



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Jonathan Dove

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 16th August 2020

by Zoom

PRESENT:

Committee and Musical Advisers

Jim Grant	Chair	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	Musical Adviser
Jill Taylor	Committee	Sarah Langdon	Committee
Stephanie Sutherland	Committee	Pamela Flanagan	Musical Adviser
Mary Tyers	Committee	Sarah Whomersley	Musical Adviser

Branch Delegates

Aberdeen	Katherine Brierley	Mid-Herts	Sue Cross
Bath	Susan Elkington	Newcastle and Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Beds and North Herts	Glynne Parry	North Cotswold	Gwen Klepping
Birmingham	Carole Pocknell	North London	Katie Stone
Bristol	Rachel Mason	Nuneaton	Joan Gibson
Cambridge	Christine Gibbons	Orkney	Mary Doyle
Cheltenham and Gloucester	Diana Knight	Oxford	Tina Friedrich
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Peterborough	Phil Brown
Cumbria	George Thorpe	Sheffield	Francesca Flynn
Dorset	Sue Tipping	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Durham	Judith Hills	South London	Sheila Richards
East Berkshire	Andrew Challenger	South Staffordshire	Wendy Shepperson
Edinburgh	Anne Martin	Suffolk	Christine Westren
Essex	Annelies Wing	Wales	Fran Johnstone
Guildford	Jill Day	Warwick	Helen Jones
Ireland	Frances Tuffery	Weald of Kent	Ian Jutting
Leicester	Keith Martin	Wessex	Penny Smith
Lincolnshire	Rod Callow	West Riding	Jennie Hall
London	Jo Brown	York Guildhall	Matthew Taylor
Manchester	Jenn Stanley		

Observers

Edinburgh	Bea Frances
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth
Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson

Others

Josee Beeson	Candidate for Country and Overseas Secretary
Louise Findlay	Publicity Officer

1. Welcome/In Memoriam/Apologies

1.1 Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:33 a.m. by welcoming Delegates, Committee Members, Musical Advisers and others to Conference. He said that it was an unusual meeting and that there might be technical difficulties. He reminded delegates that the meeting would be recorded and made available to members.

Please note: Voting was carried out using Zoom’s polling system. All resolutions were expressed as proposals from the committee, and committee members, Musical Advisers and delegates could vote for, against or abstain.

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

- Ron Skins - Honorary Life Member
- Maureen Haines – Country and Overseas and Wessex Branch
- Diana Cundall – Wessex Branch
- Mary Steele –Wessex Branch
- Elizabeth French – Suffolk Branch
- Coral Low – Country and Overseas
- Marion Frances Panzetta - Essex Branch
- Victor Kimber – South Staffordshire Branch
- Elaine Dunn – South Staffordshire Branch
- Daphne Baggs (née Lavender) – South Staffordshire Branch
- Monica Coles – Country and Overseas and Honorary Life Member
- Celia Faulkner – North Cotswold Branch
- Madeline Haslewood – Oxford Branch
- Avis Jenkins – Bedfordshire and North Herts Branch
- Michael Asher – Mid-Hertfordshire Branch
- Rita Weidman – Mid- Hertfordshire Branch
- Pat Flanagan – Ireland Branch
- Patricia A. Davies - Country and Overseas
- Ray Welch – Country and Overseas
- Mary Carson – Ireland Branch
- Anthea Fleming – Bristol Branch

1.3 Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Committee and Musical Advisers: Colin Touchin.
- Branches: Norfolk

The following Branches were also not represented:

Devon, Glasgow, Hillfoots, Kent, Macclesfield, Nottinghamshire and South Downs.

2. Minutes of Conference 2018

2.1 The Minutes of Conference held in Durham on 12th April 2019 were approved with the following changes:

- In list of attendees Elaine Lawrence should be shown as the observer for Bedfordshire and North Herts Branch
- In 4.4.1 third line down 'than' should be changed to that.
- In 6.6: 'thanks' should be changed to 'thanked'.

