



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Jonathan Dove
Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Friday, 22nd April 2022

Officers' Reports, and other reports

Chair's Report

Again it has been a difficult year but I think at the end of this one we really are in a better position than 12 months ago. The amount of actually playing together has greatly increased. There are a huge number of people to be grateful to for the running of the SRP and a distinct danger of missing out someone significant. However I will endeavour to highlight in broad terms some of the individuals. The central officers of the Society, that is the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, have all had much to do and for their smooth running of this central work I am very grateful. The Committee members have worked hard and I think all of them have taken on extra duties as well as being members of working groups. Our musical advisers both on and off the committee have been supportive and their work is appreciated. The work of publicising the Society is an important one and I am very grateful to the team working on the website, Mary Tyers for the e-News letter and Jean Campbell for a vibrant SRP news section in 'The Recorder Magazine'. There are a number of other diverse non-committee roles where people have worked hard and I am grateful to them. Last to be mentioned here, but by no means least, are those who run the activities of the branches which makes up a large part of the society's work, a big thank you to them too.

At our last conference Somerset branch, through Joyce Rudall, had expressed concern that the central SRP had not provided the support the branch desired, especially in regard to Zoom accounts. Ulli Burchette (Treasurer at the time), Helen Hooker (Musical Advisor), Linda Hepburn-Booth (Lincoln Branch) and several other delegates contributed to this discussion. After the conference, feeling that Somerset branch were still not completely happy, I arranged a Zoom meeting between myself and Steph Sutherland (trustee and SRP workshop co-ordinator) with Joyce Rudall (Somerset branch Secretary) and Claire Freestone (Somerset branch Treasurer). This was a constructive and friendly meeting and I think there are some points that are worth sharing. Steph and myself could appreciate that Somerset is a lively and active branch which ran a number of successful virtual events during lockdown. Joyce and Claire seem to appreciate the following points from the Trustees: There is a great variety of branches and things which might help one branch are of no assistance and might even appear to be a waste of money to another branch, there is no single central SRP office to sort it all out. The trustees are just a group of ordinary recorder players doing their best, we are exactly the people who you find running the branches and recorder events. Trustees work as volunteers to try to achieve the charitable objects as defined in the constitution.

Another matter raised at the last conference by Wessex branch was involving the membership more in the decision-making of the Society. Conference had agreed to allow trustees to make more information available via the e-News letter and the SRP Secretary and myself have been

trying to carry this out. Informal feedback suggests this has been successful but I would be pleased to receive emails concerning this before conference should the membership wish to comment.

Other recorder playing activities are also recovering from the effects of Covid lockdowns. At present there is little activity on the schools affiliation scheme. There is much good work going on in schools but most of the practitioners have so much to do they have little time to look at building wider links. Again I should be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to this work.

I believe we can live in reasonable hope of having more extensive recorder playing in the future.

Jim Grant

March 2022

Secretary's Report

The Trustees met six times in the reporting year; all of those have been electronically, as in-person meetings were discouraged during the worst times of the pandemic. A formal pattern of provisional meeting dates is an objective, but cannot always be followed. Having predictable dates helps those Trustees who have many other commitments. Reports of the meetings are now included in the following month's e-News, and advance notice of topics to be discussed is often provided in the preceding e-News, where possible. Much business is discussed by e-mail in between the formal meetings, and I am grateful to my fellow Trustees who enable this to happen.

I would like to thank our Musical Advisers, who I have had cause to contact a few times during the year for their invaluable advice. There is now a formal rota to ensure that all the Musical Advisers take a turn attending the Trustee meetings. In the last 2 years our Musical Advisers have also led the way in some working groups, for which I am, again, grateful. Pamela Flanagan has served the SRP Trustees for the last 3 years, and was an invaluable support to this and previous SRP committees. Alyson Lewin took up her place at the Trustees' meetings after last year's Conference. Caroline Jones will replace Pamela as the next Musical Adviser attending the Trustees' meetings. Sarah Whomersley elected not to continue as a Musical Adviser last year.

