



# The Society of Recorder Players

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Jonathan Dove

## MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 by Zoom at 10am

### PRESENT:

Jim Grant	Chair	Debbie Nicholas	Trustee
Val Giltrow-Tyler	Secretary	Samuel Constable	Trustee
Erica Crabtree	Treasurer	Rod Callow	Trustee
Penny Clarke	Membership Secretary		
Jill Taylor	Trustee	Alyson Lewin	Musical Adviser
Steph Sutherland	Trustee	Caroline Jones	Musical Adviser

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the SRP Trustees and Musical Advisers.

### 2. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared at the start of the meeting

### 3. Minutes of previous Trustees' meeting

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on October 29th 2022 were approved, subject to a grammatical edit of item 8.5.

**Proposed** Penny Clarke      **Seconded** Jill Taylor      **Carried** unanimously

### 4. Matters arising

4.1 In discussion around the minute for one item discussed in October, the Chair reminded everyone present of the need for confidentiality at certain times, to be balanced by the need for openness where possible.

4.2 The NYRO Chair had asked if SRP Trustees required NYRO to consider any specific criteria when giving consideration to their next grant application. After some discussion it was agreed to request that NYRO submit their grant application as normal next February, and plan to meet with one or more of the other NYRO Trustees at the SRP May Zoom meeting, for mutual discussion around future grants.

4.3 The Treasurer requested whether the first element of the 2022-23 grant should now be paid to NYRO. This was agreed, with the balance due in the spring.

**Proposed** Val Giltrow-Tyler      **Seconded** Jim Grant      **Carried** unanimously

4.4 The Chair reminded Trustees that actions would usually be made as a body of Trustees, rather than individually, although there are occasional situations where an urgent decision might be made by one or more Officers.

## **5. Any other urgent business**

5.1 The Chair and Treasurer had received notice of an increase in the cost of The Recorder Magazine, due to increased printing and postage costs. The Trustees raised no objections to payment of the increased costs, which the Treasurer had approved for the latest issue.

5.2 One Trustee had written to the Chair expressing the concerns of a number of branch members about value for money for their subscriptions. Those members were concerned that a large proportion of their subscription was being spent on a magazine which some of them never open. Although these opinions were reported from just one branch, it was considered worthy of fuller discussion.

5.3 The cost of the magazine per member is now £3.20 per issue, including postage, or 12.80 per annum, and approximately half of the annual membership fee. It would be helpful if the cover clarified that the stated cost (£6) only applies to third-party sales, as per the 2020 Report.

5.4 Some members consider the content of the magazine to be at too academic a level for SRP membership, but were reminded that the magazine is also made available to teachers, professionals and others. In contrast, some Trustees reported that the magazine was currently very popular amongst members of their groups.

5.5 While some branch members may be unaware that the SRP does not control the content of the Magazine, it is part of our charitable work to support the whole of the recorder community. (The 2020 Report suggested that an editorial in the magazine should clarify that it is an independent publication.)

**Action:** Chair to contact the Editor of The Recorder Magazine to discuss the nature of future content.

5.6 Specific concerns were received from a wider range of members about the music included as the Centrespread in more recent issues, which have been less approachable for many branch members. It was noted that the Centrespread piece has changed in nature, and is considered to be of less benefit more recently. The Chair agreed to discuss this with the Centrespread Editor, whilst supporting the inclusion of more novel pieces on occasion.

**Action:** Chair to contact the Centrespread Editor to include more approachable content

5.7 Historical options of a membership without receipt of the Magazine were mentioned, but this is no longer available.

5.8 There was some discussion about the possibility of providing The Recorder Magazine in an electronic version, rather than as a printed magazine. This could allow the content to be more regular and current, and hence more relevant, and perhaps more attractive to younger players. Although it could disadvantage some readers with limited technology, this option should be given due consideration. Help would be needed to understand what such a proposal would involve.

5.9 The SRP Officers were tasked with producing an explanation of what the membership subscription covers, which would be sent to all members.

