

Report by the Secretary

Insurance

The Society is advised on insurance matters by Dick Pyper, a former SRP Chairman who worked in the insurance industry. For many years the Society bought its liability insurance from Markel through brokers Lark. In summer 2017 Dick Pyper drew our attention to cover provided by Ansvar (which, amongst other things, is a major insurer for the Church of England), through brokers Chris Knott Insurance. The cover offered by Ansvar appeared to be almost identical to that provided by Markel but the premium was significantly lower. Several Committee members had queries about the Ansvar policy, but we were assured that it would provide the required cover for the Society, its Branches and affiliated Orchestras, so we opted for the Ansvar policy for the period 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018.

Despite frequent requests, Ansvar's brokers took several months to produce certificates for Branches to demonstrate that they were covered by the Society's public liability cover when hiring venues. They eventually issued 49 such certificates in January, which I then sent individually to the Branches concerned: the previous brokers, Lark, issued a single collective certificate covering the Society, Branches and Orchestras. After repeated requests for equivalent certificates for Orchestras, Ansvar's brokers said we would have to pay a significant further premium to add them to a policy on which we thought they were already included. Dick complained about this, and the length of time it had taken the brokers to identify this issue, but concluded that a satisfactory resolution was not possible.

Rather than leave the position uncertain, I asked Dick to try to return us to the familiar Markel/Lark policy which we had without any problems for many years. He has done that for almost the same annual premium as before and has secured a policy which runs to the end of our 2018/19 financial year (i.e. 31st August 2019), so avoiding the need for renewal this September and guaranteeing us against any price increases until then. We are expecting Lark to issue a collective certificate as before, which I will then circulate to Branches and Orchestras to replace the now invalid Ansvar/Chris Knott one. We have told Ansvar's brokers that we expect a significant refund.

Other issues: There are no other issues that I need to inform the Committee of for its meeting on 18th February. I will produce a full report for Conference in April.

Mike Wilkinson
February 2018

Report by the Treasurer

I have finalised the accounts for 2016/17. These are circulated separately. Rather than summarising the contents of these accounts, I would like everyone to look at the figures in the relevant places. The accounts will need to be approved at the Committee meeting, so please study the figures and prepare or send me any questions you might have. Both the General Fund and Arthur Ingram Fund are unrestricted funds, whereas the Walter Bergmann Fund and the Concerto Fund are restricted Funds, a relevant distinction for our report to the Charity Commission. I will limit this report to the current year.

To date I have received £26,617 in subscriptions from 40 branches, COS and several orchestras and corporate members. Tessa Rolph has successfully claimed gift aid for 2014/15 and 2015/16, totaling £10,337. The bulk of this will be allocated to the Arthur Ingram Fund (£9,334); the remainder to the funds for which the donations were received. Committee expenses in the current year amount to £1,875, conducting visits £957, the magazine £8,008 (2 issues). The **General Fund** currently stands at **£69,109**.

The **Arthur Ingram Fund**'s main expenditure has been the SRP/Moeck competition (£3,600 in prize money, adjudicators' fees and expenses, competition expenses), workshops (£845) and music vouchers for branches (£478). After allocation of the subs' gift aid the Fund currently stands at **£120,962**.

In the current year the **Walter Bergmann Fund** has received £2,520 in donations and £800 in gift aid for 2014 to 2016. It made grants totaling £2,058. £460 was spent on repairs to donated instruments, and £400 plus £20 bank fee on the 3rd prize for the SRP/Moeck competition. The fund currently stands at **£39,746**.

The **Concerto Fund** has to date received £3,341 in donations and £84 in gift aid for 2015/6 (a further £210 is expected in gift aid for donations received in 2016/7). Further gift aid for donations in the current year should add around £800. It is short of only about £800 to £850 in order to repay the £5,000 loan from the Arthur Ingram Fund. As donations keep coming in, I propose to keep the Concerto fund open until this sum has been received.

I received most branch accounts quite promptly but a couple of laggards again meant I was unable to finish the accounts before Christmas, as I would have liked to do. It prolongs the process unnecessarily. While sorting their accounts, branch treasurers occasionally notice donations or subs they failed to pass on in time before the end of financial year, necessitating corrections to the main accounts. As most branches do not have meetings in August, I would urge treasurers to work out their accounts after their July meeting. This should give sufficient time to finalise any outstanding payments, possibly add any donations received in August, and promptly get their accounts audited at the beginning of September.

Ursula Burchette

4th February, 2018

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

1. Process

Membership renewal and registration has proceeded smoothly, thanks as ever to Anthony Hall's database and his meticulous attention to its working. Some eighteen branches are now registered to enter membership data on-line and most of these are using this facility very successfully.

2. Numbers

The total membership of branches and COS is now 1343 as compared with 1391 at the end of the membership year in 2017. There has currently been a diminution of 42 in total branch membership and 6 in total COS membership. Last year's experience, however, suggests that, thanks to the reduced rate subscription for those joining after 1 January, there will be further recruitment in the coming months to branches. Nevertheless, the membership cannot be described more optimistically than as being in steady state.

3. NYRO complimentary membership

The membership secretary has now received contact details (but not e-mail addresses) for the last NYRO cohort from the NYRO administrator and has registered the students concerned for a complimentary year's membership of SRP. He has circulated a message to them via the NYRO administrator encouraging them to participate fully in SRP's activities.

4. Magazine distribution

The membership secretary is in discussion with Recorder Music Mail about ways of avoiding error in the despatch of magazines to members.

David Rollason
9 February 2018

Report by the acting News Editor

SRP News Pages

Barbara Law has stepped in as news editor for the current edition.

The Society has 4 pages for its News. We should therefore aim to fill these pages with as much news as possible and encourage branches not just to send in branch reports but to let us know if anything newsworthy is happening in their area. Also, rows of photos of people of uncertain years sitting in semicircles are not very exciting. Something other very welcome!

The branch reports can be edited down to single paragraphs, with the full reports published on the SRP website.

Playing Days and Workshops should be listed on the News Pages.

As the job description is SRP News ***Editor***, I intend to use my editor's discretion as to what is printed. The task should not be simply to collate anything that is submitted, but to create four pages that are relevant, interesting to read and might encourage non-members to join the Society.

Evelyn Nallen

February 2018