Resolution: The committee proposed that the minutes of the Conference held on 12th April 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings. **Carried**

3. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda:

- Item 7.1.1 – The Musical Advisers were tasked with producing a paper on their activities at the 2019 Conference. The two Musical Advisers on the committee, however, were also on the sub-committee revising the rules and have not been able to produce the paper. The paper is, therefore, held over until next year.
- Item 9.3 – The Society's Safeguarding Policy has been updated. It is available on the website and has been distributed to all branches.
- Item 9.6 – The Chair and the Secretary examined progress on the eighty-one recommendations made in the report by looking in detail at five a week over eight months. Their conclusions are in a paper attached.

4. Reports from Officers

The Officers' reports had previously been circulated to delegates.

4.1 In relation to the Chair's report, Christine Gibbons (Cambridge Branch) asked about music hubs and the schools affiliation programme. The Chair replied that music hubs were established in 2012 by the Arts Council as part of a government initiative. They vary across the country in what they do. Some are involved with the recorder. The society's Musical Advisers are taking an interest in education and the society is working with a music hub in Oxfordshire. The Ireland Branch has adopted a school and Oxford Branch has adopted Oxfordshire Music Hub. At the moment, no one is willing to be responsible for the schools affiliation programme, so the Chair is doing much of the work himself. Some branches have informal relationships with schools.

4.2 The Treasurer gave some additional information about her report. In the accounts the figure £30 appears in a green box. The significance of this is that it is a reminder that money must be given to Ireland branch for their insurance, as it is separate from that for the other branches. In the page that covers the Arthur Ingram Fund she has shown a figure of -£2,176.11 under

Workshops. This is to show the difference between what they cost to run and what was received in fees from attendees, identifying the true cost to the society. She has done the same thing for the Composers' Competition.

4.3 Jill Day (Guildford Branch) thanked the Treasurer for the details about how the Arthur Ingram Fund is used and asked if the trustees of the fund could report in the same way as the chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund reports to Conference. The Treasurer explained that there is not a separate sub-committee looking after the Arthur Ingram Fund; the whole committee are the trustees of the fund. Grants are discussed at committee meetings and reported in the minutes. Jill Day said that there is over £100,000 in the fund and it would be useful to tell the society's members how it is used. Moira Usher pointed out that the fund is not just to benefit members, but to help the society fulfil its charitable aims. Jill Day said that it would be good to raise the profile of the fund and Pamela Flanagan responded that this was a sensible suggestion. Helen Hooker said that she was probably not alone in finding the accounts difficult to understand and that a separate report would be helpful. Mary Tyers said that the fund is a large sum of money and the society should be doing more with it. The Secretary will send the Treasurer's report on the Arthur Ingram Fund to all Conference attendees.

Action: Secretary

4.4 The Chair explained that Ulli Burchette is still Treasurer, as the person who was appointed to the post at the previous Conference quickly discovered that she did not have the time it would take to carry out the role. Fortunately, Ulli Burchette has agreed to stay on.

4.5 **Resolution:** The committee proposed that Conference receive the accounts for 2018/19. **Carried** with two abstentions

4.6 **Resolution:** The committee proposed that Conference appoint Keith Varney as Examiner for a further year. **Carried**

4.7 Conference asked the Treasurer to express their thanks to Keith Varney.

4.8 Anne Martin (Edinburgh Branch) asked for guidance concerning subscriptions for the financial year beginning in September 2020. The branch committee has discussed it, but doesn't know what to do as they are only having meetings by Zoom. The Treasurer explained that the central part of the subscription cannot be increased or decreased, as the costs are the same, whether branches are meeting or not. She advised branches to keep subscriptions at the same rate as the current year in order to be able to pay for larger halls when branches are able to meet again. The Chair said that having committee meetings by Zoom is saving some money. Branches will have to make their own decisions about subscriptions, accepting that some members will not join again while there is no playing. Fran Johnstone (Wales Branch) said that the Wales Branch is small and widespread. The branch has decided to pay the central part of the subscription for all members. Katie Stone (North London) said that it's useful to know what other branches are doing. To this end, a forum for branch secretaries will be set up on the website.

