

THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL 2009

Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough TS14 6BU

PRESENT:

Dick Pyper	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Bob Whitmarsh	Secretary	Eileen Silcocks	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Caroline Jones	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Co-ordinator	Jane Sellek	Committee
Andrew Short	NYRO S/C Chairman	Pam Smith	Committee
Sandra Foxall	Country/Overseas Sec	Matthew Taylor	Committee
Mike Wilkinson	Mem Secretary		

1. Apologies for absence and welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 12.06 a.m. Apologies for absence were received from Evelyn Nallen and Andrew Collis.

2. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed the newly elected members to the Committee.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 Andrew Short said that he objected to the wording of section 4.5, the NYRO Sub-Committee Chairman's report, and requested that the first two sentences be omitted. After some debate it was agreed that the wording of the first sentence should be amended to 'The Committee were concerned at some of the suggestions made to raise funds for NYRO'.

3.2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2009 were then AGREED, after adding apologies for absence from Pam Smith, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Moira Usher, referring to the Treasurer's report, asked if it was appropriate for the Society to carry Employer's Liability Insurance. The answer was that all employers are required by law to have Employers' Liability Insurance. This did not solely apply to those receiving payment, such as conductors and the NYRO Administrator, but to volunteers as well.

5. Banking signatories

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were approved *nem. con.* to continue as the Society's banking signatories.

6. Update of the Information Booklet

Andrew Short explained the background to the publication of the first Information Booklet in 2003. The Committee had set up NYRO in 2002 and he had spent a lot of time seeking funds to support it without success largely because not all the funding criteria were met. The following year David and Helen Beare repeated the effort involving a lot of outreach which succeeded in obtaining some funding but at the same time it was realised that there was a need for an Information Booklet about the Society.

The Chairman asked whether it was time for a new (third) edition of the Booklet. It was agreed that the Society's web site had largely taken over the role of the Booklet and that there was no need for further action (other than keeping the web site up to date).

7. Distribution of commissioned works to Branches

Moira Usher asked whether the Society should subsidise the distribution of commissioned works to Branches because a single set of parts was insufficient. Sandra Foxall said that she had looked into this for Festival 2009 and the cost would have been prohibitive. Ulli Burchette reported that Oriel library had printed a limited edition of the music commissioned for the 2008 Festival at very low cost; these copies were given to Festival visitors and one set sent to every branch that wasn't represented at the festival.

The Chairman said that he had costed the printing of parts by a Guildford print shop and had arrived at the figure of £16 for 6 sets of parts and one 10-part score. If each Branch was sent 6 sets and a score it would cost less than £1000 which could be raised from the Arthur Ingram Fund. It was agreed *nem. con.* that the Society could spend up to £1,000 towards the costs of printing and distributing to Branches copies of works especially commissioned for Festivals.

8. Frequency of Festivals

Moira Usher introduced the discussion and noted that attendance at Festivals appeared to be decreasing because there had been 'only 160' attendees at Guisborough. She wondered whether Festivals should be held in alternate years. The Chairman said there would still be a need for an Annual General Meeting if only to hold the Conference. Sandra Foxall noted that the Festival was the only time that members from all Branches had an opportunity to get together each year. Moira Usher countered that she feared that as numbers dropped so costs would rise and fewer people would come. She was concerned that initial costings suggested Festival 2010 would cost around £50. Sandra Foxall said that Cleveland Branch had kept down the cost of Festival 2009 by raising funds themselves e.g. through putting on concerts.

Mike Wilkinson noted that there was no shortage of Branches volunteering to hold festivals. He added that the Treasurer has to approve each Festival budget so the Committee could consider how to reduce costs at that stage. Eileen Silcocks suggested that it would help if the Festival did not have to pay for a commissioned piece of music and its distribution to Branches. Similarly she proposed that Training Workshops paid for by the Society might be held at Festivals.

Sandra Foxall noted that Cleveland Branch had had to start some of the planning for Festival 2009 from scratch e.g. the template for laying out the programme in the Festival leaflet. She agreed to send a copy of this template to the Secretary [**Action Sandra Foxall**].

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next two Committee meetings would take place at Benslow Hills Music Trust, Hitchin on 18th October 2009 and 21st February 2010. Eileen Silcocks tendered her apologies for being unavailable on both dates and Moira Usher said she would be unavailable on the first date.

There was a short discussion about other venues that were more convenient to northern members of the Committee. Venues in Birmingham and Durham were suggested.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1.04 p.m.