**Action:** Secretary to arrange an Officers' meeting to produce a suitable document.

## **6. Update from the Treasurer**

6.1 The Treasurer reported that the accounts have been completed and sent to the auditor.

6.2 The Treasurer was thanked for her work managing the SRP finances.

## **7. Update from the Secretary**

- 7.1 The Secretary had submitted a report on various administrative matters.
- 7.2 The report referred to feedback from the Chair of the NYRO Trustees, following the October meeting, suggesting that other NYRO Trustees might attend an SRP Trustees' meeting next year.
- 7.3 The report included material sent from Sarah Langdon, as Competitions Administrator, about the recent recital, and plans for the next cycle.
- 7.4 An additional proposal had been received for nomination as Honorary Life Members of the Society; awarded for persons who have given distinguished service to the Society. It was agreed that Moira and Mark Usher would be proposed at Conference. The Chair will confirm that they are willing to accept.

The Secretary was thanked for her work.

## **8. Update from the Membership Secretary**

- 8.1 The Membership Secretary reported that the current membership has risen to 1,187, with 26 groups now affiliated.
- 8.2 Penny also reported from the SRP table at the London International Festival of Early Music, which had been worthwhile, and fun to be part of. She was helped by Ulli Burchette, Maria Lemonidou and Helen Spencer during the 3-day Festival. A small table will be adequate in future years.

Penny and her LIFEM team were thanked for all their hard work.

## **9. Update from the Workshop Co-ordinator**

- 9.1 The Workshop Co-ordinator referred to a number of upcoming workshops, and some new ones which are being planned.

## **10. Report from the Walter Bergmann Fund**

- 10.1 The WBF Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- 10.2 Monies are gradually being paid out for grants recently agreed.
- 10.3 The WBF Chair, Jill Taylor, and WBF Secretary, Debbie Nicholas, are in good contact, ensuring smooth running of the processes.

The WBF team were thanked for their ongoing work.

## **11. Review of membership subscriptions (deferred from October)**

- 11.1 There was agreement that sudden, large increases are not acceptable, and smaller, more frequent increases are the way forward when possible.
- 11.2 The Treasurer reported that no extra income is required at present. Increasing costs of Pastoral Visits can be covered by reserves accrued during and before the pandemic.
- 11.3 The Trustees had considered an increase in the central subscription rate in October, but now agreed to leave this at the current level for a further year (2023-4).

**Proposed** Erica Crabtree      **Seconded** Val Giltrow-Tyler

## **12. Conference and Festival 2023**

12.1 The current Trustees consented to stay in post for the next year, and Rod, as a co-opted member, is prepared to be proposed as a substantive Trustee. Branches will be invited to submit other nominees.

12.2 The Festival committee is now taking bookings.

12.3 The Chair reported that the Festival is one of the items that may be included in the Early Music Shop "Recorder Yearbook", along with the SRP/Moeck Competition.

### **13. Conference and Festival 2024**

13.1 Caroline Jones will be doing some more planning towards this event in the New Year.

### **14. External Publicity**

14.1 The Secretary reminded Trustees that there are two useful documents; a draft description of duties from the Publicity Working Group, and a draft specification from Sarah Langdon, who has previously been an SRP Publicity Officer. These documents could be amalgamated, and placed in a future edition of e-News, requesting expressions of interest.

14.2 A publicity officer would not be employed by SRP, but could be contracted to provide a service for a fee.

14.3 It was suggested that the Musical Advisers may have some ideas about suitable, younger, people who could carry out this work for the SRP.

14.4 The role of the Publicity Officer would include some responsibility for social media, but it may be helpful to have individuals with an interest in each medium.

14.5 The Treasurer suggested that it would be helpful to identify an individual who could take this process of finding a publicity officer forward. Lack of time prevented any further considerations.

### **15. Contents of website**

15.1 The Secretary had collated and circulated some comments from Trustees, listing the likes and dislikes of the current website. Lack of time prevented any discussion, and the topic was deferred to the February meeting.

### **16. Dates and venues of future meetings**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Aztec West, Bristol, all day

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 4pm for 4.30pm SRP Conference, George Watson's College, Edinburgh

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May by Zoom

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July in-person, possibly at Aztec West, Bristol, all day

The meeting closed at 12.04