



# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Jonathan Dove  
Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, 22nd April 2022

Ipswich

### PRESENT;

#### *Committee and Musical Advisers;*

Chair	Jim Grant	Musical Adviser	Helen Hooker
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler	Musical Adviser	Pamela Flanagan
Treasurer	Erica Crabtree	Musical Adviser	Alyson Lewin
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke	Musical Adviser	Caroline Jones
Trustee	Mary Tyers	Musical Adviser	Sandra Foxall
Trustee	Jill Taylor		
Trustee	Stephanie Sutherland	<i>For part of the meeting</i>	
Trustee	Deborah Nicholas	Musical Adviser	Moira Usher

#### *Branch Delegates*

Bath	Jean Reynolds	Lincolnshire	Rodney Callow
Beds and North Herts	Gill Mitchell	Manchester	Jenn Stanley
Birmingham	Caroline Jones	Mid Herts	Sue Cross
Bristol	Rachel Mason	Newcastle	Joyce Watts
Cambridge	Charles Nisbet	Norfolk	John Fenn
Cheltenham and Gloucester	Catherine Part	North London	Katie Stone
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Nuneaton	Joan Gibson
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Oxford	Tina Friedrich
Durham	Helen Poole	Roxburgh	Joyce Watts
East Berkshire	Bridget Bentley	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Edinburgh	Anne Martin	South London	Sheila Richards
Essex	Annelies Wing-Wirth	South Staffordshire	Alyson Lewin
Guildford	Harriet Oliver	Suffolk	Christine Westren
Ireland	Annette Akinrinde	Warwick	Helen Jones
Leicester	Julie Houlton	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson

#### *Observers*

Nuneaton	Elaine Lawrence	Ireland	Ciara Flanagan
	Ulli Burchette		

## 1. Welcome – Apologies for Absence - In Memoriam

1.1. Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting at 2.30 pm by welcoming delegates from 30 branches, SRP Trustees, Musical Advisers, and others, to the first in-person Conference since 2019. It was lovely to see so many recorder players together after such a long time.

1.2. In Memoriam: The Chairman noted the passing of Alan Davis, a recently appointed SRP Vice-President. Mary Tyers read out a short tribute.

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

- Beryl Allen – Honorary Life Member
- Margaret Davies – Guildford Branch
- Mary Green – Somerset Branch
- Ellen Kirby – Suffolk Branch
- Mary Stamp – Suffolk Branch
- Douglas Hobbs – Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch
- Roy Simons – Essex Branch
- Margaret Simons – Essex Branch
- Alan Hayward – Macclesfield Branch
- Jane Ward – Lincolnshire Branch
- Viv Coglan – Cornwall
- Norman Crampin – Lincolnshire Branch
- Christine Rolt – Dorset Branch
- Jenny Hakney – Rombalds Recorders
- Eileen Godier – South Downs

1.4. Apologies for absence were received from;

- Branches: Aberdeen, Cumbria, Devon, Dorset, Glasgow, Hillfoots, London, Macclesfield, North Cotswold, Orkney, Peterborough, Sheffield, South Downs, Wales, Wessex, West Riding, York Guildhall
- Vice-Presidents: Tom Beets, Tim Cranmore, Sarah Jeffreys, Philip Thorby
- Role Holders: Josee Beeson (Personal Membership Secretary), Nigel Birch (Web Editor), Sarah Langdon (Competition Administrator), Tessa Rolph (Gift Aid Administrator), Colin Touchin (Musical Adviser)
- Honorary Life Members: John Allen, Andrew Collis, Graham Danbury, Alistair Read, Bob Whitmarsh.

## 2. Minutes of Conference 2021

**Resolution;** The meeting approved the acceptance of the minutes of Conference held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

**Carried** unanimously

## 3. There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.

#### 4. Reports from Officers

The Reports had been previously circulated to delegates.

