

## Report by the Chairman

Following the discussion at our last meeting in October on my paper "The Way Forward" we have made good progress in several areas. We will review progress at the committee meeting, and agree further steps that can be taken, but the following summarises some specific areas.

### **Honorary President**

At the last meeting we agreed a process to identify and recruit a new Honorary President to replace Sir Peter Maxwell-Davis. Mike had produced a paper outlining the optimum profile of our new president and what we might expect from him. This was agreed by committee, and in order to have a recommendation in time for conference in April it was also agreed that we would immediately send the paper to all branches and ask for suggestions. These would then be circulated to committee in order that each of you may express your preferences and potential shortlist based on the branch suggestions. This process was successfully completed, and resulted in three clear leaders, with Jonathan Dove fully meeting the profile as set out in the paper. Consequently I approached Jonathan's agent and then discussed the role with Jonathan who I am delighted to say has accepted, subject of course to ratification at conference. I feel confident that Jonathan, who understands that this is for an initial term of seven years, will be an excellent President. He accepts that we are not simply looking for a figurehead, but someone who will engage with the Society from time to time, and also provide occasional advice and guidance. He has an excellent and growing profile in the music world, and while not a recorder player, he is familiar with, and has composed for the instrument. His agent is also very supportive and may be able to help us with further publicity.

### **Email Newsletter**

SRP eNews our new monthly email newsletter has proved to be popular with many of our members. Allyn Richardson, our news editor, took on the task of setting up the newsletter. Using Mailchimp, an email marketing programme, Allyn set up the mailing list using email addresses provided by members. The initial list included approx. 1,300 names but several addresses were apparently incorrect, and the list is now approx. 1,250, with only one member choosing to unsubscribe. The first eNews went out in October and was opened by 70% of recipients which is an extremely good result. The following two newsletters have maintained that same level of interest with "Click Through" in the latest email at 30%, which confirms the high level of interest in the content. Currently Allyn is limiting the listing in eNews to events coming up in the following month although this is something we can discuss at committee. Our goal is to ensure that the newsletter remains interesting and relevant. We should also seek to grow the email list to include other affiliated groups, and anyone with an interest in the recorder.

### **Publicity**

Given the importance of increasing publicity for the society, and following the resignation of Emily Bannister as publicity officer, the role of publicity officer was advertised on our website, in eNews, by emails to branch secretaries and also on the Facebook Group managed by Sheila Richards. I spoke with two candidates and decided to recommend Isobel Clarke as our new publicity officer, but also Louise Findlay as deputy publicity officer. This was agreed by committee via email. Isobel will be at the committee meeting and will outline her proposals with regard to growing awareness for our society through both traditional means and also social media with the assistance of Louise.

## **Recruitment**

This is another key area that we discussed as part of our “Way Forward” initiative. There is still much to be done here in order to grow membership and in particular to attract younger members. Since the meeting I have spoken with Richard Chester the President of NYRO about ways in which we can cooperate further with NYRO in order to agree and achieve mutual goals. NYRO have submitted a request for funding for a further year, and we should discuss this at the committee meeting with a view to looking for further synergies with NYRO to ensure that the SRP benefits from our relationship with them and that it remains consistent with our goals as a society and also as a charity.

David Rollason our membership secretary has also had further thoughts about our relationship with other organisations with similar goals to our own, and how we might better cooperate with them.

I would also like to discuss further ideas on how we may attract new members. For example, there are many members of affiliated groups who are not members of the SRP. It would be useful to find a way to make it attractive and possible for them to become SRP members in their own right. I am also very aware that throughout the UK there are many small recorder groups that meet to play who could also perhaps join us as affiliated groups. I would welcome any suggestions in this area, but it is my goal to come up with several suggestions for discussion.

## **Festivals**

Plans for the 2017 Festival are now very advanced, and I'm delighted that Wessex Branch have now agreed to host the festival in 2018. With Suffolk hosting the festival in 2020 we need now to seek a host for 2019. It has been suggested that it would be very desirable to have a festival in the north or possibly even Scotland and I believe we should encourage our northern branches to volunteer. I am very aware of how much effort can be involved in organising a festival, but for the Cambridge festival, Anthony Hall, our Web Editor has done an excellent job of creating an online booking and reporting system which can be used for future festivals. This should help ease the effort and I believe the committee should discuss other ways in which we can centrally assist branches that are prepared to host a festival.

## **Gift Aid**

Since the last meeting, Tessa Rolph has kindly agreed to assist us with the outstanding gift aid claims. She has provided a short report, and is working to address the back log of claims and with Anthony's assistance and the membership database it is hoped that future claims will become easier.

