

Branch Secretary's report for the 1993-94 season

Members will be saddened to hear of the death recently of Bill Ramsay, for ten years a member of the branch. He will be much missed.

The main branch had 55 members, 2 more than the previous season (9 new members, 7 non-renewals). We met on 35 Monday evenings from September to June for combined playing. One-to-a-part groups met on alternate evenings. The Junior Section had 13 members, 9 fewer than the previous season, meeting in Boroughmuir High School on Saturday mornings in school terms (September to June).

The branch's Special Playing Day was on Saturday 6 November, when the visiting conductor was Layton Ring, conductor of the Newcastle Branch. We welcomed many visitors from the other Scottish branches. The money collected during the buffet tea was sent to the Walter Bergmann Memorial Fund.

The Christmas Evening was on 13 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 the World Today Fund and Edinburgh Direct Aid.

On 11 April we were delighted to welcome Margaret Simpson, Musical Director of the Hillfoots Branch, to guest conduct one of our regular Monday evening meetings.

On Saturday 16 April, James Carey was the Glasgow Branch's Visiting Conductor.

This year members of the branch attended Special Playing Days in Newcastle (26 February), Glasgow (16 April) and Hawick (14 May), as well as Glasgow Branch's Workshop and Recital on 10 April.

Our Summer Evening was on 20 June when we were again joined by the Junior Section. This time we were also delighted to welcome South Morningside Primary 7 Recorders conducted by Joyce O'Riordan. The programme included a highly successful performance, one-to-a-part, of The Unicorn's Grace by Hans Ulrich Staeps by 12 members of the main branch. The collection was donated to Augustine United Church which has afforded us excellent facilities over the years and which will be undergoing major reconstruction work during next season.

The National Recorder Festival was held at Aberdeen on 2/3 July. The conductors included James Carey (with Big Band arrangements and a new arrangement of Tom, Tom the Piper's Son) and Sandy Howie (with arrangements of fugues and sonatinas by Gottfried Reiche). On Sunday 3 July Andrew Short was the branch delegate at the Society's Annual Conference. The Conference agreed that there would be no increase in the subscription this year. Elections resulted in a new secretary, Alistair Read (London Branch)

replacing Anne Blackman who was elected as Honorary Life Member of the Society in recognition of her 14 years service as Hon. Secretary, two new Musical Advisers, Alyson Lewin and Anthony Rowland-Jones, and two new committee members, Andrew Collis (London) and Anne Lyall (Bath), replacing Petrina Lodge and Peter Sturgeon. Colin Martin replaced Herbert Hersom as one of the Musical Advisers on the Committee. The 1995 National Festival will be at Haslemere on 27/28 May.

In 1993-94 Fentone published James Carey's compositions At the Circus and Mississippi Pictures. Also published by Fentone were Jim's arrangements of Brahms' Lullaby, Beethoven's Ode to Joy, The Helston Furry Dance, Men of Harlech, Morning has broken and The Yellow Rose of Texas. Jim presented copies of all of these to the branch library.

The branch library received generous donations of music from former members Rachael Spiers and Catherine Welsh.

As always we must thank our Musical Directors James Carey and Sandy Howie for giving us so much encouragement and inspiration throughout the season. Thanks must also go to Sandy Howie and Andrew Short for directing and administering the Junior Section.

We must also thank Andrew Short, whose chairmanship over the past three years has been greatly appreciated. He is now standing down as chairman and a new chairman will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Owing to major reconstruction work to be carried out in Augustine United Church the Edinburgh Branch will meet in St. Mark's Unitarian Church Hall, Castle Terrace, in the 1994-95 season.

Eileen Finlayson

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ADDENDA

On 25 September the branch was represented by a one-to-a-part group directed by Sandy Howie at the Early Music Forum's Edinburgh Early Music Weekend in the main hall of the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

On 18 October Jim O'Malley took the branch meeting when Jim Carey and Sandy Howie were both on holiday.