



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 9th April
by Zoom

PRESENT:

Jim Grant	Chair	Moira Usher	Chair, WBF
April Munday	Secretary	Pamela Flanagan	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Steph Sutherland	Committee
Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser	Jill Taylor	Committee
Penny Clarke	Membership Secretary	Mary Tyers	Committee
Ciara Flanagan	Committee	Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary
Sarah Langdon	Competition Administrator	Debbie Nicholas	Committee

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present and commented that this is probably the first occasion on which every member of the committee has been able to attend.

2. Minutes of previous Committee meetings, and matters arising therefrom

The minutes of the meetings of 16th February 2020 were accepted by those who had attended, with one abstention, subject to the date of the meeting being shown as 16th rather than 22 February.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Pamela Flanagan **Carried**

Matters Arising:

Item 5.1 - The committee discussed the cost of NYRO's advert in the printed membership list. The Chair proposed that they pay £50 for the advertisement. If the cost of the advert to the SRP is less than £50, NYRO will be refunded the difference. The committee agreed.

Proposed: Chair **Seconded:** Sarah Langdon **Carried**

The Secretary will check that NYRO is supposed to be on the list of affiliates and that they don't need to be included on the insurance list.

Action: Secretary

Item 2.2 – West Dorset branch has sent £850 to the Central Fund on the closure of the branch.

3. Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business.

4. Report from Treasurer

4.1 The Treasurer reported that the 2019/20 budget has been revised to take account of the cancellation of the Festival and the postponement of the Conference. It does not take into account the PayPal fees incurred by refunding the attendance fees for the Festival. This will increase the previously predicted final loss to the Society. The Chair said that the Charity Commission is permitting online AGMs at the moment and that a virtual Conference might be an option for the society.

4.2 The Treasurer has looked into the costs of accommodation for workshop tutors and said that it is rarely required and that there is only one instance in the past year of it costing more than £75. The Chair suggested that the cap be set at £85, but Helen Hooker said that it would be better to do as originally agreed and that any tutor who could not find accommodation within the cap, could contact the Chair and the Secretary for approval. This was agreed unanimously.

4.3 Travel expenses already paid by three of the conductors for the Festival have been reimbursed. Stephen Watkins has not been paid for the commissioned Festival piece. He has yet to decide whether or not to hold it over for the next time the Festival is hosted by Suffolk branch. It will probably cost about £1,000 to print and distribute it. Moira Usher proposed that he be paid for the commission. This was carried unanimously.

Proposed: Moira Usher **Seconded:** Helen Hooker **Carried**

Action: Moira Usher and Treasurer

5. Report from Membership Secretary

5.1 The Membership Secretary said that the committee members of some branches have not agreed to have their contact details printed in the membership list. That information should be available to the Chair, the Treasurer, the Secretary and Jill Taylor, as they have to have frequent contact with the branches. She will discuss with the webedit team how this can be arranged.

Action: Membership Secretary

5.2 Helen Hooker suggested that future editions of the printed membership list should publish at least one email address and one telephone number per branch, to enable members to contact the branch. The Membership Secretary said that in her opinion it would be unlikely that the society would produce another printed membership list and that such information would be accessed online.

5.3 The Membership Secretary said that the printed membership list will go out with the next edition of The Recorder Magazine in June. The Chair thanked the Membership Secretary for her work in getting the membership list ready for publication.

5.4 The Membership Secretary said that Honorary Members do not fill in forms, so she has contacted them all to find out what information they wanted to be included in the printed membership list.

5.5 It was suggested that future reports from the Membership Secretary include the totals for COS members. This being acceptable to both secretaries, this was agreed.

6. Cancellation of National Recorder Festival and Postponement of Conference

6.1 The Chair thanked Moira Usher for contacting him promptly when it became clear that the Festival might have to be cancelled in order to protect the financial interests of the SRP. The Festival was cancelled by Suffolk branch in consultation with the Chair and the Secretary shortly before the government banned gatherings of large groups. The hotel bill for the conductors' accommodation was due to be paid and it was decided to cancel the Festival rather than incur that cost. The committee approved the decision to cancel the Festival and postpone the Conference indefinitely. Jill Taylor thanked the branch for being very efficient and returning attendance fees so quickly.

6.2 The Chair reported that the Charity Commission is advising charities to hold virtual committee meetings and AGMs. The committee will discuss holding a virtual Conference in the next meeting.

7. Revision of Rules

The Chair reported that he has been in touch with the lawyer who will review the rules and the constitution. He would like to refine with the sub-committee the points that need to be raised with him and it has become necessary to include something about virtual meetings in the constitution. The lawyer will be in touch again after Easter.

8. 2020 Report

Over a period of eight months the Chair and the Secretary discussed at least five of the report's recommendations a week with a view to ascertaining which recommendations are still valid and can be carried out. Some actions will arise from this activity, which will be discussed with the committee in the future.

9. Continuation of Committee Members Until Conference

9.1 The Chair asked if all committee members were happy to continue on the committee until a Conference could be held. All members said that they were.

