



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Jonathan Dove

Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 17th April 2021

by Zoom

PRESENT;

Committee and Musical Advisors;

Chair	Jim Grant	Musical Advisor	Helen Hooker
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler	Musical Advisor	Pamela Flanagan
Treasurer	Ulli Burchette	Musical Advisor	Alyson Lewin
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke	Musical Advisor	Caroline Jones
Treasurer-elect	Erica Crabtree	Musical Advisor	Moira Usher
Trustee	Mary Tyers	Musical Advisor	Sandra Foxall
Trustee	Jill Taylor		
Trustee	Stephanie Sutherland		
Trustee	Deborah Nicholas		

Branch Delegates

Aberdeen	Katherine Brierley	Manchester	Jenn Stanley
Bath	Heather Locke	Mid Herts	Sue Cross
Beds and North Herts	Glynne Parry	Newcastle	Joan Reeve
Birmingham	Ruth Churn	Norfolk	John Fenn
Bristol	Rachel Mason	North Cotswold	Gwen Klepping
Cambridge	Christine Gibbons	North London	Katie Stone
Cheltenham and Gloucester	Diana Knight	Nuneaton	Joan Gibson
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Orkney	Caroline Robertson
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Oxford	Tina Friedrich
Cumbria	Rona Courtney	Peterborough	Phil Brown
Dorset	Sue Tipping	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
Durham	Judith Hills	Sheffield	Francesca Flynn
East Berkshire	Andrew Challenger	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Edinburgh	Anne Martin	South London	Sheila Richards
Essex	Annelies Wing-Wirth	South Staffordshire	Wendy Shepperson
Glasgow	Grace Lyon	Suffolk	Christine Westren
Guildford	Maria Lemonidou	Warwick	Helen Jones
Ireland	Howard Duncan	Weald of Kent	Ian Jutting
Leicester	Julie Houlton	Wessex	Jean Campbell
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	West Riding	Jennie Hall
London	Jo Brown	York	Matthew Taylor
Macclesfield	Julia Harding		

Observers

Vice President	Tom Beets	Cornwall	Samuel Constable
Honorary Life Member	Jeanette Hipsey	Macclesfield	Ian Bennett

Others

Personal Membership Secretary	Josee Beeson	Competition Administrator	Sarah Langdon
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1. Welcome – Apologies for Absence - In Memoriam

1.1 Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting at 10.35 am by welcoming Delegates from 43 branches, SRP Trustees, Musical Advisors, Tom Beets (Vice President) and other observers to Conference.

Voting would be carried out using Zoom's polling system. All the resolutions, except the last 2, were expressed as proposals from the Trustees. The Trustees, Musical Advisors and delegates could vote for, against or abstain each resolution.

59 members were entitled to vote.

A few delegates had to leave before the end of the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from;

- Committee and Musical Advisors; Ciara Flanagan (Trustee), Colin Touchin, Evelyn Nallen (Musical Advisors)
- Branches: Devon, Hillfoots, Kent, Nottingham, South Downs and Wales
- Other members; Tessa Rolph [giftaid], Philip Evry [HLM]

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

- Ross Winters – past Musical Advisor and Trustee of NYRO
- Keith Hardman – Wessex Branch
- Maureen Cunnane – Ireland Branch
- Sydney Stokes – Ireland Branch
- Jean Barber – Norfolk Branch
- Mo Robinson – Essex Branch
- Jane Ward – Lincolnshire Branch
- Peter Cook – Birmingham Branch

2. Minutes of Conference 2020

2.1 The Secretary noted a typographical error in the minutes; The header for item 2 should state that it was the minutes of Conference 2019 that were being considered (as reported correctly in the text of the body of the first paragraph).

2.2 Anne Martin asked that the last line of 9.4 be amended to state;
“Anne Martin thanked the Chair and the Secretary for organising a meeting under difficult circumstances.”

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the minutes of Conference held on 16th August 2020, amended as above, as an accurate record of the proceedings
Carried, with 5 abstentions.

3. Matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda:

- The Secretary reported that at the 2020 Conference, (item3) the Musical Advisors were asked to produce their paper on their activities, but this was deferred to the 2021 Conference, and will be presented in item 4, after the Officers and other Reports.
- The Chair displayed a long service certificate for Helen Jones, from the Warwick branch, to mark her 25 years as a branch officer.

