from grants made by the Walter Bergmann Fund. The Chairman asked the Treasurer to circulate her paper by email.

Action: Treasurer

4.2 Tessa Rolph has not claimed the Gift Aid for smaller donations for 2017/18 yet. Other than that, all the Gift Aid claims are up to date.

4.3 The Society of Recorder Players has donated £293.50 more to the Concerto Fund than was reported to the committee in August.

4.4 The 2018 Festival made a profit and it was proposed that this be split three ways between Wessex Branch, the Walter Bergmann Fund and the Central Fund.

Proposed: Debbie Nicholas **Seconded:** Frances Tuffery **Carried**

Action: Treasurer

4.5 The Treasurer explained that, because the 2017 Festival profit was distributed between the Walter Bergmann Fund, Cambridge branch and the central fund in the 2016/17 financial year, while the distribution of the 2018 Festival profit will be recorded in the 2018/19 financial year, it looks as if there is an overall surplus for 2017/18 in comparison with the previous year in the accounts. This is not the case.

4.6 The Treasurer suggested supporting branches more with the cost of visiting conductors. She has looked at the effect on central finances if branches are offered £50 or more towards the conductors' fees. The Chairman suggested that she liaise with the sub-committee looking at how Visiting Conductors are appointed.

Action: Treasurer, Alyson Lewin, Caroline Jones

4.6.1 Alyson Lewin said that branches should expect to pay for visiting conductors' time. The Chairman pointed out that creation of the sub-committee arose from a discussion about making the Visiting Conductors more of a benefit to branches. He will send details to the sub-committee about how the Cambridge branch operates with regard to visiting conductors. Moira Usher said the discussion about benefits should also take into account that branches pay different amounts to rent their meeting rooms.

4.7 The Membership Secretary asked for reading rights on the bank account so she could check that sums paid in matched the amounts given by branch membership secretaries and treasurers in their documentation. The Chairman pointed out that having such access would not help. In the long term there will be a new finance system. In the short term the web editor will host the spreadsheet on the society's servers.

5. Schools Affiliation Programme

5.1 Evelyn Nallen has had a meeting with Jim Grant. He suggests that the Society sends a survey to all branches and ask them:

1. Do they or any of their members have any involvement in schools?
2. What sort of things would the branches want the Schools Affiliation Programme to do?

The Chairman would prefer to survey the branches with more general questions. Evelyn Nallen suggested that branches could implement activities similar to those carried out by Cambridge branch. For example, primary school pupils learn a descant part and are given the opportunity to play it with members of the branch and Zero Gravity, who play all the other parts. This allows the children to find out what it's like to play in an ensemble. She said that, once the branches have been surveyed it would be possible to make a list of things that branches can do if they, or members, are already involved with a school.

5.2 Evelyn Nallen suggested it would be better to ask what members are doing, rather than branches or recorder orchestras as a whole. Debbie Nicholas asked whether it was necessary for the Society to have a safeguarding policy. Evelyn Nallen said this was unnecessary as anyone visiting a school would always be with a member of the school's staff. The Treasurer suggested holding recorder festival days for pupils, but cost would be a problem. Evelyn Nallen said they could apply to the Walter Bergmann Fund for funding.

5.3 The Treasurer asked if anyone had been in touch with ERTA about things they do in schools. The Chairman said he would contact Chris Orton.

Action: Chairman

5.4 The Chairman will contact Jim Grant to ask him if he would like to run the Schools Affiliation Programme.

Action: Chairman

5.5 Debbie Nicholas will contact the branches to ask them what they and their members are doing.

Action: Debbie Nicholas

5.6 Moira Usher suggested asking ERTA if they would like to have their AGM at the Festival in 2020.

Action: Moira Usher

5.7 The Chairman pointed out that there are no formal Terms of Reference for the Walter Bergmann Fund. Moira Usher has written some and they are with the rest of the Walter Bergmann Fund committee for comment. Once that is done, the Terms of Reference will be presented to the committee for discussion.

Action: Moira Usher

6. Management of the Society

6.1 Members of the Committee had read Mike Wilkinson's proposals regarding the make up of the committee in the future. The Chairman said that all members of the committee should have a rôle. The Treasurer suggested that members of the committee work together more to understand what others are doing. Evelyn Nallen said that the Society should get better at publicity. Moira Usher pointed out that the committee appoints people to manage publicity who are already busy with many other things. She said that the information in ENews is not always correct and does not always give enough notice of future events, which is even more noticeable now that the Recorder Magazine does not mention SRP events. The Chairman suggested that permanent sub-committees might not be what is needed, but a smaller committee is necessary. The rules allow for the appointment of sub-committees for specific purposes and periods.