- 4.1. In addition to his formal report, the Chair updated the delegates on the changes to the webedit team, and thanked Tina Friedrich for her work in this role until standing down last year. Nigel Birch now manages the webedit team, comprising himself and Susan McLarty, Debbie Nicholas, Mary Tyers and with help from Anthony Hall.
- 4.2. The Secretary showed copies of the *Guidance Notes for Branches*, and the *Pastoral Visitors List*, for those delegates who were unfamiliar with these documents. She will be asking Trustees to consider extending the period during which the additional Pastoral Visits can be arranged, knowing that many branches have had particular problems arranging these within the original time frame.
- 4.3. The Treasurer wished to register her thanks to Ulli Burchette during the learning process of taking over the Treasurer's role. The year being reported upon was an unusually quiet one. She noted a typo error for the GiftAid income in the Arthur Ingram Fund, which should refer to 2019-20. Erica also noted that the large amount showing in the Walter Bergmann Fund does include £10,000 of the Philip Cole Bursary. Donations to WBF are always welcome, to keep this fund healthy.
- 4.4. The Treasurer stated that the accounts will be simplified in terms of describing the different funds, in next year's accounts.
- 4.5. The Chair added his thanks to Ulli.
- 4.6. The Treasurer explained that the Performing Rights Society submissions that SRP have previously made through Making Music were found to be not applicable for online performances. A one-off Online Limited Music License was purchased instead from central funds, with no claim made back to the branches involved for the last year.
- 4.7. Joan Gibson from Nuneaton enquired about the need for dual signatories on branch accounts. This led to a wider discussion about branch bank accounts, following on from that between the SRP Treasurer and branch treasurers earlier in the year. Most banks allow online banking, but most are only set up for one signatory. More banks are now charging fees. It was acknowledged that changing mandates, or opening new accounts can be very cumbersome and time-consuming.
- 4.8. Various safeguarding methods for payments made by one signatory were aired, such as seeking approval before setting up a new payee, or for larger payments. Other branch officers can usually be given viewing access for such purposes. As branch accounts are required to be audited, and branch accounts themselves generally contain small amounts, there should be no need to anticipate problems.
- 4.9. The SRP Branch Rules state that "*all payments from the Branch's accounts shall be made by such persons being not less than two in number and in a manner as the Branch Committee shall from time to time authorise.*" This is also considered good practice by the charity regulators. As online accounts allowing dual authorisation without fees are hard to find, the Trustees were tasked with considering a review of this Rule.

**Resolution;** The meeting approved the acceptance of the accounts for 2020/2021.

**Carried** unanimously

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

**Carried** unanimously

- 4.10. Penny Clarke added to her report as Membership Secretary, by reporting an additional 12 members.
- 4.11. The Membership Secretary explained that the role of Personal Membership Secretary (previously known as Country and Overseas Membership) has now been combined with that of the Membership Secretary, as Josee Beeson has tendered her resignation.
- 4.12. The Chair thanked Josee Beeson for her work in this role, in her absence.
- 4.13. The Membership Secretary thanked those who had been able to contribute towards the review of the new membership list, and mentioned that she had membership cards available for those who required them.
- 4.14. Stephanie Sutherland, as Workshop Co-ordinator encouraged more branches to consider hosting SRP Workshops, and to offer suggestions of new topics and new tutors.
- 4.15. In her publicity role Mary Tyers noted that e-News has more subscribers than the SRP membership, and encouraged more members to sign up to the e-News, and to the Events updates, which are easily done from the SRP website.
- 4.16. Helen Hooker enquired if an additional option could be added to the online member application process to encourage subscription to e-News.
- 4.17. Mary thanked those who had contributed to e-News, and encouraged the submission of reviews of events for inclusion in future editions of e-News, to help spread the word about activities.
- 4.18. Mike Wilkinson, from Weald of Kent, stated how useful he found the e-News.
- 4.19. The Chair thanked Mary for her work as a Trustee, and with the publicity, and reported that the Trustees are looking at ways of handling external publicity more effectively.
- 4.20. Moira Usher, as Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund sub-committee, reminded delegates that applicants to WBF must prove that they cannot afford to buy an instrument before their application can be considered.
- 4.21. Grants are also available to spend on organising recorder activities that meet the criteria.
- 4.22. Delegates were encouraged to browse the large display of donated instruments, to help the funds, and so ensure that more grants can be made available.

4.23. Sarah Langdon had submitted a report on the SRP/Moeck Solo Recorder Competition; there were no questions from the floor.

## 5. Election of Trustees

5.1. The Chair explained that the Officers were elected for a 5 year term in 2021, and all remain in post. Three of the Trustees have completed one term as a Trustee, and are eligible to stand again.

