

Branch Secretary's report for the 1985-86 season

There were 62 members, the same number as the previous season (11 resignations, 11 new members), making us the largest SRP branch after London. The Branch met on 35 Monday evenings from September to June in Augustine Congregational Church hall for combined playing. As usual one-to-a-part ensembles practiced separately during alternate meetings, and the formation of new one-to-a-part ensembles was encouraged.

On Saturday 19 October we held a special playing day in the afternoon and evening with Evelyn Nallen (Musical Director of the Guildford branch) as visiting conductor. As well as conducting she performed a short but varied program of solo works for recorder with Eric Gillett as harpsichord accompanist, and she also gave a lecture on technique. For this most enjoyable occasion we were joined by members of the other five Scottish branches and country members.

On Saturday 23 November we again held an "open playing day" in Augustine Church hall; the attendance at this was rather less than in the previous year. The "Christmas evening" on 16 December before an audience of relatives and friends and the annual public concert in St. Cecilia's Hall on Saturday 1 March included guest performers John Tohill, Neil Henderson and Malcolm McKetterick playing clarinet and string music with Eric Gillett.

The second Scottish Recorder Festival was held on Saturday 15 March at Alva, with the secretarial work undertaken this time by the Aberdeen branch. The principal guest conductor was Herbert Herson (mid-Herts); another conductor was David Cooke (mid-Herts) who was our own branch chairman last year. Our branch was strongly represented by Eric Gillett, Jim Carey and Jim O'Malley (conductors), Sandy Howie (competition adjudicator) and numerous players, although this time no entries for the young ensemble competition. Jim Carey composed "Cocktails" for the occasion and David Cooke conducted part of his composition "Suite for Recorders". The third Scottish Festival in 1987 will also be at Alva with the organization undertaken by the Glasgow branch.

On Saturday 19 April a number of branch members joined the Glasgow branch to celebrate its 25th anniversary in Hillhead Library Hall with Douglas Haston (Aberdeen) as guest conductor.

On 10/11 May I attended the National Recorder Festival and Annual Conference at Southwell, Notts as the branch delegate, where I learnt of the following items. The SRP has produced a video promoting the recorder as an instrument to be played at all levels of ability, lasting 16.5 minutes and suitable for school use. (The branch committee has ordered a copy in VHS format and will make it available for loan). The SRP has produced a 30 page booklet 'A Teacher's Guide to the Recorder' including a comparison of tutors, lists of music, information about the recorder, the SRP, examinations, and some reprints from the magazine. Schotts are sponsoring a collection of recorders for the disabled (e.g. one-handed), to be housed and administered by the SRP. The committee is investigating ways of helping blind players.

The branch season ended on Monday 17 June with the "summer evening" which included the Sine Nomine Singers (conductor Jim Carey).

The branch received an *ex gratia* payment of £25 from the Central Committee in appreciation of the organization of the profitable 1985 Scottish Recorder Festival. This has been spent on copies of the eight-part Costanzo Porta "Girometta" (LPM).

A country member of the SRP, Ian Moodie from Perth, entered St Columba's Hospice in June. In the few weeks before he died a number of members of the branch, and the Edinburgh Recorder Consort, visited him to play recorder music. His family has expressed its appreciation.

We must again express our thanks to Eric Gillett our Musical Director and to Jim Carey who conducted and kept us supplied with new music.