



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

Registered Charity No. 282751/SC038422

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.30 am by Zoom

### PRESENT:

Jim Grant	Chair	Moira Usher	WBF Chair
April Munday	Secretary	Pamela Flanagan	Musical Adviser
Ulli Burchette	Treasurer	Steph Sutherland	Committee
Helen Hooker	Musical Adviser	Jill Taylor	Committee
Penny Clarke	Membership Secretary	Ciara Flanagan	Committee
Sarah Langdon	Competition Administrator	Mary Tyers	Committee (until lunch break)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Josée Beeson (Personal Membership Secretary).

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

The minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were accepted.

**Proposed:** Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Jill Taylor **Carried**

The minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September were accepted subject to an amendment to item 4.3 to the effect that the Treasurer was asked to contact Erica Crabtree.

**Proposed:** Stephanie Sutherland **Seconded:** Penny Clarke **Carried**

Matters Arising from the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July:

2.1 Item 2 – Deborah Nicholas and Mary Tyers met Tina Friedrich in July and August. Deborah Nicholas will take over the oversight of all branch information on the website and will assist branches to manage their own information. Mary Tyers will take over the news side of the website. They both need a bit more training before they can do this independently. The Chair thanked them.

2.2 Since Mary Tyers had to leave the meeting early, the discussion about her taking over as Publicity Officer was brought forward. Louise Findlay has resigned as Publicity Officer and Mary Tyers has had some discussions with her to get an idea of what would be required. Since she does paid conducting work for the SRP, she asked the committee to consider whether there might be a conflict of interest if she became Publicity Officer. The committee thought this would not be the case and it was agreed that Mary Tyers would take on the role on a three-month trial basis.

**Proposed:** Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Jill Taylor. **Carried**

2.3 Item 3.1 – The video by Sarah Jeffrey in which she mentioned various recorder societies, including the SRP, has gone out. There was no cost to the SRP for this.

2.4 Item 11 – Moira Usher has spoken to the Charity Commission about a potential members' only area on the website. There is no problem with this. The committee will consider how to use such an area in a future meeting.

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

3.1 The Treasurer said that the Trustees' Report should be reviewed by the committee so that it can be agreed at the next meeting. Pamela Flanagan agreed to write something about the changes to the rules and to circulate it to the sub-committee so that it could be included in the report.

3.2 Sarah Langdon said that she needed to know where the funding for the third prize in the SRP/ Moeck competition will come from next year. She is in the process of sending out information about the competition. The London International Festival of Early Music has split from the Early Music Shop and it has been difficult to get information from them.

At the moment the Arthur Ingram Fund pays for the second prize and, recently, the Walter Bergmann Fund has provided the third prize. Previously the third prize was awarded by the Philip Cole Bursary Fund. In years when four competitors went through to the final round, a fourth prize was provided also by the Arthur Ingram Fund.

Moira Usher said that the Walter Bergmann Fund Committee were not happy about funding a prize that usually goes abroad, since the fund was set up to assist young players in the UK. The Chair proposed funding the third prize from the Philip Cole Fund. The Treasurer pointed out that the fund will have to be acknowledged when the prize is awarded.

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

**Action:** Sarah Langdon will ensure that Philip Cole Fund is mentioned appropriately.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

4.1 The Treasurer presented her report. The Secretary asked why there was no column in the report showing the current financial year's income and expenditure against the budget.

The Treasurer said that it would be included in future reports and there had not really been much movement because of the current situation.

Moira Usher said that it is important to stop branches giving donations to charities whose aims are not similar to those of the SRP, since it is illegal to do so. It was agreed that Moira Usher would check with the Charity Commission and circulate their advice to the committee.

**Action:** Moira Usher

4.2 The Treasurer said that Barclays Bank now offers two-person authentication for online accounts.

**Action:** The Secretary will notify the branches.

4.3 The Treasurer would like the Chair and the Secretary to be able to see the Barclays account online. She will send the account details to them so that they can talk to the bank.

**Action:** Treasurer

4.4 Edinburgh branch has asked that the Central Fund contribute something towards a cancellation fee for Tom Beets and Da Camera who were to appear at the 2021 Festival. The

committee discussed various options. Sarah Langdon proposed that £100 be given as a gift to Tom Beets and each of the three members of Da Camera, as well as £300 to Parandrus (who had been booked for the 2020 Festival in Ipswich and cancelled when the Festival was cancelled). These payments will come out of the Central Fund.

