



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Jonathan Dove

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 12th April 2019

at Ushaw College, Ushaw, Durham, DH7 9RH

PRESENT:

Committee and Musical Advisers

Vic Morris	Chairman	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
April Munday	Secretary	Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Debbie Nicholas	Committee
Sandra Foxall	COS Secretary	Ciara Flanagan	Committee
Moira Usher	WBF Chairman	Caroline Jones	Committee
Frances Tuffery	Committee	Evelyn Nallen	Musical Adviser

Branch delegates

Bath	Susan Elkington	Mid-Herts	Jim Grant
Beds and North Herts	Gill Mitchell	Newcastle and Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Bristol	Rachel Mason	Norfolk	Katherine Gray
Cambridge	Charles Nisbet	North Cotswolds	Gwen Klepping
Cheltenham and Gloucester	Diana Knight	Nottinghamshire	Gill Chatfield
Cleveland	Sheelagh Campbell	Nuneaton	Carolyn Hall
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Orkney	Caroline Melody
Cumbria	George Thorpe	Oxford	Judith Schmidt
Dorset	Sue Tipping	Sheffield	Jane Ellin
Durham	Mary Tyers	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
East Berkshire	Steph Sunderland	South London	Sheila Richards
Edinburgh	Anne Martin	South Staffordshire	Catherine Briggs
Essex	Annelies Wing	Suffolk	Geoff Knight
Glasgow	Jill Taylor	Wales	Delyth Holland
Guildford	Jill Day	Warwick	Helen Jones
Hillfoots	Lynne Hope	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
Ireland	Pamela Flanagan	Wessex	Jane Badley
Leicester	Lucy Marsland	West Riding	Roger Hatfield
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	York Guildhall	Matthew Taylor
Macclesfield	David Alcock		
Manchester	Averil Cox		

Observers

Beds and North Herts	Elaine Lawrence	Mid Herts	Sue Cross
Birmingham	Ann Tempest	Sheffield	Jill Lauriston
Edinburgh	Bea Frances	Wessex	Geoff Badley

Others

Barbara Law	Honorary Life Member Editor, the <i>Recorder Magazine</i>
Tessa Rolph	Gift Aid Administrator
Louise Findlay	Publicity Officer

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 3.05 p.m. by welcoming Delegates, Committee Members, Musical Advisers and others to Conference.

1.2 In Memoriam: Conference noted with sadness the passing of the following members and friends of the Society since the previous Conference:

- Ian Farquhar, Beds and North Herts Branch
- Jeanne Dolmetsch, Country and Overseas Branch and Vice-President
- Anne Fletcher, Birmingham Branch
- Andrew Melville, South London Branch
- Layton Ring, Country and Overseas Branch and Honorary Life Member
- Felicity Belton, Somerset Branch
- Julie Gray, Wessex Branch
- John Suddaby, Country and Overseas Branch
- Sheila Ward, Lincolnshire Branch
- Veronica Barrow, Cambridge Branch
- Sue Pay, Essex Branch
- Mark Evans, South Staffordshire Branch
- Phyllis McCarthy, Ireland
- Richard Foxcroft, Macclesfield Branch

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Committee and Musical Advisers: Penny Clarke, Sarah Langdon and Colin Touchin.
- *Branches: Aberdeen and Kent.

The following Branches were also not represented:

Devon, West Dorset, London, North London, Peterborough, and South Downs.

2. Proposed Change of Order of Agenda Items

2.1 The Chairman proposed swapping items 5 and 6 (Election of Officers, Committee and others, and Resolutions respectively) on the agenda. Specifically, he wished to discuss the proposed changes to the rules before the election of new committee members. Pamela Flanagan

stated that changing Rules 1 to 4 would make it difficult for the Society to function as there would be effectively two sets of Rules in existence, with the possibility of the proposed changes having a knock-on effect on Rules 11-15 and vice versa. Caroline Jones argued that it would be better for the incoming committee to review all the Rules and return to Conference next year with a complete revision. Moira Usher explained that it would be useful to discuss the changes relating to membership of the committee before the election, since the committee is large and unwieldy, and all members of the committee have to be trustees at the moment. There were also inconsistencies in the rules as they stood at the moment. The discussion ranged over the lack of provision for trustees' meetings in the proposed revision of the rules, the necessity (or possibly not) of the Charity Commission approving changes to rules 1 and 2, and the possibility of agreeing changes that would not affect other parts of the rules.