I wish to express my thanks to all the branch volunteers, without whom the branch system of keeping local players in touch with each other, could not work. The *Guidance for Branches* document has been updated during the reporting year, to assist branch committees. I will continue to try to keep this up to date on an annual basis, to provide a source of advice for current and new branch committee members. Suggestions for additional information, or for corrections, is always welcome.

Delegates are reminded that the Society is delighted to be able to show its appreciation of the work of long-serving branch officials by the award of certificates recognising 25, 40 and even 50 years of service. Many awards have been made, but there are likely to be many more members who deserve recognition, including ones just reaching one of these milestones. If you know, or are, one of these dedicated members, please let me know.

We are lucky to have a large group of Pastoral Visitors, who willingly make themselves available to branches across the country. We are pleased to welcome Liz Alexander and Anna Stegmann who have now joined the list. Liz is a conductor at this Festival, and is a Music Specialist Subject Tutor for Suffolk School Centred Initial Teacher Training, as well as being a player and composer. Anna is a member of The Royal Wind Music, a recorder professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London, a co-organiser of Open Recorder Days in Amsterdam and a popular course tutor. Sadly, Tom Beets is

no longer available for one-day visits to the UK, so there are now 31 visitors listed on the website. When considering invitations, please look carefully through the complete list of Conductors, not just those you are familiar with, since there is a wealth and variety of talent from which Branches can benefit. The Trustees are happy to receive feedback from branches after pastoral visits, and on the scheme in general.

The process for making a request, logging details and approving visits has been streamlined, and payments to re-imburse expenses and fees now work well, with a minimal delay. At the last Conference we announced the opportunity for branch committees to invite an additional two visitors over 2 years, meaning that those branches that have not yet taken this opportunity can book an extra visit for the coming year. I note that some branches have not yet requested any Pastoral Visits, and use this opportunity to encourage them to consider this.

I would like to thank all the SRP named post holders who continue to support the Trustees during the year. Whilst some of these posts are filled by branch representatives who also work as SRP Trustees, others provide us with the advice by other means, attending Trustee meetings occasionally, by invitation.

The Trustees have continued to support the National Youth Recorder Orchestra [NYRO] in its work for young players by awarding grants, subject to NYRO raising at least the same amount from other sources. The Society is happy to collect donations for NYRO, either separately or as an addition to subscription payments, and eligible donors are encouraged to complete Gift Aid Declarations in favour of NYRO. If you know or meet young players who might be interested, do encourage them to get in contact with NYRO at www.nyro.org.uk. I urge our membership to support NYRO at every opportunity.

Val Giltrow-Tyler

March 2022

Treasurer's Report (this should be read in combination with the accounts for 2020/21)

Introduction

I am pleased to present my first set of accounts since taking over as Treasurer in April 2021

I am enormously grateful to Ulli my predecessor for all the help I have had from her in ensuring a smooth transition of the treasurer role all the while keeping things going during the transition. In an ideal world we would have met and brainstormed everything that needed to be done; it's all been done remotely but we've got there in the end. Even now, Ulli is always available to help if I have any queries and the SRP benefits from the enormous amount of knowledge she has acquired during her time on the committee and as a Trustee.

I am very grateful to our auditor Keith Varney for his assistance with the final accounts and the Charity Commission CC17a forms.

I would also like to thank the branch treasurers and the SRP Committee and Trustees for their welcome to me on taking up the Treasurer role and their help in getting me up to speed. Things should be easier in 2021/22.

I have prepared the accounts in a similar way to previous years which obviously helps with comparisons and should look familiar. In all other respects however, this was not a normal year at all with hardly any in person meeting or playing and therefore very little financial activity to report.

