



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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 said that it would be as formal a meeting as possible in order to be practice for the planned annual Conference in August. The intention for the meeting was to stick to the break and lunch times in the agenda to enable committee members to get up and walk around, as it takes a lot of concentration and effort to participate in a Zoom meeting.

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

The minutes of the meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 were accepted, subject to the amendment of the third sentence of item 4.1 so that it reads "This will *increase* the previously predicted financial loss".

**Proposed:** Moira Usher **Seconded:** Debbie Nicholas **Carried**

Matters Arising:

Matters Arising: NYRO does have its own insurance and does not need to be included on the SRP's insurance as an affiliate.

Item 4.3: The piece commissioned from Stephen Watkins will be held over for the 2022 Festival. All that will remain to be paid in 2022 is the printing cost.

Item 5.1: The Membership Secretary has sent the information about branch chairs, secretaries and treasurers to the Chair and the Secretary. The Chair thanked the Membership Secretary.

Item 7: Helen Hooker has sent the latest draft of the rules to the members of the sub-committee. The sub-committee will meet again to finalise a version to go to the solicitor.

**Action:** Rules sub-committee

Item 11.5: The committee's agreement at the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with regard to the appointment of the chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund contradicts the rules. The rules sub-

committee will discuss this and make the necessary amendments. Sandra Foxall reminded the committee about the amendment to the rules proposed by Cleveland branch for the 2019 Conference. The sub-committee will take this into account.

**Action:** Rules sub-committee

### **3. Any Other Urgent Business**

The Treasurer said that branches need to have AGMs in order to approve their accounts. This could be done by means of a virtual meeting. Mary Tyers suggested that the committee send out guidance to branch secretaries. It was agreed that the Secretary would do this.

**Action:** Secretary

### **4. Report from Treasurer**

4.1 The Treasurer proposed covering Marg Hall's costs for two SRP conducting events, one arising from the collapse of Flybe, the other for a postponed Visiting Conductor visit. She had not so far been able to get the money refunded by her credit card company. The committee agreed to pay the expenses and Marg will return the money when her credit card company refunds her. The money will be accounted for under Visiting Conductors.

**Proposed:** Membership Secretary **Seconded:** Steph Sutherland **Carried by a majority**

4.2 The Treasurer reported that she will transfer £88.29 into the 2020 Festival account.

Break – after which Tina Friedrich, the webeditor, joined the meeting.

### **7. Tina Friedrich and IT**

7.1 The Chair introduced Tina Friedrich and explained that the society is currently dependent on the webedit team of two people (Tina Friedrich and Sara Scorey) for many things and they are struggling. They are volunteers who are also recorder players. Tina Friedrich explained that, ideally, she would be free to code, while Sara manages the day-to-day tasks, but that's not how things are at the moment, as both have been almost overwhelmed by the smaller tasks. They would like to have more people who could moderate posts or update items on the website. Mary Tyers said that she would be willing to provide some help. The Membership Secretary said that the changes to the systems required by the new membership form had been onerous, but Anthony Hall had provided a lot of assistance to Tina Friedrich. Tina Friedrich said that things were fairly quiet at the moment, but that's probably because events and branch meetings are being cancelled. Some branches update their own areas on the website and it would be good if more branches could take that on. Debbie Nicholas said that she was willing to learn and might be able to do it for Bath branch. Mary Tyers proposed that she and Debbie Nicholas meet with Tina Friedrich and Sara Scorey to learn what they can do and report back to the committee next year. This was agreed.

**Action:** Mary Tyers, Debbie Nicholas, Tina Friedrich

7.2 Moira Usher asked if it could be possible for new and existing members to do all of the joining process online. Tina said that it could be done, but it couldn't, at the moment, be linked to branches. The Chair explained that we would have to specify where the money goes and who needs to be notified. Although the Treasurer said that payment methods should not include PayPal, Tina said that some people preferred to make online payments in that way. Moira Usher requested that whatever online form we agree on should use a modern font rather than Times New Roman. Tina said that she

would investigate methods of payment and Helen Hooker said that she uses Stripe on her own website. The Secretary proposed that a sub-committee be set up to look at joining online. This was agreed. The Membership Secretary, the Treasurer, Moira Usher, Tina Friedrich and Jill Taylor will meet and report to the committee in October. The Membership Secretary will chair the sub-committee. The Chair and Secretary are ex officio members.

**Action:** Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Moira Usher, Tina Friedrich and Jill Taylor

7.3 When Anthony Hall moved the website to its current host, Ionos, he left the registration with Namesco. Tina Friedrich wanted to move the registration to Ionos, but does not feel confident that the move would go smoothly and it would mean 24 hours downtime. She would prefer to move the domain registration and the website hosting to another provider. The committee agreed to this, provided there is not a large increase in cost to the society. The Secretary will assist.

**Proposed:** Chair **Seconded:** Moira Usher **Carried unanimously**

**Action:** Tina Friedrich and Secretary

7.4 The Chair said that there are other things that need to be considered in the future, including updating the website, but the things that had been discussed were more important in the short term.

#### **4. Report from Treasurer (Continued)**

4.3 The Treasurer presented a spreadsheet showing the possible impact on the society's funds if membership numbers fall due to branches not being able to meet for some time due to Covid-19. The committee discussed what might happen and how they're keeping in touch with members at the moment. This included keeping in touch with members by telephone, email and newsletters; having social sessions on Zoom; facilitating meetings in gardens; and holding virtual meetings with a conductor in which members play along with a track, but can't hear each other. The committee discussed ways of recompensing members for missed meetings and the Membership Secretary said that partial refunds of membership subscriptions would be difficult due to Gift Aid and because many branches would need some reserves in order to start activities again. If branches wished, they could reduce subscriptions for next year or put on event as compensation for missed meetings.