2.2 Caroline Jones proposed that the committee look at the rules over the course of the next year and present the results to next year's Conference.

Proposed: Caroline Jones Seconded: Pamela Flanagan Carried

2.3 Sandra Foxall said that Cleveland Branch, which had also proposed a change to parts of rule 4 (Resolution 5.1), were happy for discussion of their proposed changes to be deferred until next year.

2.4. The Conference agenda then proceeded as originally planned.

3. Minutes of Conference 2018

3.1 The Minutes of Conference held in Eastleigh on 15th April 2018 were approved.

Proposed: Alyson Lewin Seconded: Joyce Rudall Approved.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda:

4.1 Moira Usher had said that she would contact the British and International Federation of Festivals to ask them to include WBF in its guide to potential funders (minute 4.15). She reported that the WBF committee is working its way through the list of festivals and notifying them.

4.2 The committee was asked to find a name for what was called 'Individual' members (minute 5.2). This will be 'Central'. It was thought that this might cause some confusion with the central committee, but it was clarified that what is generally referred to as the central committee is the national committee.

4.3 The Chairman has written to the Secretary of State for Education (Minute 9.3). He thanked Mike Wilkinson, who had drafted most of the letter. A reply has been received and circulated to members.

4.4 There was a further matter arising from last year's Conference that was not recorded in the minutes. It had been suggested that a bookkeeper be appointed to support the Treasurer by managing day to day finances. Lucy Parker has agreed to take this on. Pamela Flanagan asked who would decide whether or not the society should appoint a bookkeeper and the Chairman said that it was a decision for the committee.

4.4.1 Jane Badley asked how the society makes its payments. The Treasurer explained that payments are made by bank transfer. Payments are set up by the Treasurer and authorised by the Chairman or the Secretary. The Chairman recommended that an even more stringent approval process be considered in the future, given the size of the society's funds.

5. Officers' Reports

These minutes record points made in presentation or discussion of Officers' reports. The actual reports, most of which had been circulated in advance, are available at www.srp.org.uk/documents/agm/OfficersReports2019.pdf and www.srp.org.uk/documents/agm/TreasurersReport2019.pdf.

5.1 Chairman: The chairman said that he was happy about the Composers' Competition and the fringe events which were taking place during the Festival. He was pleased by the large turnout at the Conference and by the enthusiastic support of some branches for the Schools Affiliation Programme. The Schools Affiliation Programme still needs someone who will take responsibility for it. The chairman invited Evelyn Nallen to say something about the Composers' Competition. Jonathan Dove is the main adjudicator. Evelyn Nallen said that there had been 55 entries from all over the world and that people were coming from the US and Australia for the weekend. A wide range of music is represented. An audience prize has been donated by Durham and Lincolnshire branches, and Suffolk and Cambridge branches donated to the prize fund. BBC Radio 3 have shown some interest in the competition. There was wide support for the event to be continued at future festivals. She thanked Tina Friedrich, the society's web editor, for setting everything up online. The chairman thanked the web team for their hard work. Evelyn Nallen thanked The American Recorder Society, European Recorder Players Society, various Facebook groups such as Recorders Down Under as well as ERTA UK and Chamber Music America for supporting the competition. Moira proposed a vote of thanks to Evelyn Nallen and Barbara Law for their efforts in organising the competition and this was seconded by Debbie Nicholas. This was carried overwhelmingly.

5.1.1 The Chairman invited Mary Tyers to say something about the youth strand which was expecting a large number of young people on the Festival site over the weekend. Barbara Law thanked the Walter Bergmann Fund for supporting the Fringe events financially. The Chairman hoped that youth initiatives will continue

5.2 Secretary: The Secretary told the Conference that the committee had met three times since last year's conference.

5.3 Central Branch Secretary: Sandra Foxall reported there are a few more Central members this year.

5.4 Publicity Officer: Louise Findlay told Conference that there is a form on the website that people can fill in when they're putting on an event that will make it easier for the web team. The Chairman added that his vision for E-News was that it would be more of a newsletter than a list of events.