4. Reports from Officers

The Reports had been previously circulated to delegates.

4.1 In relation to the Chair’s report, Joyce Rudall (Somerset Branch) asked;
“Why have you not been more proactive in giving help, both financial and strategic, to branches to enable us all to keep in touch with our members and other branches more easily and effectively?”

Joyce expressed concern that the branch committee felt that Central SRP had not provided the support that they required, specifically in regard to Zoom (or equivalent) accounts. Meetings and recitals had to be organised with the free account, limited to 45 minute sessions, or by asking performers to provide a suitable link.

The question had been circulated to Trustees for comment ahead of the Conference.

4.1.1 Ulli Burchette (Treasurer) responded at the meeting to explain that it is not possible for the Central committee to organise events for all 49 branches. A Zoom licence can only be used for one event at any one time, so a central SRP account would require a lot of organisation to allocate time fairly, which is not practical. If it was possible, some branches would not be able to use the facility, and some branches have chosen to offer nothing at present. Each branch needs to make their own arrangements for their own members’ needs.

4.1.2 Helen Hooker (Musical Advisor) reported that a monthly license can be set up, and the performer/tutor could justly claim this cost in lieu of travel expenses. These costs are significantly less than the hire of premises.

4.1.3 Linda Hepburn-Booth (Lincoln Branch) offered the suggestion of linking with other branches to share the meeting and hosting the link.

4.1.4 It was noted that other branches have made such sharing offers.

4.1.5 Anne Martin (Edinburgh Branch) reported successful on-line weekly branch meetings for about half their membership, plus the branch had made virtual recordings, which also included members who did not wish to attend Zoom meetings.

4.1.6 Katie Stone (North London Branch) reminded members of the forum that was set up last autumn for branch officers to discuss this sort of matter. The forum has not been widely used, but would be ideal. A reminder will be sent out to branch secretaries.

4.1.7 Penny Clarke (Membership Secretary) responded that branch feedback she had received had been that any Zoom costs were offset by not having to meet premises costs for branch meetings. She also said that despite setting up the Branch Officers Forum promptly and notifying branch secretaries on 28 September it had not been used *at all* for the past six months.

4.1.8 Helen Jones (Warwick) stated that she had tried to join the forum on a number of occasions, but found the log in system made it impossible. Penny Clarke (Membership Secretary) confirmed that there had been some initial access difficulties around creating WordPress passwords.

4.1.9 Heather Locke (Bath Branch) also spoke of the benefits of a Zoom membership for the branch events.

4.1.10 The Chair reported that other branches have found other technology suits their needs, and that it would not be appropriate to give out money for Zoom accounts, for the reasons given.

4.1.11 For Somerset, Joyce concluded that she still thought that more financial support was needed by branches, and that the branch committee felt it was muddling through on their own.

4.1.12 The Chair concluded the discussion by saying there was a misconception that the Central committee had all the answers.

4.2 The Treasurer explained each page of the SRP accounts to the delegates. Separate accounts were provided for the Central Fund, the Arthur Ingram Fund, the Walter Bergmann Fund, the consolidated branch accounts, the totals of each account listed together, and the final consolidated accounts. Details of the special funds had previously been circulated to delegates, with the Conference papers.

4.3 The Treasurer asked branch delegates to ensure that any branch memberships that are paid out of branch funds be notified to the SRP Treasurer, as any transfers between SRP funds reduce the actual amount of income (and expenditure) to the SRP. Transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds have to be specified to the Charity Commission.

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the accounts for 2019/2020

Carried with 2 abstentions.

Resolution; The meeting approved the re-appointment of Keith Varney as Examiner for a further year.

Carried unanimously

4.4 The Chair expressed his thanks, on behalf of the SRP, to Ulli Burchette, who has carried out the role of SRP Treasurer since 2006.

4.5 Penny Clarke added to her report as Membership Secretary to say that there have been some recent additional members. The total is now 1,213, with 20 joining half way through the year. This represents a reduction of 16% on the previous year.