Accounts 31st August 2021

Central Fund

This is the fund used for the day to day running of the Society. The income derives from members' national subscriptions. In 2020/21 income was down but expenditure was significantly reduced leading to a surplus for the year.

- Subs are down £5k (14%)
- Expenditure is down £12k
- There are no Pastoral Visitor travel costs
- There are no conference or committee meeting costs (venue, travel etc)
- Exceptional costs were Festival 2020 £700 (2019/20 £1,086 and Legal £1,200)
- Fund balance has increased by £11k to £71k (non-spending as above)

Arthur Ingram

This is the fund which was received as a bequest in 2001 and is the main means by which the Society supports its charitable activities. The principal source of income is HMRC gift aid recovery. In 2020/21 income remained level but expenditure was reduced leading to a surplus for the year.

- SRP/Moeck income, 20 x £90, competition in Nov 2021
- SRP/Moeck competition administrator paid 7 months x £250
- Workshops are usually a significant expense against AIF but cost neutral in 2020/21
- Pastoral Visits are usually a significant expense against AIF but there was only 1 2020/21
- NYRO Grant £2k
- Fund balance has increased by £4k to £115k (non-spending on workshops, grants)

Walter Bergmann Fund

This is a restricted fund which awards grants to young people under the age of 30 born or studying in the UK and Ireland to support their development as recorder players. The principal source of income is donations. In 2020/21 income included a legacy of £3k but expenditure was down leading to a surplus for the year. The fund balance has increased by £2k to £35k

The WBF Committee also recommends the awarding of the Philip Cole bursary if appropriate.

- Fund balance has increased by £2k to £35k (legacy received, fewer grants made)

Branch accounts

This is a consolidation of 49 individual branches and reflects the playing activities of members. In 2020/21 there was virtually no in-person playing or meeting and the branch accounts reflect this.

- Total income is down £36k, branch subs £25k, attendance and visitor fees £9k
- 26 branches did not charge branch subs and 5 branches paid central subs out of reserves
- Total expenditure is down £22k
- Expenditure on room hire was minimal
- Expenditure on conductors reflects the efforts made by branches to provide opportunities for members (usually virtually)
- More than £6k of the conductor costs was incurred by 6 branches (ABE, BRI, GUI, NLO, SOM, WSX), many branches reported no financial activity in the year

- Donations £5k and sale of instruments £2k helped overall branch reserves to remain broadly unchanged

All Funds

Total SRP funds have increased by £16k in 2020/21, in addition to £9k in 2019/20, now totalling £329k. We should remember that the last 2 accounting periods have not been normal years. As a Charity, while maintaining one year's operating costs, we should be spending not saving.

2021/22 Forecast

The Central and AIF forecast for 2021/22 is based on a 10% reduction in subs (thankfully not realised) and expects expenditure to return to pre pandemic levels in the second half of the year. There will be increased expenditure on PVs as branches may have up to 4 visits over the next 2 years to make up for missed opportunities in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and the 2021 SRP Moeck Competition costs will fall in 2021/22. This leads to a forecast 'loss' or excess of expenditure of £16k in 2021/22 which will utilise the increase in reserves in 2020/21. In the same way, a 'loss' of £11k in 2022/23 will start to return the Society's finances to a position where the income raised from members pays for the day to day running of the Society but where we start to spend down our significant reserves to support all recorder playing and players of whatever level.

Conclusion

These have been two very difficult years for us all. Our accounts are a reflection of two years of virtually no activity and we should not be disappointed if the 'numbers' don't look as we would like them to. Our reserves are still there and I look forward to seeing our activities restarting in 2021/22 and having the financial resources to support us as we get out and about to do the things we really want to do; namely meeting up with other like-minded people and playing our instruments.

Erica Crabtree March 2022

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Year

The first part of the membership year yet again continued to be challenging for branches as the COVID-19 pandemic initially restricted the opportunities for playing together in person. Given the slow start and a gradual return to playing though, both membership renewals and the number of new members joining has been encouraging.

