

REPORT FOR 1963/64.

The membership of the Branch has remained fairly steady, at 46 members plus 6 student members, with an average attendance of about 22 throughout the season. An experiment which has proved successful has been the sharing of the Musical Directorship by Misa Halley and Mrs. Murray. This has meant that both these ladies have had opportunities to play as well as conduct, and the rest of the members are very much indebted to them.

The usual special evenings at Christmas and in the Summer, have been enjoyed by all, and a group of members had the privilege of playing during the evening service in St. Pauls Newington Church on February 16th.

Members attended the Spring weekend School at Newbattle Abbey, and were fortunate to have once again a visit from Dr. Dolmetsch and Mr. Saxby on the Monday following.

The High-light this season was perhaps the visit to Kelso on the invitation of Mr. Brian Bonsor and the members of the Roxburghshire Group, to spend a long afternoon playing together, along with some members from the Newcastle Branch, in Ednam House Hotel.

The Secretary attended the Branch Delegates Conference in January, when the financial position of the whole Society was being reviewed in some detail. Delegates expressed strong feelings about the cost of the new magazine, and about the method of paying subscriptions to Headquarters. Proposals were made which entailed some alterations to the Constitution, and an extra-ordinary General Meeting was held some time later, at which the Edinburgh Branch was represented.. We had been asked for comment and we had made comment, but our suggestion for a re-written constitution was turned down. The main points in the alterations were that the Branches will each be responsible for managing their own affairs, and charge subscriptions which will enable them to pay the sum of 15/- per head per annum to Head-quarters. This sum will entitle the members to a copy of the Magazine, and a pastoral visit, although Branches may be asked to combine where this is reasonable easy.

During the year we have been indebted to many good friends both inside and outside the membership of the branch. Within our own ranks, our thanks are due to the two Musical Directors for searching for suitable music, conducting us through the music, and generally being guides counsellors and friends. Thanks are also due to these few ladies who have so willingly accompanied the rest of the membership when this has been necessary. This has again meant sacrificing their own Recorder playing.

As usual our Special Evenings would not have been "special" were it not for the masterly performances by our own soloists, who stand by so faithfully and bring along their friends to play to us. With these we must include the loyal support of the group of young string players who so faithfully turn out to play for and to us. Thanks are also due to the ladies who rally round with teapots and sandwiches etc. at these special events.

Lastly we would like to say thankyou to our beloved President, who seldom says 'no' when asked to officiate, and then only when some engagement out of town keeps him from Eglinton Crescent. We were delighted to see his name in the New Year's Honours' List. It is good to see his gifts being recognised by the country of his adoption as well as of his birth.