

Report by the Secretary

Conductors' Visits: To date I have approved a total of 30 visits by Conductors for 2015/16, of which 10 have so far taken place, and 2 for 2016/17. Further analysis shows that 21 different Conductors received one or more invitations from Branches in 2014/15 and that 16 have so far received invitations in 2015/16. The number of Conductors on the Society's list is currently 30.

New Branch: I have received an application from Caroline Melody on behalf of a group of players for the recognition in due course of an Orkney Branch. They expect to start formally in February with about 7 members and hope that this will increase as news of their formation spreads. They plan to meet twice a month. They hope that becoming an SRP Branch will demonstrate their commitment to the furtherance of their recorder playing and look forward to becoming members of the wider recorder playing community. I have asked Caroline to give me an update by mid February so that, if the Committee is content that all is in order, I can prepare a resolution to put to Conference on 3 April to ratify the recognition of Orkney Branch under Rule 10.4.

Branch Guidance: After a considerable gestation period I have produced a guide for Branch officers to replace an outdated and incomplete guide that was withdrawn from the website some time ago. The new guide does not introduce any new initiatives but does aim to bring together advice, some of it already on the website, addressing a range of issues that Branch Secretaries, Treasurers and others might find helpful when managing their Branches and making the necessary membership, finance, Gift Aid and PRS returns to the Society. The new guidance can be found at www.srp.org.uk/admin/documents/SRPBranchGuidance2015.pdf, and I would welcome suggestions for corrections, additions and improvements.

Mike Wilkinson, 17 January 2016

Report by the Membership Secretary

Membership numbers: The total number for all categories of member for 2015-16 is currently 1,334. This figure represents a significant decrease over the 2014-15 figure of 1,403. That figure, however, included a number of reduced-rate new members joining after 1 January, so there is some hope that this year's figure will grow over the next few weeks.

Branch membership numbers: The majority of branches have lost a few members, some have held steady, a few have increased their numbers. As noted above, this may still change, but the picture is not wholly encouraging.

Processes: Anthony Hall's development of the database system has proceeded apace and highly successfully. Branches can now edit their own membership records on-line, and a number have successfully done this. For others, the spreadsheet system has continued to function well, with almost no problems. Particularly striking is the fact that glitches in the distribution of Recorder Magazine have been almost wholly eliminated. This is owing to Anthony's work to make the database communicate directly with Recorder Music Mail, but also to the willingness of Ian Davies there to work with the membership secretary.

David Rollason, 11 January 2016

Society of Recorder Players : Committee meeting 24th January 2016 : Officers' reports

Report by the Country & Overseas Secretary

Current membership figures (with figures from February 2015 for comparison):

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	66 (62)	12 (8)	0 (0)	2 (2)	80 (72)
Rest of Europe	10 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (11)
Rest of World	4 (3)	4 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (9)
Totals	80 (76)	16 (14)	0 (0)	2 (2)	98 (92)

Corporate Members: 3 (4)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 17 (17)

Sandra Foxall, 9 January 2016

SRP Membership by Branch							
Branch	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Branch	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
ABE	18	15	16	MDH	35	31	32
BIR	28	32	29	NCO	8	13	11
BNH	19	19	18	NEW	28	26	29
BRI	42	45	41	NFK	27	27	28
BTH	31	30	29	NLO	23	29	19
CAM	25	26	30	NOT	22	22	20
CHG	37	40	40	NUN	17	16	12
CLE	14	14	15	OXF	25	19	22
COR	29	29	29	PET	20	22	19
CUM	29	29	25	ROX	6	8	7
DEV	20	17	14	SCO	9	0	0
DOR	15	11	14	SDN	24	26	23
DUR	17	21	20	SFK	58	51	51
EBK	30	35	31	SHE	28	27	27
EDI	32	42	33	SLO	23	18	14
ESX	30	27	25	SOM	32	32	29
GLA	30	26	23	SST	38	41	44
GUI	26	26	28	WAL	26	30	29
HIL	10	12	13	WAR	21	22	26
HLV	14	14	0	WDO	20	22	19
IRL	26	27	28	WOK	19	25	27
KNT	11	8	7	WRI	21	26	26
LEI	32	34	30	WSX	43	42	40
LIN	35	35	36	YOR	18	19	20
LON	26	27	20	Subtotal	1259	1283	1216
MAC	13	21	23	Branches	51	50	49
MAN	29	27	25	mem/br	25	26	25
				COS	102	120	118
				Total	1361	1403	1334

Note

Branches shown in **red** : 2015/16 membership is more than 10% **below** the average for 2013/14 and 2014/15

Branches shown in **green** : 2015/16 membership is more than 10% **above** the average for 2013/14 and 2014/15

Report by the Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2015

This table is a summary of the **Central Fund** accounts for the year 2014/15 and a forecast for 2015-2016.