## **80<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary**

As you are all aware, 2017 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. This will be celebrated at the festival in Cambridge, but we have not to date discussed the possibility of further initiatives. For the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary we funded a pastoral visit for each branch, and I would welcome suggestions for anything that may be a suitable way of marking the 80<sup>th</sup>.

Vic Morris  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Report by the Membership Secretary

**Membership numbers**

The total number for all categories of member for 2016-17 is currently 1331. This figure represents a 3.3% decrease over the previous year’s figure of 1377. 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. Over 50% of branches have lost a few members, some have held steady, a few have increased their numbers.

**Processes**

The membership secretary wishes once again to express his indebtedness to Anthony Hall for his tireless work on, and support with, the database, and also to Ian Davies for his good-humouredness and concern with the Society’s business. He is also appreciative of the efficiency of branch secretaries across the Society, either in sending him data in the form of spreadsheets, or – in the case of an increasing number – in entering their data on-line. Preparations are under way for the 2017 printed membership list, and Jeremy Burbidge is promising the full cooperation of Recorder Music Mail in printing and distributing it at the most reasonable possible cost. He has informed the membership secretary that the easiest and most cost-effective way of distributing the list will be along with the magazine, the additional postage costs of which would amount to 30p per member for UK members.

**David Rollason**

6<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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Report by the Country and Overseas Secretary

Current membership figures (with figures, in brackets, from Jan. 2016 for comparison):

	Ordinary	Household	Student	Life	Total
UK	60 (66)	10 (12)	0 (0)	3 (2)	73 (80)
Rest of Europe	9 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (10)
Rest of World	5 (4)	6 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (8)
Totals	74 (80)	16 (16)	0 (0)	3 (2)	93 (98)

Corporate Members: 4 (3)

Orchestras and affiliated groups: 18 (17)

**Sandra Foxall**

7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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Society of Recorder Players – Committee meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Officers' Reports

Report by the Treasurer

This should be read in combination with the accounts for 2015/6.

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2016**

This table is a summary of the Central Fund accounts for the year 2015/16 and a forecast for 2016-17.

INCOME	2014-15 actual	2015-16 budget	2015-16 actual	2016-17 forecast
Subscriptions including Corporate Subscriptions	32,003.12	32,000	31,697.45	31,000
Festival Surplus	597.45 1,705.11		7,053.98	
Scottish Recorder Festival Surplus	0		995.05	
IR gift aid (allocated to AIF)				
Bank Interest (11.88% of Total Received)	268.84	200	267.81	180
Donations	347.00			
Royalties	0	10	5.76	
Branch Handover	41.68			
PRS fees Orchestras and branches			67.10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,963.17</b>	<b>32,210</b>	<b>40,435.15</b>	<b>31,180</b>
EXPENDITURE				
Magazine	13,659.70	13,900	13,808.25	14,000
Annual Conference	2,395.65	3,000	3,294.04	4,000
Committee Expenses	4,118.12	5,200	4,685.61	5,000
Conductors Visits	3,375.54	4,000	3,240.60	3,600
Printing, Stationery & Membership List	1,719.09	300	40.00	1,700
Phones & Postages	57.07	200	19.74	100
Publicity	393.60	600	507.60	500
Ex-gratia payments to Festival branches & WBF	398.30	1,137	1,136.74	5,366
Subscription to Making Music	450.00	350	383.33	450
Audit	200.00	200	200.00	200
Internet Presence	106.20	105	96.00	110
Insurances	1,768.29	1,768	1,828.29	1,857
Bank charges			0	60
Miscellaneous	44.00	40	48.97	100
PRS fees Orchestras and branches			67.17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,685.56</b>	<b>30,800</b>	<b>29,356.34</b>	<b>37,043</b>
	6,277.61	1,410	11,078.81	-5,863

Subscription income was £300 less compared to 2014/15. As last year, committee members Conference expenses have been added to the general cost of the committee, the Conference cost reflecting the branch delegates' expenses. Both figures are higher than in the previous year as we had an exceptional number of attendees at last year's conference. There was an overall surplus of £11,079 due to additional income from two festivals of over £8,000. The festival surplus has since been shared out between General Fund, WBF and the branches (Lincoln and Edinburgh). The Central Fund held £47,828.39 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

