

Branch Secretary's report for the 1992-93 season

The main branch had 53 members, 4 more than the previous year (13 new members, 9 non-renewals). We met on 34 Monday evenings from September to June for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met on alternate evenings. The Junior Section had 22 members, 7 fewer than the previous season, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in school terms (September to June).

At our Annual General Meeting on 5 October Joyce O'Riordan was elected President of the Edinburgh Branch in recognition of her outstanding service to recorder playing both as teacher and as a founder member of the branch.

The branch's Special Playing Day was on Saturday 21 November, when the visiting conductor was Andrew Collis, now Musical Director of the London Branch. We welcomed many visitors from other Scottish branches, as well as Newcastle upon Tyne, and had a most enjoyable afternoon's playing including a buffet tea at the interval. The collection was sent to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund.

On Sunday 29 November 5 players from the branch played the Suite No. 1 by Raymond Harvey at the annual Tenant's Service in Augustine United Church. In January the same group played during a service at St. George's West Church.

The Christmas Evening was on 14 December and we were joined by members of the Junior Section to perform informally to an audience of family and friends who joined in carols at the end. The collection was divided between Save the Children and the Rock Trust.

On 5 April we were delighted to welcome Rosemary McGillivray, Musical Director of the Glasgow Branch, to guest conduct one of our regular Monday evening meetings.

The National Recorder Festival was held at Winchester on Saturday 17 April. On Sunday 18 April Eileen Finlayson was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual Conference. It was reported that the magazine and subscribers had been purchased from Schott by Peacock Press. To ensure the survival of the magazine, all members will be required to take the magazine as part of their membership in the 1993-94 season. The Conference agreed to increase the Central portion of the subscription by 50p. Elections resulted in a new treasurer, Brian Fraser-Hook (Mid-Herts) replacing Andrew Parkin, and two new committee members, Denis Bloodworth (S. London) and Ena Pick (Wessex). Paul Clark replaced Evelyn Nallen as one of the Musical Advisers on the Committee. The next National Festival will be at Aberdeen on 2/3 July 1994.

This year members of the branch attended Special Playings Days at Glasgow (24 April) and Balbithan House, Aberdeenshire (26 June).

Our Summer Evening was on 14 June when we were again joined by the Junior Section. The collection was divided between Amnesty International and Family Care.

The Scottish Recorder Festival was at Alva on Saturday 19 June. The conductors included James Carey (with a new composition "At the Fair") and Sandy Howie.

We must, as always, express our warmest gratitude to James Carey and Sandy Howie for their expert leadership throughout the year and to Sandy Howie and Andrew Short for directing and administering the Junior Section.

Eileen Finlayson