5.5 Walter Bergmann Fund: Moira Usher, Chairman of the Walter Bergmann Fund, gave the following report:

The Fund committee meets three times a year, usually in February, June and November. At each meeting the committee discusses all applications received. They agree to provide funds if there is enough financial detail to prove the need for a grant and they deem them to have a case worth supporting within the WBF remit. Since the last Conference there have been 13 applications, of which 10 were agreed. As last year, the committee would welcome ideas for spreading the word

and reaching young players who would benefit from a grant. The money is not only available for young professionals, but for all recorder players under the age of 30. If Conference knows of any youngster at school who cannot afford lessons or a decent instrument or to attend a course, they should point them towards the Walter Bergmann Fund. The WBF committee is grateful to members for helping to raise money. What the committee wants to do now is spend it.

5.6 Training Co-ordinator: Moira Usher said that there are five workshops booked for this year and the Chairman reminded Conference that putting on a workshop is not a financial burden on a branch. Sarah Whomersley is interested in taking on this role in the future.

5.7 Treasurer:

5.7.1 Caroline Melody thanked the Treasurer for her support to her (Caroline) as a new branch treasurer.

5.7.2 Tessa Rolph (Gift Aid Administrator) said that Gift Aid brings the society £5,000 and that branches need to follow the instructions in her recent email. The Treasurer confirmed that branches claiming Gift Aid are not able to charge different amounts for events for SRP members and non-members. Tessa Rolph explained that the society has to be able to show that its members don't have a significant benefit over non-members. If a member of the SRP went to a SRP event and was charged £10 while a non-member was charged £20, the member has received a benefit of £10, which would breach the regulations for Gift Aid. She suggested that branches with queries should email her at giftaid@srp.org.uk.

5.7.3 It was proposed that the accounts for 2017/18, as certified by the Independent Examiner, be accepted.

Proposed: Jill Taylor Seconded: Jane Badley Carried

5.7.4 Jim Grant proposed a vote of thanks to Ulli Burchette for all she has done as Treasurer. This was carried unanimously.

Seconded Joyce Rudall Carried.

5.7.5 The committee proposed that subscriptions for Youth category members be raised from £10 to £12.50, so that the society is not subsidising them for the Recorder Magazine. There are currently 22 members in this category. The Walter Bergmann Fund has lost substantial donations over the statement that it would meet the shortfall. Conference thought that it should not be necessary for all of the society's activities to break even and that the shortfall could be met from a different fund.

Proposed: Committee There were 2 votes for, 21 against and 17 abstentions. **Not carried**

The subscription for Youth members remains at £10.

5.7.6 It was proposed that Keith Varney be re-appointed as Independent Examiner until Conference 2020.

Proposed: Moira Usher Seconded Jim Grant Carried

5.8 Membership Secretary: There were no questions about the Membership Secretary's report.

6. Election of Officers, Committee and Others

6.1 The Chairman is standing down and there was only one candidate for the position – Jim Grant of Mid Herts branch. He was nominated by Helen Hooker and Josee Beeson. He was appointed unanimously.

6.2 Ulli Burchette is standing down at the end of the financial year in August 2019 and there was only one candidate to replace her – Carys Aley. She was nominated by Beryl Craven and Janet Scot. She was appointed unanimously.

6.3 David Rollason, who was appointed Secretary by Conference last year resigned in June 2018. April Munday was appointed to replace him by the committee in August and Conference was asked to ratify this. She was nominated by Philippa Belas and Penelope Smith. She was appointed unanimously.

6.4 David Rollason was also Membership Secretary. Penny Clarke was appointed to replace him in that role by the committee in August and Conference was asked to ratify this. She was nominated by Jill Day and Maria Lemonidou. She was appointed unanimously.

6.5 Barbara Law said that she knew nothing about the nomination process, as an honorary life member who is not associated with a branch. The committee will look at how information is shared with honorary life members.

Action: Chairman

6.6 There were three vacancies on the committee for branch member. Five nominations were received some weeks before the Conference – Stephanie Sutherland, Anne Martin, Ann Tempest, Jill Taylor and Pamela Flanagan. At the Chairman’s discretion, Mary Tyers was permitted to be nominated at the Conference. A secret ballot was held and Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor and Mary Tyers were elected to be on the committee until 2022. The Chairman thanked all those who stood.