Action: Secretary and Webedit team.

4.9 The Membership Secretary commented on her report and said that it would be useful for branch secretaries to form a network to exchange information. Conference thanked her for her work on the printed membership list.

4.10 Diana Knight (Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch) asked if it was necessary for members to complete the membership form this year. The Membership Secretary said that it was only necessary for new members.

4.11 Moira Usher said that she had nothing to add to her report as Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund and explained that it will be more or less the same every year, as the information about those requesting grants is confidential. She has a lot of music and recorders at the moment which she is unable to sell as she is not going out to branches and Summer School was cancelled. Josee Beeson suggested that some of the items could be sold through the For Sale section on the website, but Moira Usher said that it could not be done as the society does not have a trading arm. Alyson Lewin explained that there had been problems with the Charity Commission when the society had tried to sell tee-shirts and other merchandise in the past. Katherine Brierley (Aberdeen Branch) asked how the music is sold if the society doesn't have a trading arm. Moira Usher explained that she takes it when she goes to conduct branches, to Summer School and to the London International Early Music Festival, where people can take what they want in return for a donation. She did not want to put information about the recorders she has on the website, because costs for postage would come out of the charity fund, but she will look into it.

Action: Moira Usher

4.12 Since Moira Usher's report as Training Co-ordinator had been written in January, she updated it verbally.

5. Election of Officers, Committee and Others

5.1 The Chair reiterated that Ulli Burchette has agreed to remain as Treasurer.

5.2 The Chair said that the elections will be carried out under the society's current rules and he hoped that the new rules would be agreed so that they would cover next year's elections. He said that the sub-committee had learned in the previous twenty-four hours that the Charity Commission has to approve the change from a rules-based society to a constitution-based one. The officers, with the exceptions of Sandra Foxall (Central Secretary) and Moira Usher (in her role as Training Co-ordinator) were prepared to stand for a further year.

Resolution: The committee proposed that, there being no other nominations for posts other than those of Central Secretary and Training Co-ordinator, the officers, with the exceptions of those posts, be re-elected for a further year. **Carried**

5.3 Sandra Foxall is retiring from being the Central Secretary. The Chair thanked her for what she has done in the role since being elected ten years ago. Alyson Lewin proposed a vote of thanks to Sandra Foxall, which was agreed. The Chair said that Sandra Foxall remains a musical Adviser and the society will not lose her expertise. Josee Beeson was the only candidate for the post.

Resolution: The committee proposed that Josee Beeson be elected to the post of Central Secretary. **Carried** with two abstentions.

5.4 Moira Usher is retiring from being Training Co-ordinator. Stephanie Sutherland was the only candidate for the role. The Chair thanked Moira Usher for what she had done in the role.

Resolution: The committee proposed that Stephanie Sutherland be elected to the post of Training Co-ordinator. **Carried**

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

Chairman	Jim Grant
Secretary	April Munday
Treasurer	Ulli Burchette
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke
Personal Members Secretary	Josée Beeson
Chairman, Walter Bergmann Fund	Moira Usher
Training Co-ordinator	Stephanie Sutherland
Competition Administrator	Sarah Langdon
Other Committee members	Ciara Flanagan – to 2021 Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor, Mary Tyers – to 2022

5.6 During 2019 Evelyn Nallen resigned from being the SRP News Editor. The Chair thanked her for what she had done in the role. Jean Campbell stepped in at short notice and has now edited the SRP pages for two editions of The Recorder Magazine. She is willing to carry on and is always grateful for feedback from members of the society. Helen Hooker reminded delegates that Jean Campbell is currently looking for content about what branches are doing in lockdown.

Resolution: The committee proposed that Jean Campbell be elected to the post of SRP News Editor. **Carried**

6. Other Resolutions

6.1 Constitution and Rules The Chair thanked those delegates who had sent in their questions in advance, as it gave the sub-committee the chance to address them properly.