**Proposed:** Sarah Langdon **Seconded:** Moira Usher **Carried**

4.5 A branch that had to cancel its Visiting Conductor due to Coronavirus asked whether it would be possible to have two visits in one financial year. The Treasurer confirmed that this had been included in the budget. The committee discussed whether or not this would be fair to branches would not have thought about this as a possibility. Mary Tyers said that it would be a support to branches who needed a boost after having to cancel so many meetings this year. The Treasurer proposed that branches be allowed two visiting conductors in this financial year 2020/2021 if their visit had to be cancelled in 2019/2020, or the following financial year 2021/22 if it proved impossible to arrange two this year, where they have had to cancel a visit this year due to Coronavirus. Those members of the committee who are Visiting Conductors did not vote.

**Proposed:** Treasurer **Seconded:** Sarah Langdon **Carried**

## **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

5.1 Up to 11th October only 20 branches have shown renewals on their databases. This accounts for 355 members in total which means that approximately 28% of last year's total branch membership have renewed. Some branches have new members. 56 Personal members have renewed which is approximately 37% of the Personal branch total and 20 affiliated groups have renewed which is approximately 60% of that total. 1 corporate organisation has renewed out of the usual 2. 5 branches have completed their risk assessments and 5 have confirmed that they will not be meeting again for a while, but will complete the risk assessment should they decide to meet.

5.2 The Branch Officers' Forum is busy. About 18 people have asked for access.

5.3 The discussions about online membership have had to wait for the handover from Sandra Foxall to Josée Beeson. At the moment they believe that the easiest thing is to update the form and provide bank details so that members can pay by electronic transfer. It is not necessary for the form to interact with the membership database, as Josée Beeson will be able to cut and paste the relevant information. The Chair said that it will change in the future, but that a start has been made. This will be reviewed in June 2021.

**Action:** The Secretary will add this item to the agenda for the June 2021 committee meeting.

## **6. Appointment of a Second Trustee to the Walter Bergmann Fund Committee**

There should be two trustees on the Walter Bergmann Fund Committee. The Charity Commission says that if a sub-committee is spending charity money, it has to have two trustees. The Secretary said that she was prepared to be on the committee in the short term.

## **7. Additional Committee Member**

7.1 The Chair said that the committee is short of an ordinary member. There was some confusion prior to the Conference about whether or not Deborah Nicholas would remain on the committee after the end of her term and he wanted to co-opt her onto the committee. The Secretary said that the committee had not had the right number of ordinary members in previous years, but had not felt

it necessary to co-opt anyone. Furthermore, whatever the reasons why Deborah Nicholas did not stand for an additional term, it would be wrong to co-opt her so soon after the Conference and such an action could be misinterpreted. The Chair pointed out that the relevant rule (4.8) says that the committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven other members of the society. At the moment there are only four. Helen Hooker proposed that the committee co-opt an additional member.

**Proposed:** Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Pamela Flanagan **Carried**

7.2 The Chair said that he would like to co-opt Deborah Nicholas. The Treasurer suggested co-opting Erica Crabtree (subject to her agreement), since she is considering taking over the role of Treasurer and it would be useful for her to be on the committee until the next Conference. Sarah Langdon proposed co-opting both and this was agreed.

**Proposed:** Sarah Langdon **Seconded:** Moira Usher **Carried**

**Action:** The Chair will call Deborah Nicholas and Erica Crabtree.

## **8. Management of Personal Branch**

In the absence of Josée Beeson, this item was held over to the next meeting.

## **9. Arthur Ingram Fund**

A question about recipients of grants from the Arthur Ingram Fund had been sent to the committee by Jill Day (Guildford Branch). The committee agreed that there had been a lack of clarity in the past about what the Arthur Ingram Fund is for. Although grants are occasionally paid from it, it is not a grant-making fund in the way that the Walter Bergmann fund is a grant-making fund. The Chair, the Treasurer and Moira Usher will write an explanation to be published in eNews.

## **10. Membership Database**

Katie Stone (North London Branch) raised a question about the database in relation to GDPR. The Chair and the Membership Secretary will discuss this with her.