6.7 Sandra Foxall was happy to continue as the secretary of Central branch.

Proposed: Helen Hooker Seconded: Alyson Lewin **Carried**

6.8 Accordingly, the full list of officers and other Committee members is as follows:

Chairman	Jim Grant
Secretary	April Munday
Treasurer	Carys Aley/Ulli Burchette
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke
Central branch Secretary	Sandra Foxall
Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund	Moira Usher
Training Co-ordinator	Vacancy
Competition Administrator	Sarah Langdon
Other Committee members	Debbie Nicholas – to 2020 Ciara Flanagan – to 2021 Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor, Mary Tyers – to 2022

7. Other Resolutions

7.1 The committee proposed increasing the number of Musical Advisors in order to improve their geographical coverage. There are two Musical Advisors on the committee and they rotate annually. The existing Musical Advisors are Ross Winters, Alyson Lewin, Helen Hooker, Colin Touchin and Evelyn Nallen. The additional Musical Advisors proposed are Pamela Flanagan, Moira Usher, Sandra Foxall, Sarah Whomersley and Caroline Jones.

Carried.

7.1.1 There was some discussion about what Musical Advisors do and it was agreed that the Musical Advisors would present a paper to the Conference next year.

Action: Musical Advisors

7.2 The committee proposed that the vote at last year's Conference to include those under 30 not in full-time education in the Youth category of membership be clarified. The proposal was that the category should only include those both under 30 and in full-time education. For 1, against 33, abstentions 7. **Not carried.** It has, therefore, been clarified that Youth membership is for anyone under 30 whether in full-time education or not. Helen Hooker asked whether Conference needed to vote on which fund the subsidy for the subscriptions will come from. It's a matter for the committee to decide.

7.3 The committee proposed a new category of affiliated membership. This would be for recorder ensembles. The annual subscription would be £25, for which the ensemble would receive a copy of Recorder Magazine. They would not be added to the society's insurance policy. There was some discussion about what would be considered an ensemble and what would be considered a recorder orchestra, but it was decided that orchestras and ensembles would decide for themselves. There was a question about who represents affiliated members at Conference. The Chairman replied that it's the Central secretary.

Carried

8. Future Festivals

8.1 Conference noted the position as follows:

- **2020:** Suffolk Branch has volunteered for 2020.
- **2021:** Edinburgh Branch will be host for the 2021 Festival

No branch has volunteered as yet for 2022.

8.2 Moira Usher said that the dates for next year are 17th to 19th April and the Conference will be held on Friday 17th April.

9. Any other business

9.1 Jane Badley asked whether the committee was set up in such a way that all parts of the UK are represented. The Chairman said that it has been suggested that branch representatives be regionalised.

9.2 Anne Martin said that she was happy that the committee was reviewing the society's rules and thanked Moira Usher for the work she has done on them so far.

9.3 Jill Day said that it was important to update the society's safeguarding policy, given the plans for members to interact more with children. The Chairman replied that the Membership Secretary has it in hand and wants to make sure that it covers vulnerable adults as well as children. Going into schools does not mean that members will need to undergo DBS checks, though, as they will never be alone with children.

9.4 A delegate asked if it would be possible to make the paperwork for the Conference available on the website for delegates, as not all branch secretaries send them on.

Action: Committee

9.5 Jill Taylor said that she was worried about the security of a membership list going out in paper form. The Chairman said that the committee is currently investigating other ways of making a membership list available to members, ensuring that it is both secure and current. Whatever method is chosen will have to take into account those members who do not have access to the internet. This means that the production of a paper membership list is delayed indefinitely.

9.6 A question had been received from a member by email about what had happened with regard to the 2020 report. The Chairman said that he had written *The Way Forward* with the goal of setting the agenda for his chairmanship. The report had more than 70 recommendations and he had wanted to address five key areas, which has guided the projects initiated in the last three years.

9.7 Tessa Rolph proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman concluded proceedings by thanking all those who had attended and contributed to discussion at Conference, those who would continue or start to serve as Officers and Committee members to help take forward the work of the Society.

The Chairman closed Conference at 5.36 p.m..

The next Conference will be in Ipswich on Friday 17th April 2020.