

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 1979

Membership of the branch fell last year to 37 from the previous year's total of 46. However attendance at our meetings was reasonably good despite a very severe winter.

The season started off with a most enjoyable day at Kelso playing along with members of the Roxburgh and Newcastle branches under the baton of Brian Bonsor and Dr. Walter Bergmann. The following evening Walter Bergmann paid a pastoral visit to the branch.

He seemed impressed by the standard of play and delighted by the rendering of his own arrangement for recorders of a work by Dvorak. This, he said, was the first performance of his arrangement.

Early in March the Fife Early Music Society arranged a very successful one day Recorder Workshop at Cupar with Dr. Carl Dolmetsch and Joseph Saxby, at which a number of our members attended.

A request to play at the Corner Stone Coffee-house situated in the vaults of St. John's Church provided a new, even daunting experience for the group who had agreed to perform. The acoustics were poor, and some of the audience less than receptive to what we considered a popular programme.

Salford University was the venue for the Recorder Festival this year. Six members from the Edinburgh Branch participated, playing an arrangement of a Debussy String Quartet in the Group Section and were adjudged winners of

that section. Those taking part were Mrs. Ruth Goudie, Mrs. Linda Howie, Messrs Eric Gillett, Ian Inglis, Trevor Mann and Alan Tothill.

A party of Mrs. Joyce O'Riordan's pupils also performed there and received an enthusiastic reception. They demonstrated their excellence when they played at our ~~JUNE~~ Summer Evening some Scottish Dances arranged by Colin O'Riordan. This was part of their Festival programme.

Ian Inglis represented the Branch at the Delegates Conference which followed the Festival. Your Committee had instructed him to indicate that the Branch were prepared in principle to host the 1981 Festival in Edinburgh provided suitable arrangements could be made.

As usual we held our two concerts. The music for these have been fairly fully written up in the Recorder and Music Magazine. What was not mentioned was the contribution of the Barber Shop Quartet who provided some excellent harmonies and light relief, and of the three guest string players who all helped to stage a very enjoyable Christmas show.

We were encouraged in the Summer Evening by the **Warmth** of the reception from our audience. This was shared by the youngsters who formed Mrs. O'Riordan's group and by our guest cellist Hugh Keith. It was felt that we had given one of our better performances.

We are greatly indebted to our Musical Director, Eric Gillett and his Deputy, Jim Carey for the inspiration they give as conductors. Their patience and good humour

seem limitless. I can assure them that members appreciate the amount of work involved and the time spent arranging ~~so~~ much music for us and we are indeed grateful.