6.1.1 Mary Doyle (Orkney Branch) pointed out that the society operates in different countries under different laws and regulations. She suggested that the safeguarding policy should reference these. The sub-committee thought it was a sensible addition and will make the change.

6.1.2 The Chair recalled that he should have asked Helen Hooker to introduce the discussion about the proposed constitution and rules. Helen Hooker explained that the committee had been charged at the 2019 Conference with revising the rules. In the process the sub-committee that had undertaken the work had suggested that the society change from being rule-based to being constitution-based. This means that only the constitution needs to be approved by the Charity Commission. The rules can be amended without needing their approval.

6.1.3 The Treasurer had highlighted some typos which have now been corrected. She also asked about paragraph 3.1 rules, which seem to prohibit a Personal member from also being an associate member of a branch. Moira Usher said that it would still be possible for a Personal member to be a member of a branch.

6.1.4 Moira Usher said that the solicitor who checked the constitution and rules had pointed out that sub-committees should have two or more trustees on them and this will be changed in the documentation. She said that the rules do not prohibit more than one family member being a trustee, but it is up to Conference not to elect more than one family member.

6.1.5 The Treasurer suggested changing the wording relating to affiliate members in 1.5, as it could lead to problems. The Membership Secretary said that she would not want to encourage a form of Personal membership that became branch membership, because it makes things difficult for branches. Instead, people should become branch members. Sheila Richards (South London Branch) said that sometimes it was cheaper to become a Personal member and become an associate member of a branch, but this would depend on the branch. Anne Martin said that it might not be ideal, but the rule was written clearly. The Chair pointed out that it would be possible to change the rules whenever it became necessary in the future, but it won't be possible to amend the constitution without a lot of effort. Previously, every change in the rules has had to be approved by the Charity Commission.

6.1.6 Diana Knight (Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch) said that the new rules say that the society has to have a Conference no more than fifteen months after the previous one, but this year it has been sixteen months. Helen Hooker responded that the committee had hoped to be able to hold a physical meeting, but when it became clear that that would be impossible, Charity Commission guidance allowed societies to have their annual meetings virtually rather than not have them at all. If the situation is still the same next year, the committee will be able to organise a Conference by Zoom within the time limit.

6.1.7 Caroline Jones (Musical Adviser) asked how long Musical Advisers serve under the new rules. Helen Hooker said that she thought it was for life, as it is at the moment.

6.1.8 Moira Usher explained some of the thinking about lengths of terms for committee members. At the moment, everyone on the committee is a trustee, but most charities (even large ones) have fewer trustees. The term for a trustee will be five years, but a trustee can resign if they want. The terms for some branch members of the committee will be coming to an end over the next couple of years and they will be replaced by people with a five-year term.

6.1.9 Caroline Jones said that the constitution does not mention Northern Ireland. The Chair responded that the society does not have a branch in Northern Ireland, but that modification could be made.

6.1.10 The Chair explained that the constitution and rules will go to the relevant regulators in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland for their approval.

6.1.11 The Treasurer pointed out that the new rules say that payments have to be made with two signatures and that is not always possible with online banking. The Chair said that this is a Charity Commission rule. The Secretary said that where it is possible, there is a cost that might make it prohibitive for branches. The Chair said that the committee will discuss it at their next meeting. The Treasurer asked that any branch that finds a bank that will do it free of charge should tell her.

6.1.12 **Resolution** The committee proposed that Conference adopt the Constitution and rules set out in the documents Draft Constitution Society of Recorder Players and Draft Rules Society of Recorder Players 2020. **Carried** with two abstentions.

6.1.13 Sandra Foxall thanked the sub-committee (Jim Grant, Helen Hooker, Moira Usher and Pamela Flanagan) for their hard work.