## **11. Treasurer Succession**

The Chair said that the Treasurer has been doing a good job for a long time and, following her not standing for re-election in 2019 as announced at the AGM in 2018. Ulli carried on in post when the person elected at the 2019 post resigned soon after being appointed.

The Chair has been looking for someone to replace her. Erica Crabtree has expressed an interest in taking on the role. The Treasurer said that she would stay in post until the 2021 Conference.

## **12. Paper from Jean Campbell**

12.1 Jean Campbell, editor of the SRP pages in The Recorder Magazine, sent a paper about the pages to the committee for its consideration. Pamela Flanagan proposed a vote of thanks to Jean Campbell, who has put a lot of work into the content of the pages. The first point of the paper was that the number of SRP pages should be increased. The magazines that other amateur musical societies are associated with manage to find a balance between content for professionals and

amateurs and for young and old readers. The number of pages relating to the SRP should be proportional to the size of the SRP in the magazine's readership.

12.2 The Chair pointed out that the magazine sits well with the society's charity obligations, but admitted that he finds it difficult to write something relevant and topical for his Chairman's Chat when the publication date is so long after the copy deadline. Helen Hooker suggested that there could be more information in the magazine that is not time sensitive. The committee considered the possibility of sending out more branch news in a newsletter. Comments received from both branch members and professionals indicate that neither group feels that the magazine has much for them. Pamela Flanagan suggested that there could be a detachable insert to contain more SRP news. An A3 insert would generate two more pages for the SRP and two more pages for other items. Helen Hooker will ask ERTA if they would be interested in contributing to the cost by paying for a page.

**Action:** Helen Hooker

12.3 Helen Hooker suggested that Jean Campbell be invited to take part in a future meeting. This was agreed. The Chair will liaise with Jean Campbell.

**Action:** Chair

### **13. Musical Advisers' Report**

This has been delayed as Helen Hooker and Pamela Flanagan have been busy with the sub-committee revising the rules. They will draft something and circulate it to the committee before the next meeting.

**Action:** Helen Hooker and Pamela Flanagan

### **14. Appointment of Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members**

14.1 The Chair said that he had been looking at the roles of Vice Presidents and Honorary Life Members. It was clear that Honorary Life Members are people who have done significant service for the SRP and Vice Presidents have done significant service to the recorder and its music. The SRP has lost three Vice Presidents over the last few years and the committee considered candidates to replace them.

14.2 The Chair proposed that Sandra Foxall be put forward to Conference in 2021 as an Honorary Life Member.

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

14.3 The Chair proposed that Sarah Jeffery be put forward to Conference in 2021 as a Vice President, subject to her acceptance of the role.

**Proposed:** Chair **Seconded:** Stephanie Sutherland **Carried**

**Action:** Chair

14.4 The Chair asked the committee to consider who would be suitable candidates for Vice Presidents and they would be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action:** All

## **15. Managing Communications with Vice Presidents**

There have been delays in getting information to the Vice Presidents as it has not always been clear whose responsibility it is. It was agreed that a group email will be created to enable the Secretary to contact the Vice Presidents and the Chair will be responsible for contacting the President.

## **16. London International Festival of Early Music**

The Secretary said that she had heard nothing from the London International Festival of Early Music with regard to being an exhibitor. Very little information appears to have been sent out about the festival. It was agreed that the SRP cannot participate this year, but would like to participate next year, regardless of the format.

## **17. IT Co-ordinator**

The Chair has spoken to the web team and it is clear that a lot of expertise is available to the SRP, but there is not someone who can assign tasks to the team members. Stephanie Sutherland said that she knew of two people who have the necessary skills and might be prepared to assist. The Chair said that he would speak to them.

**Action:** Chair

## **18. Revision of Rules**

The Secretary now has the most recent version of the constitution and the rules and will begin the discussions with the regulators to change to them.

**Action:** Secretary

## **19. Programme of Meetings**

At the last meeting it was agreed that there would be additional committee meetings by Zoom with a view to shortening the length of meetings. The Secretary has produced a possible programme based on that discussion. The proposed dates are:

5th December 1st Saturday

2021

21st February

25th April 4th Sunday

6th June

21st August 3rd Saturday

10th October

4th December

This will be finalised at the next meeting. The committee discussed the possibility that any meetings on Saturdays would take place in the morning and finish by midday, allowing committee members to attend branch meetings in the afternoon.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 17:05 pm

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