

# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751

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## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2004

Held at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts.

### PRESENT:

Andrew Short	Chairman	Colin Martin	Musical Adviser
Alistair Read	Secretary	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Brian Fraser-Hook	Treasurer	Margaret Shearing	Committee
Jim Rowley	COS	Peter Sturgeon	Committee
David Beare	NYRO Project Man	David Scruby	Committee
Moira Usher	Training Coordinator	Ulli Burchette	Committee
		Sandra Foxall	Committee

**1.1 Welcome/Apologies for absence:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and especially Helen Hooker (Musical Adviser on Committee); Sandra Foxall (Committee); and Margaret Shearing (Committee). Apologies were received from John Allen; Andrew Collis; Madeline Seviour; and Mary Tyers.

**1.2** The Chairman confirmed that, as the 9 May 2004 meeting was inquorate and did not take place, the agenda published on 19 April 2004 be declared null and void.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** held on 15 February 2004 were AGREED and approved *nem. con.* Proposed: Brian Fraser-Hook; seconded: David Beare.

**3.** There were no **Matters arising**

**4. Conference 2004** The Chairman highlighted several items from Conference minutes including: branch accounts would for the future need to be within the standard financial year (1st September–31 August) and submitted on the standard reporting form. Anne Martin had written expressing her agreement that it was time to wind-up the CSRP. On the matter of future festivals, it was reported that York Branch had made an offer for 2007 and there was a possibility of a joint festival/conference in 2008 with ERTA and Tim Cranmore's Malvern course. It was AGREED that arrangements for 2008 be included in the Committee agenda for February 2005.

The Chairman undertook to contact Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, offering the Society's congratulations on his appointment as Master of the Queen's Music, and requesting permission to add this title to the Society's letterheads and other documentation. (Action: Chairman)

**5. Officers' Reports**—see attached documentation. Unless the officer had anything to add to his/her written report, details are not repeated below.

**5.1** The Chairman said Andrew Mayes had resigned as Editor of *The Recorder Magazine* although he would remain in post for the next three issues.

**5.2** It was agreed that congratulations be extended to Mary Tyers for her administration of the Moeck/SRP Competition 2003.

**5.3** During discussion on the Walter Bergmann Fund Chairman's report, it was revealed that grant applications from NYRO applicants did not work well, and that the procedure needed clarifying.

**5.6 Web Editor:** In addition to this report, the Chairman said he was in correspondence with Ashley Allerton on the subject of providing a facility on the SRP website for

music to be downloaded. It was AGREED that this may well have copyright implications and advice should be sought from such bodies as the Music Publishers' Association. It was felt, however, that the Committee was not itself able to clarify copyright issues. (Action: Chairman)

The following officers also tabled reports:

*Membership Secretary:* In a message to the Secretary, John Allen, said he expected to reprint the Membership List in 2005 according to the usual system, to which the Committee AGREED. He said he would be glad to receive branch returns as early as possible, even if this necessitates a few last minute amendments.

When submitting names of Associates for inclusion in the branch listing, it would be very helpful for him to know the branch through which their subscription as a Full Member is paid to the Central Fund. (Action: Branch Secretaries/Treasurers) Committee AGREED.

He had received returns so far from LON, PET, PLM, SLO & WOK. That from SLO was especially clearly laid out.

The Committee AGREED that, for the future, i.e., starting in the financial year beginning 1 September 2005, membership details and subscription cheques should all go to the Membership Secretary, who will be supplied with a current account paying-in book, adopting the system presently used by COS.

*Training Co-ordinator:* Moira Usher said she had been delighted with the conducting courses run in Edinburgh and Bristol. It was AGREED that an advertisement be placed in *The Recorder Magazine* through Madeline Seviour and also on the website. It was also AGREED that the tutor's fee should be £100 plus expenses. Moira was happy to receive suggestions for allied courses to those of conducting and theory. (See attached syllabuses).

*National Youth Recorder Orchestra:* David Beare's report was tabled and is appended to Officers' Reports. It was with sadness, the Chairman said, that he had received David's resignation as Project Manager, NYRO. A vote of thanks was proposed by Moira Usher, seconded by Colin Martin and carried nem. con. for all his efforts on behalf of NYRO.

It was AGREED that David would tidy up any outstanding matters pertaining to NYRO 2004. The Treasurer confirmed that the NYRO 2002 account balance should revert to the Arthur Ingram fund. In that way the full extent of the NYRO 2002 cost to the Arthur Ingram Fund will be clearly seen. It is now some 12 months since this transfer was requested. Any further NYRO funding would then start with a clean slate.

The Central Fund current account is at Barclays Business Centre, Town Hall Square Branch, Leicester, Sort Code 20-49-11 and the account number is 80843903.

The Treasurer also reported that David Beare has some bank statements relating to NYRO 2002 and, although he has listed transaction details in his email, Brian has asked him to send the statements to him so that he could complete the 2003 accounts. David has not yet found a local person to audit his NYRO 2003 accounts and said he may have to pay someone to do it. It was AGREED that David should proceed along these lines with all possible speed in view of Brian urgently needing these accounts.

*The Treasurer* confirmed that accounts for 2001–02 were now complete and had been lodged with the Charity Commissioners in September 2004. The Independent Examiner had qualified his statement with the words "However, members should be aware that there was a discrepancy of £1,217 in receipts from the first course of the National Youth Recorder Orchestra". There was renewed disquiet among Committee members that the NYRO 2002 account had not yet been closed. It was AGREED that pressure should be

brought to correct this. (Action: Chairman to write to Colin Touchin requesting the account be closed, a statement be made available for examination and a cheque sent to clear the outstanding amount). This matter notwithstanding, Committee AGREED to accept the accounts for 2001-02. Proposed: Moira Usher; seconded: Jim Rowley and approved nem. con.

