

Branch Secretary's report for the 1988-89 season

The main branch had 54 members, 1 fewer than the previous season. We met on 34 Monday evenings from September to June for our usual combined playing, with alternate weeks designated for one-to-a-part playing. The Junior Section had 21 members, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in school term (August to June).

On Saturday 29 October we held a special meeting when our visiting conductor was David Cooke, our former Chairman and now Musical Director of High Wycombe branch. In the morning he undertook one-to-a-part coaching and in the afternoon at the main meeting a most enjoyable time was had in the company of visitors from other SRP branches and country members.

On Sunday 11 December a trio performed at a service in Augustine Congregational Church.

The Christmas Evening on Monday 12 December include performances by the Junior Section, Joyce O'Riordan's evening class, the main branch and one-to-a-part consorts. There was an exceptionally large number of relations and friends in the audience.

On 11 January a quartet performed some pieces at a Christmas concert given by the Sine Nomine Singers in Liberton Convent. On Friday 13 January, twelve members fulfilled a long-standing engagement by performing a concert at the Kirk o' Field Parish Church Social Club. In spite of severe weather and a modest attendance (56), great appreciation was expressed, and subsequently the Club sent us a donation of £10.

Our concert on Saturday 4 March included as guests the string group Capriccio and Murray Campbell (harpsichord and cornett). The programme included James Carey's "Music for a Celebration", originally composed for the branch 25th anniversary. There were solos by Ceri Ross and Sarah-Jane Selwood and the usual appearance by the Junior Section.

On Saturday April 1 a group of members travelled to Glasgow for their special playing day conducted by Eve O'Kelly from London. The following Wednesday we held a special evening meeting so that she could visit us to conduct a different programme. These were only parts of an arduous tour of Scotland which involved visits to four SRP branches and other groups. Both occasions were much appreciated.

The National Recorder Festival was at Alva on Saturday 3 June. the distinguished group of conductors included James Carey (with a new composition "Music for a Festival" and James O'Malley; Sandy Howie was prevented at the last minute from joining them.

The following day Eileen Finlayson was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual conference, and I accompanied her as "observer". Elections resulted in two new Vice-Presidents Frans Bruggen and Kees Otten, an Honorary member Katherine Drake, a new Musical Director Eve O'Kelly and three new Committee members, including myself.

Our season ended with the Summer Evening on 19 June, which included song settings "Lakeland Mornings" composed by James Carey, sung by Linda Howie and accompanied by Murray Campbell. The other rest of the programme was by the main branch and the Junior Section, and was notable for the first appearance of Mairi Robertson's virginals.

We received invitations to special playing days at Aberdeen (24 June) and Roxburgh (2 September) branches.

We remain grateful to our Musical Directors, James Carey and Sandy Howie, for their regular guidance and inspiration throughout the season; also to Sandy and to Sarah-Jane Selwood for directing the Junior Section.

This is my sixth season as your Branch Secretary, a position which I have enjoyed enormously, as it has helped me to get to know all of you and your music much better. Also I have liked the contacts with the national Society. It is now time for me to hand over to a successor, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and to whom I extend my warm thanks and good wishes. My view is that some of the tasks I have done need not be the responsibility of the Branch Secretary. I shall therefore continue to administer the Junior Section, and I have also agreed to organise the Scottish Recorder Festival at Alva on Saturday 2 June 1990. I am just starting a three-year term as a member of the Society's national Committee.