6.2 £25 level of affiliation Jill Taylor explained that that a new level of affiliation for recorder ensembles was agreed at the 2019 Conference. It provided the same benefits as the £50 affiliation for recorder orchestras, but did not include insurance. In reality, however, any level of affiliation includes insurance. There was also the possibility that making the distinction between the levels of affiliation could imply that the society was selling insurance which it does not have a licence to do. The committee, therefore, made an emergency decision to withdraw the new level of affiliation. No groups had signed up for it. **Resolution:** The committee proposed that the level of affiliation for £25 for recorder ensembles be withdrawn. **Carried**

6.3 Personal Membership The Chair said that Conference had already voted for the change from Central membership to Personal membership by approving the new rules, but he explained that calling what had formerly been Country and Overseas membership Central membership had been too confusing. **Resolution:** The committee proposed that the name of Central membership be changed to Personal Membership. **Carried** with two abstentions

6.4 West Dorset Branch The Chair received a letter from West Dorset branch at the end of 2019 to say that they could no longer continue as a branch. They have returned their assets. The Chair thanked Sue Brown for the work she had done in keeping the branch going. It has always been a small branch and most members have joined Somerset or Dorset branches. **Resolution:** The committee proposed that Conference acknowledge the closure of West Dorset branch. **Carried**

6.5 Honorary Life Membership for Anthony Hall The Membership Secretary said that she could not have got the printed membership list done without the help of Anthony Hall. Sandra Foxall was grateful for the help he had given her when she took over as Country and Overseas Secretary. **Resolution:** The committee proposed that Anthony Hall of Oxford branch be made an Honorary Life Member of the society **Carried**

7. Future Festivals

7.1 Edinburgh Branch no longer feel that they can host a Festival in 2021 given the complexities of the current situation. The Chair said that the date for the next Conference will remain 16th April 2021, although it is impossible to make plans at the moment. Ipswich branch will host the Festival in 2022 and Edinburgh in 2023.

8. Any other business

9.1 Anne Martin (Edinburgh Branch) asked if anyone on the committee was watching and accessing current scientific thought about playing the recorder in groups. Helen Hooker said that she had been following this closely, as it affects her professional life. The results from the Bristol study, which includes the recorder, were due in a few days and government guidance had changed during the week before Conference. She also said that it was possible to sign up for updates when government advice changes. The Chair said that the advice isn't clear at the moment and that, given the demographic of SRP members, it was better to err on the side of caution when it comes to playing together. There was a discussion about where advice could be found, such as on the ISM website and the Musicians' Union website, and it was recognised that each body offers a slightly different interpretation of the guidance. Caroline Jones said that it was

important for branches to ensure that they are complying with the requirements of the society's insurance. The Chair said that, for the moment, SRP branches should not be meeting.

9.2 Caroline Jones asked if any of the delegates had had any experience of JamKazam. Those who had said that it required a lot of patience, equipment and bandwidth. It was generally considered to be little better than trying to play together on Zoom.

9.3 Penny Smith (Wessex Branch) said that she had really enjoyed the latest SRP pages in The Recorder Magazine and thought that the SRP should have more representation in the magazine, since it makes up most of the readership. The delegates discussed the changes in the magazine since Barbara Law became the editor. Penny Smith reiterated that the magazine looks good and that it is a pleasure to receive it, but few SRP members would read the whole magazine. The Chair suggested that Penny Smith write to Barbara Law to express her concerns, as the SRP has no editorial control over what goes into the magazine. About 75% of the copies printed go to SRP members and most of the rest go to ERTA members. Moira Usher pointed out that supporting the magazine is part of the SRP's charity remit. The Treasurer said that it is part of the society's educational work and that it helps the society's Musical Advisers. The Chair encouraged delegates, and members in general, to let Jean Campbell know what they think about the SRP pages and to contact Barbara Law about the rest of the magazine.

9.4 Anne Martin thanked the Chair and the Secretary for organising a meeting under difficult circumstances that had mostly been successful.

The Chairman closed Conference at 1.50 p.m..

It is the intention of the committee that the next Conference will be on 16th April 2021.