Personal Membership – online joining

The start of the new membership year saw the introduction of online joining for those taking out Personal Membership. Many, many thanks to Anthony Hall for the considerable amount of work involved in developing this and to Josée Beeson for taking on a new role handling it. When members join via this route their details are automatically entered into the database and renewal reminders are generated annually and emailed to members. Branch members should continue to join and renew via their branch however, making one payment to cover central and branch subs.

Membership System

There are currently 49 branches in addition to Personal Membership. Branches continue to use the membership database to directly record and manage their branch membership and any donations received. Authorisation to access the database is given to the appointed branch officer by the Membership Secretary on request. The database makes it simple to mark renewals and edit members' contact details as well as keeping a track of the financial reporting. Branches transferring payments for subs and donations to the central SRP account should ensure these match their totals on the database.

New Printed Membership List

The new 2022 printed membership list will be mailed to members with their copy of the Summer 2022 edition of The Recorder Magazine.

Membership Data - includes Branch and Personal Membership

There are currently 1,248 members compared to 1,226 in the previous membership year (2020/2021). This is an increase in members of approximately 1.8%. However the level of membership is, not surprisingly, some 14% lower than in the membership year 2019/2020 which of course saw renewals being made before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ordinary Members	Household Members	Young Person/Student Members	Life Members	Total
1,116	107	18	7	1,248

- 31 members joined at the reduced rate in January 2022 (included within the above figures)
- 118 members have taken out Personal Membership (included within the above figures)
- 2 Corporate Organisations and 28 Affiliated Groups have also renewed this year.

Penny Clarke March 2022

Workshop Co-ordinator's Report

- The Title SRP Workshop Training Co-ordinator has become the SRP Workshop Co-ordinator.
- The SRP Workshops offer amazing opportunities for broadening the knowledge base that we as players already have, and for honing and improving existing skills, and attaining new ones.
- The topics of the Workshops are increasing in number, probing the hidden desires of learning how to Play by Ear, Playing in an Ensemble, learning about 20th Century Composers, Early Music, and even improving one's own playing technique. --See more on website--
- All of the Workshops are delivered by enthusiastic, experienced and knowledgeable tutors.
- Take a look at the website to see what is happening. If a particular aspect is not on the current list, then request it, and all efforts will be made to match the topic with a tutor.

- The cost of a workshop place has risen from £12.00 to £15.00, and the Guidance for Workshop Organisers is on the SRP website under Events/Workshops.
- To hold a workshop, choose a topic, contact a tutor, find a suitable venue, provide the tutor with lunch, and the SRP will subsidise by paying the tutor's fees and travelling expenses.
- A Workshop does not have to take place on a designated branch meeting date, and can be organised at any time, thought of as an extra meeting within the branch schedule, inviting others in the recorder playing community to join you.
- 13 workshops were held in 2021/ 2022 to date. 8 were delivered by Zoom, and 5 were delivered Face to Face.
- Some topics work really well with an online delivery, and they will continue to be a feature. They are shorter than day-long workshops and can take place at various times during the day or evenings.
- Take the Plunge !! Have a look at the website, decide your topic and BOOK !! Most of all have fun!!

Contact me with any Workshop Queries.

Steph Sutherland

March 2022

Publicity Officer's Report for Conference

Role: Internal publicity: ie disseminating information to members, not publicising the SRP to the wider public (which is also a role ripe for development and being actively discussed by the trustees).

Activities:

1. Commission, collate & edit monthly e-news: recent developments have included the creation of regular features such as the Resource Spotlight; Musings from the Chair; Updates from the Trustees; workshop and recital reviews; other news and updates eg competitions and festivals; plus the chronological list of forthcoming events.