4.6 Stephanie Sutherland, as Training Co-ordinator, reported that work is ongoing, with some new tutors, and some on-line workshops now on offer.

4.7 Moira Usher, Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund sub-committee referred to the continuing loss of interest on funds, in the current climate. This might affect the funds available for granting, particularly from the Philip Cole Fund. There have been fewer requests for grants recently. The Chair thanked the sub-committee.

4.8 Helen Hooker presented the report on the role of the SRP Musical Advisors, a joint effort by all the established advisors. The Chair thanked Helen for the paper and offered a Zoom meeting of Musical Advisors in the near future.

The Secretary reported that Alyson Lewin will succeed Helen as one of the Musical Advisors on the committee, working with Pamela, who continues for a further year.

4.9 Sarah Langdon, the Competition Administrator, reported that there have been 20 entries to the SRP/Moeck Competition, despite the concerns about the pandemic and Brexit. It is hoped that there will be a live final in November; if not, it will be offered online.

5. Election of Officers, and other Trustees

5.1 The Chair explained that there was only one nomination for each committee position, so there was no contest, and no need for an election.

5.2 **Chair** The current incumbent, Jim Grant, is prepared to stand for re-election.

Proposed; Moira Usher **Seconded:** Stephanie Sutherland

5.3 **Secretary** The secretary resigned in October 2020. Val Giltrow-Tyler was co-opted in December to fill the post until this Conference. Val has indicated her willingness to continue to serve and has confirmed she is not disqualified from acting as a Trustee.

Proposed; Jim Grant **Seconded:** Stephanie Sutherland

5.4 **Membership Secretary** The current incumbent, Penny Clarke is prepared to stand for re-election.

Proposed; Jim Grant **Seconded:** Val Giltrow-Tyler

5.5 **Treasurer** The Treasurer has stated her intention to resign as Treasurer. A nomination for Erica Crabtree has been received for the position of Treasurer. Erica has indicated her willingness to serve and has confirmed she is not disqualified from acting as a Trustee.

Proposed; Anthony Hall (Oxford) **Seconded;** Sarah James (Chelt & Glos)

5.6 This year one Trustee, Ciara Flanagan, has reached the end of her second term, and thus is not available for re-election. Therefore there is a vacancy for an ordinary Trustee.

5.7 Deborah Mary Nicholas has completed one term as a Trustee, and is standing for election for a second term.

Proposed; Val Giltrow-Tyler (Bristol) **Seconded;** Jane Marsh (Central)

5.8 Samuel Constable (Cornwall) has been nominated, indicated his willingness to serve and confirmed that he is not disqualified from acting as a Trustee. It is proposed that he be elected as a member of the Committee until Conference 2026.

Proposed; Pam Hall (Cornwall) **Seconded:** Neil Philpott (Cornwall)

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of all the Officers and Trustees.
Carried unanimously.

5.9 Accordingly, the full list of Trustees is as follows;

Chair	Jim Grant – to 2026
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler – to 2026
Treasurer	Erica Crabtree – to 2026
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke – to 2026
Trustees	Stephanie Sutherland , Jill Taylor, Mary Tyers – to 2022
Trustee	Deborah Nicholas, Samuel Constable – to 2026

5.10 The Chair welcomed Erica Crabtree as the new Treasurer, and Samuel as a new Trustee, and thanked Ciara for her terms of office.

5.11 The Chair reminded the delegates that the branches are the bedrock of the SRP.

5.12 Other named posts are held by;

Chair, Walter Bergmann Fund	Moira Usher
Competition Administration	Sarah Langdon
Gift Aid Administrator	Tessa Rolph
News Editor	Jean Campbell
Personal membership Secretary	Josee Beeson
Publicity Officer	Mary Tyers
Training Co-ordinator	Stephanie Sutherland
Web editor	Tina Friedrich

6. **Resolutions**

6.1 Vice-Presidents are appointed in recognition of their contribution to the profile of the recorder. The Trustees propose the appointment of five additional Vice Presidents.

6.1.1 Tim Cranmore, in recognition of his contribution, as an internationally known UK recorder maker.

6.1.2 Alan Davis, in recognition of his contribution, as a composer, soloist and teacher.

6.1.3 Sarah Jeffery, in recognition of her contribution, in running Team Recorder, a community of 135,000 players, in addition to acting as chief judge of the SRP/Moock Recorder Competition in 2019.