9.2 Sandra Foxall had planned to have a handover with Josée Beeson (who was to take over as COS Secretary if approved by Conference) at Summer School at the beginning of August. The Chair said that they should continue their discussions.

10. Stand at Early Music Festival Review of 2019 and Plans for 2020

10.1 The Chair asked for opinions about how the SRP's table at the Early Music Festival should be handled in future. Sandra Foxall said that there should be someone co-ordinating helpers on the stand to make sure that there is always someone there. Steph Sutherland suggested that the society have a larger table, as it's a good opportunity to reach people from the U3A, but the Treasurer pointed out that this would be prohibitively expensive. The Secretary said that the table had looked very crowded and had been full of items unrelated to the society. The Treasurer said that it was in the society's interest to offer other things to SRP members. Moira Usher suggested that someone be appointed to take responsibility for the table who has authorisation to make decisions about what should be on it. The Chair said that there should be a budget for the table. This was agreed

unanimously and the budget will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee was asked to send suggestions to the Treasurer of what should be on the table so that she can put a budget together.

Action: All, Treasurer

10.2 It's not clear what will happen to the Early Music Festival this year. The Treasurer will contact the Early Music Shop to see if there is any information about this.

Action: Treasurer

11. Walter Bergmann Fund Terms of Reference

11.1 The terms of reference have been revised and discussed with the Walter Bergmann Fund (WBF) committee. Moira Usher said that the committee would like to keep data for 10 years instead of 2, so that they can see that an award has been given to an applicant who might apply again. All financial information from applicants will continue to be destroyed immediately after the meeting. The committee agreed with this and the terms of reference will be amended accordingly.

Action: Moira Usher

11.2 The Treasurer pointed out that on the first page under 'Grants' in the second paragraph 'calendar year' should be 'SRP financial year'. The terms of reference will be amended accordingly.

Action: Moira Usher

11.3 There was a short discussion about the Philip Cole Bursary. The WBF committee now understand the terms of this and will comply with them when making grants from that fund. The terms are that any grants given from this fund should bear his name, and be used for workshops in schools, travel for prizewinners to SRP/Moeck competition's final recital or similar.

11.4 The Treasurer wished to change the final paragraph on the second page so that awards used to buy instruments from shops abroad, be paid directly to the person to whom the grant has been awarded rather than to the shop from which their instrument is purchased, because the paperwork for payments abroad can involve the Treasurer, the Chair and the Secretary in a lot of work. The Chair asked how often the society has had to transfer money abroad as a result of a grant by the WBF. The Treasurer said that there had been four or five occasions recently. The committee agreed that this would not be changed at the moment.

11.5 Pamela Flanagan said that it was not clear from the second paragraph of the 'Committee Composition' section that the SRP committee is responsible for appointing the chair of the WBF. The committee agreed that the WBF committee could propose someone to be chair and the SRP committee has the right of veto. The terms of reference will be amended accordingly.

Action: Moira Usher

12. SRP/Moeck Competition

12.1 The Chair said that the competition in November 2019 had been a success. There had been more than 70 people in the audience. There were some problems with the venue, however, where there was only one toilet and the adjudicators had to use the area in which the teas and coffees were being made for their deliberations. The rehearsal time in the morning had been reduced and the audience was trying to enter the church while the contestants were tuning. The Chair suggested that

the committee draw up a list of requirements for the competition venue. This year's concert is being advertised. The Chair thanked Sarah Langdon for her hard work in running the competition.

Action: The Chair will discuss requirements with Sarah Langdon. The Chair welcomes contributions from other members of the committee.

12.2 The committee has agreed previously that the competition finalists be given membership of the society for a year. In 2003 the committee had voted to make all the entrants members for a year, but Mary Tyers pointed out that there are more entrants now than there were then. Pamela Flanagan suggested making the winner a life member, giving them a connection to the society, but Jill Taylor pointed out that that would be quite costly over time. The Chair said that the society should be made more attractive to them. The Treasurer proposed making the entrants members of the society for one year. Steph Sutherland seconded the proposal. Helen Hooker said that it would be a large outlay for people who were mostly based outside the UK. Sarah Langdon said that 4 out of the 14 entrants last year were based in the UK. The committee voted against the proposal by 8 to 5, with one abstention. The Chair proposed making the finalists members for a year from the 2021 competition onwards. Helen Hooker seconded the proposal. It was carried with one abstention.

Proposed: Chair **Seconded:** Helen Hooker **Carried**

Action: Competition Administrator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary

13. Review of Communications with Honorary Members and Vice-Presidents

The committee discussed how life members and vice-presidents should be kept up-to-date with what is happening with the society. Pamela Flanagan suggested including them on the list to receive the monthly ENews email. Jill Taylor suggested that keeping in touch with them should be part of the COS Secretary's remit. Helen Hooker suggested creating a group email address for them so that the Secretary can send them conference information.

Action: Secretary, Membership Secretary

14. Festival 2022

A branch is being consulted about hosting the 2022 Festival.

15. Training Co-ordinator

This item is deferred until the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 5:13 pm

The next committee meeting will take place on Sunday 7th June 2020. This will be held by Zoom.