For your information – stats from Mailchimp

Newsletter March 2022 (Copy 13)

1,387 Recipients Audience: SRP members

- Subject: SRP eNews March 2022
- Delivered: Fri, Feb 25, 2022 7:09 pm
 - 871 Opened
 - 203 Clicked
 - 5 Bounced
 - 2 Unsubscribed

Total opens 2,682

- Clicks per unique opens [23.3%](#)
- Total clicks [412](#)
- Abuse reports 0

2. Maintain the Events and Latest News pages on the SRP Website: regularly check for new postings of guest events, edit where necessary, then approve for publication; encourage and support people to use the 'Submit an Event' form. Publicise and encourage the use of the Events pages by both members of SRP and other players, performers and organisations whose activities may be of interest to SRP members.

The Latest News feed is being reviewed since, currently, it doesn't link to the Events pages automatically and the relevant form is not publicly available. Nigel Birch (IT) and Mary have discussed this, but at the moment there are other, more pressing things requiring Nigel's attention on the website. The goal is that anything published on the Events pages will also automatically appear on the Latest News feed.

Mary Tyers March 2022

Walter Bergmann Fund Report

The WBF sub-committee of the SRP administers the fund and meets 3 times a year, usually in February, May and November.

At each meeting we discuss all applications. We agree to provide funds if there is enough financial detail to prove the need for a grant and we deem them to have a case worth supporting within our remit.

During 2021 we again had 10 requests for funding. 9 were approved, one refused. All were for individual recorders, mainly for students about to start, or in the middle of conservatoire courses, needing better instruments to complete their studies.

2 groups who had requested funds in 2020 from the Philip Cole Bursary for workshops in schools, and had funds approved, are intending to use the money in 2022. At the time of writing, (March 2022) one of these has taken place and the funding provided. The other is hoped to take place in the summer term.

With the restoration of playing opportunities, a number of instruments have been sold as well as music. Everything that has been donated will be on 'sale' at the SRP Festival.

With so many recorders given to the fund, it was decided to service only those instruments that needed it. If the instruments play well, they will be offered 'sold as seen' and it will be up to the buyer to pay for a service if they feel it is needed. Many thanks to Barry at the Early Music Shop for taking on one batch during last summer, and to Yuzuru in Cambridge for servicing the second batch.

Moira Usher March 2022

Competition Administrator's Report

Society of Recorder Players / Moeck Solo Recorder Competition 2021

This year of the competition cycle was the finals which took place in November at the London International Festival of Early Music in Blackheath.

The panel was made up of Anna Stegmann (chair), Jan van Hoecke and Emily White (sackbut player with The English Cornett & Sackbut ensemble).

There were still a lot of questions about whether or not the event would go ahead due to COVID – LIFEM would host a festival regardless of whether international audiences could make it but if our finalists or judges couldn't, that would be a problem. Thankfully, this was not the case and apart from possibly audience numbers, a few delayed entries and a lot of panic over COVID tests, I don't think that COVID affected this cycle of the competition at all.

There were 20 entries (compared to 23 in 2017 and 14 in 2019) and included performers from 12 different countries with an age range of 13 to 29.

The judges, as in previous years, did not know any of the details of the performers whilst listening to their entries and only found out who they were after they had picked the finalists.

The 4 finalists were Charlotte Schneider, Martin Bernstein (2019 3rd place), Inès Pina and Daniel Scott.

We had had issues with the venue in 2019, so this year we were back at St. Margaret's which had better facilities but was also further away from the main exhibition and we were the only event at this venue. There was also building work which we did not know about prior to arrival which was a little disruptive during the rehearsal but stopped for the competition itself.

The audience numbers were definitely better than feared and the church certainly did not feel empty but certainly impacted by various restrictions both in the UK and other countries.

All 4 performers and their accompanists presented interesting and varied programmes with the results being as followed:

1st – Charlotte Schneider

2nd – Martin Bernstein

Joint 3rd – Ines Pina and Dan Scott

A worthy winner and I am very much looking forward to the recital in November.

Sarah Langdon March 2022