6.1.4 Evelyn Nallen, in recognition of her contribution, as a performer, teacher and innovator.

6.1.5 John Turner, in recognition of his contribution, as a performer, composer and commissioner of new music.

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of all the new Vice Presidents.
Carried with 1 vote against and 2 abstentions.

6.2 Honorary Life membership is awarded to those who have given distinguished service to the Society. The Trustees propose the appointment of three additional Honorary Life Members.

6.2.1 Ruth Burbidge, in recognition of her sterling work in the world of music publishing and distribution.

6.2.2 Sandra Foxall, of Cleveland branch, in recognition of her many services, including a decade as Country and Overseas Secretary, and continued service as a Musical Advisor.

6.2.3 Tessa Rolph, of Nottingham branch, in recognition of her time as a former chair of the Society, and her ongoing work for the Society with the Gift Aid system

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of all the new Honorary Life Members. **Carried** unanimously.

6.3 Resolution received from Wessex Branch;

“In order to involve SRP members more in the decision-making of the Society, it is proposed that the Trustees flag up to branch secretaries in general terms issues coming up for discussion and decision that will affect the entire membership, and that they invite branches to make submissions where they have a viewpoint to share.”

Jean Campbell presented the resolution on behalf of the Wessex branch, stating that members have a lot to contribute, and are not being involved enough in decisions of the Trustees. The views and opinions of the members matter, and members want to feel part of the process.

Branches are the grass roots of the SRP, and they would like to be part of the whole tree.

6.3.1 The Chair responded by stating that everything that the Trustees discuss affects the membership, but not everything can be debated with the whole membership.

6.3.2 Delegates were reminded that the last edition of e-News contained a summary of matters discussed at the last Trustee meeting, and information can continue to be provided in this way, to report on matters discussed, and to highlight topics that are due for discussion at the next Trustee meeting.

6.3.3 John Fenn (Norfolk Branch) reported that his branch committee do not have regular meetings, and these discussions would have to be conducted at playing meetings, taking away playing time.

- 6.3.4 Philip Brown (Peterborough) agreed with John; they have a very small committee, who would not meet every time an issue is raised for discussion.
- 6.3.5 Ulli thought it would help to have Trustee meeting dates publicised for members' information.
- 6.3.6 Ulli also pointed out that asking all branches for comments on any issues will slow the whole process. Conference is the opportunity for discussions of this sort.
- 6.3.7 Mary Tyers, as Publicity Officer, said that she is happy to continue to include Trustee matters in the e-News, but reminded delegates that members have to subscribe to receive this.
- 6.3.8 Anne Martin (Edinburgh Branch) felt that an important issue could be circulated to branch secretaries if a response is needed, and if the matter is important to everyone, but everyday matters should not be put out for wider discussions.
- 6.3.9 Katie Stone (London Branch) said that their branch committee members never meet as a committee, so they have no formal way to have these discussions. Katie reminded delegates of the Branch Officers forum opportunity for discussions, as previously mentioned.
- 6.3.10 Ruth Churn (Birmingham Branch) suggested that matters for discussion could be put into e-News, and discussions could follow on the forum, rather than through the branches
- 6.3.11 Jenn Stanley (Manchester Branch) felt that important matters should be brought up at the Conference, which is the point of a Conference.
- 6.3.12 Pamela Flanagan (Musical Advisor) felt Trustee business will become cumbersome if all items are included in the proposed wider process. She suggested that branches could be more proactive in letting Trustees know what matters concern their members.
- 6.3.13 The Chair confirmed that members are invited to contact the Chair or Secretary to raise matters of concern. For many members they join SRP just to turn up and play.
- 6.3.14 Pamela Flanagan asked the membership to trust the Trustees to carry out the roles that they have been given, and pointed out that branches can put up a candidate as Trustee when an opportunity arises.
- 6.3.15 In response, Jean Campbell stated that she was disappointed that there could be a barrier between the Trustees and the membership, and repeated that Wessex members want the opportunity to make their views known.
- 6.3.16 An anecdotal report was quoted of a central committee member refusing to discuss matters discussed in a meeting.