## Society of Recorder Players – Committee meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Officers' Reports

The **Walter Bergmann Fund** received £7,574 in donations, a legacy of £1,000 from Mabel Cluer, a remaining payment of a legacy from Margaret Duff (£196), £286 share of bank interest (16% of total), £568 as share of the Wolverhampton festival. It made grants totaling £6,319; paid out £426 in repairs of donated instruments for sale, and provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the SRP/Moeck competition (£400). The year's surplus was £2,460, leaving its fund at £33,951.71 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund** received £1,232 share of bank interest (69% of total). It also received royalties from Alex Ayre music £184 (minus £123 Anne Ayre's share), PRS fees for Alex Ayre's music £214. Income from the sale of Bonsor CDs brought in £114. The fund's main expenditure were grants to NYRO (£4,000), an instrument for Sophie Westbrooke, BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist, and the SRP/Moeck competition (£2,490 in adjudication and expenses, and £800 in prize money). Workshops brought in £1,664 in entrance fees but occurred costs of professional fees and expenses (£1,590), venue hire (£389), refreshments and printing (£61), resulting in an overall support from the Arthur Ingram Fund of £376. Other costs occurred for setting of the Alex Ayre music (£56) and the printing and distribution of music (*Joyride* and *Stromness*). The overall expenditure of the Arthur Ingram Fund amounts to £11,035, a reduction of £7,627. The overall fund amounts to £123,516.13 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

The **Concerto Fund** received £707.57 in donations, amounting to £711.52 on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Looking at the current year I predict a loss of almost £6,000 for the central fund. However, bearing in mind last year's unprecedented surplus due to two profitable festivals, I propose not to increase the subscriptions for the third consecutive year. Perhaps membership will pick up again. Most branches sent me their accounts by the middle of October as requested, though one return did not come in until the end of November. I repeated my 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., which again resulted in a much cleaner end to the financial year and I hope that this will continue. However, a cross-check between amounts declared by branches as transferred to central fund and the amounts actually received by me, which I carried out after the last branch account came in, caused a delay and extra work for both the auditor and myself. I will report on this in more detail in my report to conference as it concerns branches more than the committee.

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

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

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## **Report by the Web Editor**

### **Website Administration**

I am pleased to say that the sharing of work between the Deputy Web Editor Sara Scorey and me is working smoothly.

### **Membership System**

I believe that the new membership system is working well, on the whole.

It now includes a feature for creating and maintaining the newsletter mailing list.

I have spent some time discussing with Tessa Rolph its role in managing Gift Aid claims. Although I believe that the current outputs could be used more effectively to support the process, I am aware that there are deficiencies. I hope to resolve these, with Tessa's input, in time to have improvements in place from the beginning of the 2017-18 Society year. I note also that there is a proposal to store scans of the Gift Aid Declarations rather than paper copies. (This should not be difficult, since branches should already have scans.) If so, the scans could most naturally be stored as part of the membership database, allowing them to be found easily.

### **Branch Music Libraries**

I have made substantial improvements to the branch music library software. It can now be used to produce printable catalogues and to manage loans. I hope this will offer a useful service to any branch needing to manage a library catalogue.

### **Festival Bookings**

For this year's festival, we decided that to develop a re-usable on-line booking system. This seems to be working well, although there are still some features to be added. The system is highly configurable and can be used for future SRP and Scottish festivals, and (with the treasurer's permission, since it uses the SRP PayPal account) branch events such as the Schnabel Orchestra event being organised by Devon Branch.

### **Increasing Engagement**

I am very pleased to say that the web editors are already working with the new publicity officers to improve engagement with members and with the community generally. I am about to start work on a number of projects:

#### **Facebook**

It's become apparent that the SRP Facebook page, although it has over 1,000 followers, is not working quite as intended in disseminating news items from the website. We have therefore decided to drop the page, and to send news to the Facebook Group run by Sheila Richards instead. Some work is needed to achieve this.

#### **Other channels**

Since there are lots of people not on Facebook, I want to find a way of notifying people by email of significant news on the website. One possibility is to email news items to a mailing list, which could be based initially on the newsletter mailing list. Alternatively we could have just an opt-in button on the site itself.

#### **Forums and Private Areas**

We have identified some candidate software that would allow us to have discussion forums on the site itself. We hope to evaluate these soon.

One criterion is the ability to support private areas for SRP members only and also for Committee discussions. These are interrelated and also affect the way we disseminate news, so it will be essential to have a coherent overall design for the whole set of new features.

Anthony Hall

7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Report by the Gift Aid Secretary

I am currently checking the potential Gift Aid claims for 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16. Although the new membership database is working well in identifying which are new claimants for whom I need to check that a Gift Aid Declaration has been obtained and sent to me, the first year of the database (2013/14) was unable to identify these, which has therefore required some additional one off work.

So far, I have checked through approximately 75% of the branches (although not all the queries for those are cleared). The time limit for submitting the 2013/14 claim is 31 August 2018 but I am expecting to submit the claims within the next few months. HMRC has confirmed that I am now the Authorised person for submitting the central Gift Aid claims.

At some point, we need to scan all the Declarations, rather than keeping the paper copies. However we need to look at the best method of filing these electronically to ensure individual Declarations can be readily located for any member should there be an HMRC audit. Anthony Hall has been very helpful in discussing various issues and suggesting ways forward.

**Tessa Rolph**

7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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