With reference to the financial year 2002–03, Brian confirmed that, although part of the accounts had been completed, some work still remained to be done. David Scruby said he thought it unwise that such a sum as £200K should be invested in one fund. Brian undertook to investigate the matter and have further discussions with David Scruby.

The Treasurer said that he had nothing to say at present with regard to the Accounts for 2003–04. He did say, however, that, for the future, branches must prepare their accounts in line with the consolidated form already drawn up. The Committee, however, thought the phraseology somewhat misleading in some aspects. Brian undertook to reword the offending areas and circulate the form to branches for immediate use.

The Chairman read to committee the Trustees Annual Report (CC65(C) to the Charity Commissioners for the financial year 2002-03 which was AGREED by Committee. Proposed: Sandra Foxall; seconded David Beare and approved nem. con.

## **6. The future of NYRO**

There were tabled three reports from the musical director, Colin Touchin. The first was the results of a NYRO 2004 questionnaire of the players. The second dealt with NYRO's attendance at the International Congress of Recorder Orchestras (ICRO), held in Holland between 14 and 17 October 2004 and the third was NYRO Musical Director's Report for the SRP Committee. It was with great regret, the Chairman said, that David Beare had resigned from the post of Project Manager, NYRO, and he took the opportunity to thank him for all his hard work. After lengthy discussion, it was AGREED that, whilst the Committee was still in favour of backing NYRO, it was not yet ready to float on its own. Accordingly, it was AGREED that a management sub-committee, along the lines of the Walter Bergmann Fund, be formed. Andrew Short undertook to chair the sub-committee, Jean Murray, Trustee and Director of Edinburgh Young Musicians, would be asked to act as adviser, plus one other person. The sub-committee would also offer non-voting seats to the musical director and the managing organiser/administrator. It is desirable that external experts be eligible to serve on sub-committees and the Society's Rules need to be amended to enable that. In view of the necessity to get matters moving promptly with regard to applications and auditions for NYRO 2005, it was AGREED that the post of administrator be a paid post. and offered to Naomi Winterburn, the administrator of the NYRO overseas tours. Proposed: Brian Fraser-Hook; seconded Sandra Foxall and agreed nem. con.

## **7. Letter from Hon. Auditor—item withdrawn**

## **8. Election to Panel of Visiting Conductors**

The Secretary said he had received two nominations, both from branches, for inclusion in the Panel of Visiting Conductors. After brief discussion, the Committee was pleased to elect Pamela Smith (Cheltenham and Gloucester) and Robin Powell (Dorset) to the Panel. (Action: Secretary).

## **9. Branch Music Libraries' Database**

The Committee was advised that attempts to obtain the work done by the late Douglas Haston on this database had been unsuccessful. The Committee AGREED that Ashley Allerton should liaise with Nikki Whitelock in continuing her work on getting existing web pages into MS Access (a database package) and ultimately producing new web pages. Nikki is prepared to contact branches asking for updates and new lists as time goes by. Branches wishing to contact her can

email her on [libraries@srp.org.uk](mailto:libraries@srp.org.uk). The Secretary undertook to contact her to see if she was willing to have her postal address published. (Action: Secretary).

#### **10. Membership Secretary post**

By the time the Membership List 2005 is published and distributed, John Allen will have completed 36 years' service. Sadly, he feels it is time to retire. Three candidates expressed interest in the post, one subsequently withdrawing. After deliberation it was AGREED that Margaret Shearing (Manchester) should be nominated to take over from John in April 2005, subject to election at Conference 2005. The nomination was proposed by Alistair Read; seconded by Brian Fraser-Hook and carried nem. con.

#### **11. Anthony Rowland-Jones' letter**

After considerable discussion, the Committee AGREED that it could not go along at the present time with Anthony's suggestion that the Arthur Ingram Fund be used to purchase great bass and contra bass instruments for use by NYRO and other recorder orchestras. (Action: Chairman to write to Anthony Rowland-Jones).

#### **12. Pastoral Visitor List and Society's Rules**

The Secretary sought leave to publish new editions of the Pastoral Visitor List and the Society's Rules. It was felt that, in view of the necessity of consulting Conference 2005 on the subject of payment to conductors, it would be wasted effort to do so at the present time. Likewise, the same issue would result in changes to the Rules. It was AGREED to delay publication until after Conference 2005.

#### **13 Any other business**

13.1 *Payment of honoraria* Following protracted discussion, it was AGREED that the whole matter of payment of honoraria and fees to conductors should be referred to Conference. In the meantime, further discussion into the legality of payments would be explored with our legal adviser regarding the Charity Commission Rules. In view of the fact that conductors are presently seriously out-of-pocket when undertaking engagements in the branches, it was AGREED that the car mileage rate be increased to 30p/mile with effect from Monday, 1 November 2004. Proposed: Brian Fraser-Hook; seconded Moira Usher. Carried nem. con.

13.2 *Child Protection Policy* The Committee thanked Moira Usher for volunteering to undertake to formulate a policy suitable to the Society's needs. (Action: Moira Usher)

13.3 *Festival Handbook* David Scruby undertook to let the Secretary have details of amendments for inclusion in the next edition. (Action: David Scruby)

#### **14. Dates of future meetings**

The next meeting, to be held at Little Benslow Hills, Hitchin, will be on **Sunday, 20 February 2005** (Committee members to note change of date).

Conference 2005, to be held at Brentwood County High School, Brentwood, Essex, will be held on Sunday, 24 April 2005.

The post-conference Committee meeting will be held at Little Benslow Hills, Hitchin, on Sunday, 15 May 2005. There being no further business the meeting closed at 15.35 hrs.