

SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS, OCTOBER 2013

Secretary’s Report

Before I handed over to David Rollason as Membership Secretary in August I completed the 2013 Membership List and distributed it and a supply of Membership Cards to the geographical Branches by courier, since distribution at the Festival in Dublin would have been impractical. Courtesy of Jerry Burbidge, copies of the Membership List for COS members, affiliated Orchestras and the (few) Corporate members were included with their copies of the Autumn issue of the *Recorder Magazine*. Printing of 1,400 copies of the Membership List cost £1,105 (79p per copy) and distribution £259 (22p per copy).

At the end of August I distributed to Branches copies of the Welcome leaflet that the Committee agreed as one of the actions following the 2020 Report. The small amount of feedback I have had is all positive, especially for Evelyn Nallen’s elegant design. It cost £294 to print 1,400 copies of the leaflet (21p each) and £66.68 to distribute it (5½p per copy). While the leaflet was designed for new and re-joining members, we could use it or a variant of it to hand out on our stand at Greenwich in November. I have about 200 copies in stock.

There have been two recent changes of Branch Secretaries: HELEN WHOMERSLEY has taken over from Shirley Brown as Secretary of Cornwall Branch, and HEATHER LOCKE has taken over from Maggie Dyson as Secretary of Hullavington Branch. Grateful thanks to those stepping down, and a warm welcome to those taking over.

Grants of £150 to Nottingham, Norfolk and Somerset Branches for Jubilee Playing Days in September and October have been approved, and a further one is possible before the grant offer expires at the end of 2013. I have so far approved 10 Pastoral Visits for 2013/14, and one for 2014/15! Eileen Silcocks is due to assess two new candidates for the Conductors List - Michael Graham on 16th October and Lynne Hope on 22nd January.

Questions for the Committee:

(1) Would the Committee be willing to consider Eileen’s report on Mr Graham (and, in principle, other assessment reports) by e-mail so that, if he qualifies, he can be added to the List without having to wait for the next Committee meeting?

(2) The Conductors List is not currently on the website but is supplied to Branches as a printed booklet. The current issue is dated 2011, with two subsequent additions. Is there any reason not to make the List available on the website? If the Committee sees no objection, I would propose to contact all the existing Conductors to ask if they wish to update their entries and to alert them to the intention to make the List public on the website from early 2014. This will save the (modest) cost of printing copies and enable Branches to have immediate access to the current List.

Mike Wilkinson, Secretary

Membership Secretary and COS Secretary

Nothing to report so early in the membership year.

Web Editor's Report to Committee October 2013

Since the last committee meeting the new-look website has been launched. Reaction has been favourable, though I've since had to make a few tweaks to improve accessibility for example for colour-blind users. The main new features are:

1. Improved navigation.
The site is now organised according to what the user might be looking for and is less SRP-centric. In addition news, quick links and SRP branches are visible from any page as well as the page-specific menu.
2. Better look and feel.
The new theme is more attractive and less aggressive in appearance. There are more pictures, giving a brighter look.
3. Mobile devices.
The site works on tablets and smartphones as well as computers, and adjusts to the size of the browser window to make best use of space.
4. Connection to Facebook.
All news, including updates to the site, goes to a Facebook page so people can be notified of any news by Liking that page.

The purpose of the new site is to be a resource for everyone in the UK interested in the recorder and the intention is that it should have more material than the old site. It has always been clear that this extra material should be provided by experts, not by the web editor himself. So far, of the ten areas identified (nine were listed in the minutes of the May 2013 committee meeting, which omitted recorder teachers) I have received the material for four: About the Recorder, Introductory page, Music Publishers and Concerts and Courses (which I continue to manage largely from information sent to me by organisers). Benefits of membership, Guide for Teachers, Performers and Ensembles, Recorder Makers and Teachers are still outstanding. I have made a start on Recorder Suppliers by separating out existing material from the original Suppliers page but await further input on this.

As requested, each page now shows when it was last updated.

The site has been used to solicit votes and comments from members about the proposal for a new logo: this seems to have been successful, attracting over 300 voters and over 100 comments.

There is an improved page listing the Alex Ayre publications. You can browse it by number of players or by composer, and look up an item in the Recorder Music Mail catalogue directly from the page. Unfortunately this shows that nearly half the Alex Ayre arrangements are currently not listed by RMM.

While I do most of the updates to the site, several branches are managing their own pages successfully.

As we increase the amount of material on the site, we are running up against the limit of our current hosting plan. We will probably need to upgrade to get more storage within a year or so, raising the cost from £40 to £80 per year.

As always, I am happy to receive any suggestions for improvements to the site.

Anthony Hall

Walter Bergmann Fund Report

At our last meeting in May we approved funds for 2 separate applicants for the purchase of treble recorders which have now been purchased. We would like to express our thanks to John Everingham at Saunders Recorders for his assistance to both purchasers and for the discount which he gave the WBF on the prices.

We have also approved funding for gifted young students (school age) to attend a weekend in Lyme Regis with Tom Beets next February. The details of the weekend are still being finalised. We are paying the attendance fee of each student (£150 each), rather than giving a block amount to the organisers, to ensure that the money is only released for each student. The organisers are giving their time and the accommodation for free.

We rejected one request as there was insufficient budget information.

Our next meeting is 18th October.

Moira Usher for WBF

Training Officer's report

I have decided to hand over the reins of this post to be able to concentrate on the WBF and the Alex Ayre editing. April Munday has kindly agreed to take over and I would be grateful if the Committee would allow her to do so from this meeting.

The workshops are slowly gathering in popularity and the table below shows those booked in the last 2 years. I have really enjoyed getting this scheme off the ground and am keen that it continues and expands. It gives branches a reason to be an SRP branch, gives valuable training and fulfils a large part of our charity remit. Any ideas for changes and extra workshops would, as always, be gratefully received.

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| March 2012 | Intm. Conduct | MU | Leicester | J. Scott |
| March 2012 | Tudor Dance | C&JS | Wessex | M. Steele |
| June 2012 | Technique | HH | Sheffield | J. Ellin |
| Oct 2012 | English Baroque | EN | Bristol | S. Davies |
| Nov 2012 | Intm. Conduct | MU | Cambridge | V. Morris |
| Nov 2012 | Begin Conduct | MU | Cheltenham | J. Checketts |
| Jan 2013 | Technique | ES | Nottingham | S. Allen |
| Mar 2013 | Unbarred | ES | Wessex | M. Steele |
| Mar 2013 | English Baroque | EN | Cambridge | J. Bourne |
| Apr 2013 | Begin Conduct | MU | Sheffield | J. Ellin |
| Apr 2013 | Begin Conduct | MU | Norfolk | C. Levien |
| Oct 2013 | Gabrieli Canzonas | PT | Cambridge | J. Bourne |
| Nov 2013 | English Baroque | EN | Suffolk | M. Usher |
| March 14 | English Baroque | EN | Oxford | H. Bogisch-Francis |
| April 14 | English Baroque | EN | Durham | D. Rollinson |
| June 14 | Tudor Day | MU | Sheffield | J. Ellin |

Moira Usher
October 2013