Lunch Break

#### **4. Report from Treasurer (Continued)**

4.3 (Continued) The Treasurer's spreadsheet showed that a reduction to 1,200 members would mean that the society could not cover its fixed costs, but this was only a problem if it continued for a while. Jill Taylor pointed out that the society has financial reserves and the point of them is to carry the society through difficult times. In addition, it would be difficult to decide what to do at the moment. The Membership Secretary suggested investigating a members' only area on the website, but the Treasurer said that this would cause a problem with the society's Gift Aid status. The Chair said that he would discuss this with the solicitor.

**Action:** Chair

4.4 At the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February the committee had agreed to propose an increase in subscriptions to Conference. The committee agreed not to make that proposal.

**Proposed:** Secretary **Seconded:** Membership Secretary **Carried Unanimously**

4.5 The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her report.

## 5. Report from Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary confirmed that the printed membership lists were being sent out during the first week in June with The Recorder Magazine. The Chair thanked her for her efforts in achieving this.

## 6. Conference 2020

6.1 The Chair said that the society needs to hold a Conference before the end of August and the Charity Commission is happy for it to be a virtual meeting this year. He said that up to 100 participants could be accommodated on a Zoom meeting and all would be muted on entry. The larger the meeting is, the more likely it is that someone uninvited could breach the security. There would be one delegate from each branch, the Musical Advisers, the Vice-Presidents, if they wish, and the committee. The Chair proposed that the Conference be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10:30. This was agreed.

**Proposed:** Chair **Seconded:** Sarah Langdon **Action:** Secretary

## 8. NYRO Grant

NYRO has requested a grant towards its costs. The Secretary outlined the committee's policy in recent years with regard to grants to NYRO. They have been reducing by £1,000 each year and the grant awarded last year was for £1,000, with a further £1,000 to match funding raised by NYRO. If the existing policy were followed, there would be no grant made. The committee discussed the application for a grant, noting that SRP has given NYRO over £100,000 since its inception. Sarah Langdon said NYRO's problems will not necessarily be solved by giving or not giving money, but they need practical support. Many recorder players in their 30s and 40s know about the SRP because they were in NYRO as teenagers. She has been working on a marketing and social media plan for NYRO. The general feeling was that this is the wrong time to withdraw support. Sarah Langdon proposed that SRP provide financial support specifically for the playing days and this was supported. Moira Usher proposed that the SRP pay £1,000, plus another £1,000 of matched funding in the financial year 2019/2020. Both sums are specifically for costs associated with the playing days in 2021, and will be payable on receipt of relevant invoices in the financial year 2020 to 2021.

**Proposed:** Moira Usher **Seconded:** Secretary **Carried** Unanimously

**Action:** Secretary

## 9. Early Music Festival

9.1 This year's Early Music Festival is probably not going to be a physical event. The Chair said that if it were to be a physical rather than a virtual event, he would not be happy to ask members to look after an SRP table.

Break

## 9. Early Music Festival (Continued)

9.2 It was agreed that Sarah Langdon would carry on as usual this year and find out what arrangements, if any, there are for last year's competition winner's concert.

**Action:** Sarah Langdon

## **10. Response to Covid - 19**

10.1 This item had mostly been covered earlier in the meeting.

10.2 The committee discussed paying Parandrus their fee for the cancelled concert at the Festival. The group received donations to the value of £177 from prospective attendees. The concert was a separate event from the Festival and would have been self-funding. Parandrus were going to receive £300 each, travel expenses and accommodation. Their travel expenses had been paid from the Festival account, but were returned after the train company refunded the cost of their tickets to them. They have been invited to give a concert at the 2022 Festival in Ipswich. The committee discussed giving them half the fee now and half after the concert in 2022. There was also some discussion about whether or not they would still be together as a group and the need for a written agreement to cover some of the possibilities. The Treasurer proposed that they be paid half the fee now and half after the concert in 2022. This was agreed. Moira Usher will contact Parandrus to find out if this is acceptable to them.

**Proposed:** Treasurer **Seconded:** Mary Tyers **Carried** Unanimously

**Action:** Treasurer, Moira Usher

## **11. Festival 2021**

The decision about continuing with the 2021 Festival has been delayed until September, when things should be clearer. If necessary, there will be an emergency committee meeting in September.

## **12. Revision of Rules**

12.1 This item was covered earlier in the meeting.

## **13. New Committee Members**

The Secretary asked the committee to encourage people to stand for the committee at the Conference in August.

## **14. Walter Bergmann Fund Committee Terms of Reference**

These will be considered once the revised rules and constitution have been finalised.

## **15. Request for Grant from Tabea Debus**

Tabea Debus has requested a grant from the SRP of £1,310 in order set up an online resource of Renaissance and Baroque basso continuos for recorder players to use. Whilst there were some reservations about players possibly not using a real-life accompanist, the proposal was welcomed for the most part. Moira Usher proposed that the grant be made. The money would come from the Arthur Ingram Fund.

**Proposed:** Moira Usher **Seconded:** Debbie Nicholas **Carried** by majority

**Action:** Secretary

**16. Festival 2022**

This was covered by an earlier item in the meeting

**17. Training Co-ordinator**

Steph Sutherland is interested in taking over as Training Co-ordinator and has been talking to Moira Usher about it.

**18. Communications with Vice-presidents and Honorary Members**

The Membership Secretary and the Chair have between them email addresses for the vice-presidents and honorary members.

**19. Email From Barbara Law**

The committee discussed whether or not the SRP should provide financial support to some professional recorder players, as the American Recorder Society has done. It was decided that such a project was beyond the SRP's current resources.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 5:10 pm

**The next committee meeting will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 10:30. This will be held by Zoom.**