INCOME	2013-14 actual	2014-15 forecast	2014-15 actual	2015-16 budget
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	31,018.25	31,100	32,003.12	32,000
Festival Surplus	?	600	597.45 1,705.11	
Scottish Recorder Festival (Surplus) Loss		0	0	
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)	{4841.43}			
Bank Interest (11.88% of Total Received)	280.14	180	268.84	200
Donations			347.00	
Royalties	6.16		0	10
Branch Handover			41.68	
Total	31,304.55	31,880	34,963.17	32,210
EXPENDITURE				
Magazine	13,873.80	13,900	13,659.70	13,900
Annual Conference	4,865.39	4,500	2,395.65	3,000
Committee Expenses	2,410.42	3,500	4,118.12	5,200
Conductors Visits	2,649.95	3,200	3,375.54	4,000
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	61.79	1,300	1,719.09	300
Phones & Postages	19.26	100	57.07	200
Publicity	1,017.10	500	393.60	600
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches & WBF	0	400	398.30	1,137
Subscription to Making Music	450.00	450	450.00	350
Scottish Recorder Festival Loss	611.50	???	0	
Audit	200.00	250	200.00	200
Internet Presence	96.00	110	106.20	105
Insurances	1745.50	1770	1,768.29	1,768
Bank charges	3.50	0		
Miscellaneous	135.14	100	44.00	40
Total	28,139.35	30,080	28,685.56	30,800
	3,165.20	1,800	6,277.61	1,410

Subscription income rose by almost £1,000 compared to 2013/14. I have changed the way to show the expenditure for the Annual Conference and committee. The form to report to the Charity Commission requests the amount of expenses paid to committee members. I have therefore added the Committee's Conference costs to the committee expenses, reducing the cost of the Annual Conference by this amount. This makes the cost of the Annual Conference look less (£2,395) and the Committee expenses (£4,118) higher, together the amount is less than in the previous year (according to the 'old' system the respective figures are Conference £3,714, Committee expenses £2,800). The membership lists resulted in higher printing costs (£1,720). There was an overall surplus of £6,277 due to additional income from two festivals and donations of £2,500. The festival surplus has since been shared out between General Fund, WBF and the branches (Wolverhampton in 2015/16).

The **Central Fund** held £36,749.58 on 31st August 2015.

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £4,583 in donations, and £278 share of bank interest (15.85% of total), £199 as share of the Truro festival. It made grants totalling £4,963; committee expenses amounted to £42, printing to £33 and bank charges to £20. The year's surplus was £1.60, leaving its fund at £31,491.94 on 31st August 2015.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £1,221 share of bank interest (69,07% of total). It also received £22 in donations, royalties from Alex Ayre music £183 (minus £73 Anne Ayre's share), PRS fees for Alex Ayre's music £70. Income from the sale of Bonsor CDs brought in £232. The fund's main expenditure were grants to NYRO (£5,000), a Recorder Concerto Commission (£3,000), the Birmingham Recorder Festival (£500), an instrument to the Sophie Westbrooke, BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist (£895) and the remainder of the grant to Charlotte Barbour-Condini (£60). Entries to the **competition** added £1,938 as income, expenditure arose from hospitality at the winner's recital, printing and travel expenses, in all £362. The larger expenditure of the competition account occurs in years when the competition takes place. **Workshops** brought in £1,713 in entrance fees but occurred costs of professional fees and expenses (£1,782), venue hire (£688), refreshments and printing (£110), resulting in an overall support from the Arthur Ingram Fund of £871. Other items were an ex-gratia payment to Ron Skins for a collection of Recorder Magazines, costs occurred for setting of the Alex Ayre music (£29) and a replacement copy of the Ireland festival music (£28). The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £12,571, a reduction of £7,191. The overall fund amounts to £131,142.96 on 31st August 2015.

I asked **branches** to report the costs of their playing days in more details, providing figures for venue hire, cost of conducting (fees and expenses) and income from playing activities. This reflects our playing activities and the cost involved better when I fill in the form for the Charity Commission.

Looking at the current year I predict a surplus of around £1400 for the central fund. Therefore I propose **not** to increase the subscriptions the second consecutive year. Although most branches sent me their accounts by middle of October, one did not come in until the end of November causing quite a delay in sorting the accounts. Last year's request to branch treasurers to look at their branch accounts in June or July to check whether they have reclaimed pastoral visitor's travel expenses, passed on donations etc. resulted in a much cleaner end to the financial year and I hope that this will continue. Receiving requests for reimbursements after 31st August of the financial year always complicate the accounts.

I wish to thank Keith Varney, our Independent Examiner, for his helpful advice and efficient handling of the auditing of the Society's accounts.

Ursula Burchette, 17 January 2016