6.2 Moira Usher presented a proposal for changes to the rules to change the make up of the committee. Some of the rules are no longer relevant. She will send copies of the rules and her proposal to absent members of the committee. She suggested that two committee meetings a year is not working and that three years on the committee for branch members is not enough. One of her proposals is that branch members be appointed for five years and that there be no more than one further appointment. She asked the committee to take her proposals away and respond before 30th October. She would like to have something that can be agreed in the February meeting and presented to Conference in April. She proposed that all members of the current committee, with the exception of the Membership Secretary and Debbie Nicholas who have been recently appointed and three other members to provide continuity for a year, resign and do not stand for re-election at the next Conference. The Treasurer suggested that the proposed rule changes include one to cover regional representation.

Action: Moira Usher

6.3 The Country and Overseas Secretary said that the Country and Overseas branch needs a separate secretary because of the work involved, not least because many of the members don't have email. She thinks about seventy or eighty members would be lost if the branch did not have its own secretary. The Chairman asked the Country and Overseas Secretary to document the amount of work involved and to distribute it to the committee.

Action: Country and Overseas Secretary

7. Membership Categories

7.1 It was proposed that the non-branch membership category be named Central Membership.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Evelyn Nallen **Carried** 8 for, 3 against

7.2 The Chairman said that Central Members will fill in an online form to join and pay their fees electronically.

7.3 The Chairman proposed that affiliated recorder ensembles should not benefit from insurance cover or from a pastoral visit, but they would receive one copy of the Recorder Magazine. The membership fee could be £25. This would have to be ratified at Conference.

7.4 Moira Usher suggested that Conference be asked to reduce the youth category from under 30s to under 25s. The Treasurer suggested that youth members receive the Recorder Magazine by email to reduce the difference between their membership fee and the cost of postage of the Recorder Magazine. The Chairman said that any changes in membership fees should be discussed in the February meeting so they can be presented by the committee to Conference.

7.5 The Treasurer said that the £4.00 surcharge for overseas youth members (i.e. not UK or Ireland) should be reinstated on the website.

Action: Secretary

8. Festival 2019

8.1 In Mary Tyers' absence, she sent a report which was distributed to the members of the committee. Moira Usher said the Walter Bergmann Fund has not received any applications for funding from participants in the Youth Strand. She will contact Mary Tyers to tell her the date of the next meeting of the Walter Bergmann Fund committee.

Action: Moira Usher

8.2 Moira Usher asked if the committee had ever surveyed members about why they do or don't go to Festivals. The Chairman would like to circulate a general questionnaire, perhaps through ENews. It has a distribution of about 1,300 members and an open rate of 70%. He said that his recent email to all members had generated about 30 replies. He will send an email to the committee asking for ideas about what should be included in the questionnaire. The Membership Secretary said that there might be a better response from members if the questions are not just about the Festival.

Action: Chairman

9. Location of Future Meetings

The Chairman has not been able to find another location for committee meetings. He will enquire at Aston University, Birmingham Conservatoire and a Holiday Inn near a railway station in Birmingham. He suggested that costs could be reduced by not providing lunch, but tea and coffee making facilities would be required. Evelyn Nallen suggested hiring a room at King's Place in London. The Membership Secretary will enquire at Cadogan Hall.

Action: Chairman, Membership Secretary

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Dick Pyper will give up negotiating and managing the Society's insurance in 2019. Moira Usher will ask Mark Usher if he will take it on.

Action: Moira Usher

10.2 The Secretary reported a discussion on Facebook which suggested that the Society might want to put on workshops similar to those run by the Flanders Recorder Quartet as part of their farewell tour. Evelyn Nallen suggested that the person who raised the question could be put in touch with the Flautadors, who do something similar.

Action: Secretary

10.3 The Chairman said that Tina Friedrich will be able to host the Society's financial spreadsheets on a shared, but private server.

10.4 It was proposed that Colin Touchin be removed from the list of Musical Advisers, as he is no longer a member of the SRP. As part of their review of the way Visiting Conductors are added to the list Alyson Lewin and Caroline Jones are considering how many Musical Advisers are required by the Society.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Alyson Lewin **Carried**

Barbara Law has asked for the following statement to be included in these minutes, as the minutes of the meeting on 18th February did not reflect what she was trying to say:

The current arrangement where SRP members receive the Magazine at less than 50% of the subscription rate is only viable when the magazine is received by all members. This arrangement would not be possible were there an opt-in or opt-out option and all SRP members opting in would pay the full subscription rate of £30.

The SRP is free to include information concerning SRP courses, events and other activities in their pages. The Magazine cannot provide a free advertising and listings service for others.

The meeting ended at 4:01 p.m.

The next committee meeting will take place on Sunday 17th February 2019 at a location to be confirmed.