6.3.17 Pamela Flanagan expressed horror at the anecdotal report, and disappointment that this was not raised to be dealt with at the time. There is no rule that requires the contents of Trustee discussions to be withheld.

6.3.18 The Chair stated that it would be possible to put a skeleton of items on the next agenda into the e-News preceding that meeting, if that would satisfy the Wessex branch.

6.3.19 Jean Campbell responded that would enable members to be better informed, as they feel isolated from the centre. On this understanding Jean felt that the resolution could be withdrawn.

6.3.20 There was further discussion about procedural matters and whether the resolution could be satisfied by the e-News proposal, or whether it should be withdrawn. Complications of the Zoom polling system made it difficult to amend the resolution before taking a vote.

6.3.21 Finally it was proposed that the meeting would allow the Trustees to see the best way forward. This was voted upon.

Resolution; The meeting approved the matter be referred to the Trustees to find the way forward. **Carried** with 27 voting for, 10 against and 10 abstentions.

Action; The Trustees are tasked with thinking about ways of communicating with members.

6.4 Resolution received from Wessex Branch;

“It is proposed that the minutes of trustees’ meetings are published on the Society’s website within a month of the date of the meeting and the members notified of their location.”

Jean Campbell presented the resolution on behalf of the Wessex branch, requesting that the minutes are made available more quickly.

6.4.1 Heather Locke (Bath Branch) commented on how helpful the branch had found the guidance on restarting playing together. This matter is very important to all members, and is evidence of very important information being supplied.

6.4.2 Moira Usher (Music Advisor) stated that draft minutes cannot be provided for members, because they are still a draft, but any of the matters discussed at Trustee meetings can be discussed with members, unless of a confidential matter.

6.4.3 Ulli reported that draft minutes had been displayed for a trial period in the past, but this had caused problems, as the draft content could contain inadvertent errors, leading to misunderstandings.

6.4.4 Pamela Flanagan asked if the Trustees could consider holding mini meetings to agree the contents of minutes in between meetings.

6.4.5 The Chair pointed out that more frequent meetings are now held, so the lag between holding a meeting and approving the minutes is shorter. This process takes time in any organisation.

6.4.6 The Secretary stated that the draft minutes should not be displayed on the website, as it is public. There is also no requirement for the minutes of Trustee meetings to be available (Charity Commission document CC48), but that the Trustees are happy to do so, once they have been ratified.

6.4.7 The Chair re-iterated that a digest could be put into the e-News.

6.4.8 Jean Campbell complained that some people have heard the Wessex concerns whilst others have not. She requested more details in the Trustees section of the e-News, with less official matters in the Musings.

6.4.9 Philip Brown (Peterborough) proposed that the resolution should be put back to the Trustees to consider.

6.4.10 Helen Hooker (Musical Advisor) reminded delegates that the Trustees are volunteers and human, and that some delays will happen. She seconded the proposal to refer the matter back to the Trustees.

Resolution; The meeting approved the matter be referred to the Trustees to find the way forward. **Carried** with 36 for, 4 against and 5 abstentions.

Action; The Trustees are tasked with thinking about ways of communicating with members.

7. Future Festivals

7.1 Moira reported on behalf of the Suffolk Branch that the next Festival will take place on 22-24th April 2022, Ipswich, with much the same programme as the intended 2020 Festival.

7.2 Anne Martin reported that the Edinburgh Branch hope to host the Festival in 2023, and more details will become available. We can expect a theme around the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd.

8. Any other business

8.1 Jean Campbell (SRP News Editor) spoke about the extra SRP pages in The Recorder Magazine, and asked for some reactions from the delegates. Complimentary comments were made.

Helen Hooker proposed a vote of thanks for Jean's work in refreshing the pages.

8.2 Ruth Churn (Birmingham Branch) asked to pass on concerns that some members had found the website difficult to manage, and not easy to navigate. Delegates were advised that the Search facility can be useful for navigation.

The Chairman thanked all for their participation, welcomed new Trustees to their next meeting on May 23rd, and closed the Conference at 1.26 pm

It is the intention of the Trustees that the next Conference will be on 22nd April 2022, in Ipswich.