5.2. Stephanie Sutherland has completed one term as a Trustee, and is standing for election for a second term.

**Proposed:** Jim Grant (Mid Herts)      **Seconded:** Chris Jones (East Berkshire)

**Resolution;** The delegates approved the re-appointment of Stephanie as a Trustee.  
**Carried** unanimously.

5.3. Jill Taylor has completed one term as a Trustee, and is standing for election for a second term.

**Proposed:** David Powell (Personal member)      **Seconded:** Joyce Watts (Newcastle)

**Resolution;** The delegates approved the re-appointment of Jill as a Trustee.  
**Carried** unanimously.

5.4. Mary Tyers has chosen not to continue as a Trustee, but is prepared to continue in her publicity role. This leaves one Trustee vacancy, for which there has been no nomination. The Trustees can co-opt a member during the year.

5.5. 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	Deborah Nicholas, Samuel Constable – to 2026
Trustees	Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor – to 2027

5.6. 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
Publicity	Mary Tyers
Web editor	Nigel Birch
Workshop Co-ordinator	Stephanie Sutherland

## 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 Helen Hooker as an additional Vice President, in recognition of her enormous contribution to the profile of the recorder, through her work as a tutor, conductor, composer and musical adviser to the SRP. Her consort play-along downloads have reached an international audience.

**Resolution;** The delegates approved the appointment of Helen as a new Vice President.  
**Carried** unanimously

6.2 Honorary Life Membership is awarded to those who have given distinguished service to the Society.

The Trustees propose the appointment of Janice Ormerod as an additional Honorary Life Member, in recognition of her commitment to the recorder world, through her work with the Stockport Recorder College and elsewhere.

**Resolution;** The delegates approved the appointment of Janice as a new Honorary Life Member. **Carried** unanimously.

6.3 The Trustees had identified an anomaly in the household membership fees. The Membership Secretary explained the background and described the problems caused by this anomaly. A proposal to bring the personal household membership fee into line with the central component of the branch membership fee had been made by the Trustees.

**Resolution;** The meeting approved the standardisation of the household fee, so that the fee for a household membership for personal members matches that for the central component of the fee for household members joining through a branch.  
**Carried** unanimously.

6.4 The Chair confirmed that Trustees could discuss the relative value and cost of household membership centrally before clarifying at branch level.

## 7. Future Festivals

7.1 Anne Martin confirmed that the next SRP Festival will take place in Edinburgh on 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023, at George Watson's College, the date being governed by availability of suitable accommodation. A flyer was made available to all present.

7.2 The Chair invited other branches to consider running a Festival in 2024, possibly in conjunction with a neighbouring branch.

## 8. Any Other Business

8.1 The Chair told the delegates that the Trustees would be considering whether the Conference could be run electronically in future years, after the in-person Conference already planned for 2023. This would require a change to the Constitution, which would require approval at the 2023 Conference. A discussion followed about the possible effect on attendance.

8.2 The Chair gave his opinion that a blended Conference was the worst of both worlds.

8.3 Annette Akinrinde (Ireland) welcomed the personal interaction at an in-person Conference.

8.4 Tina Friedrich (Oxford) noted that an electronic Conference would probably be held on a different date to the Festival, requiring a change in organisation of both events.

8.5 The Chair agreed that an electronic Conference would provide a cost saving to Central funds.

8.6 Sandra Foxall (Cleveland) asked where all the young people were, and would they be more likely to attend an electronic Conference.

8.7 In response to a question from Pamela Flanagan (Musical Adviser), it was noted that 30 branches were represented in person this year, and (*incorrectly*) reported that all branches took part in the 2021 virtual Conference.

*It was later confirmed by the Secretary that in fact only 43 branches were represented.*

8.8 The Treasurer observed that travelling to Conference takes time, and the usual formalities can be covered by an online meeting.

8.9 Anne Martin (Edinburgh) observed that Conference had previously been held on a Sunday, but had attracted no more young members.

8.10 Katie Stone (North London) noted that she had only previously attended the electronic Conference, and had a long drive in order to attend this year, but she had gained from the content of the meeting and being in the room with others this year.

8.11 Ciara Flanagan (Ireland) asked if an electronic meeting could be recorded, to allow others to observe how matters are dealt with, which might encourage young people to contribute in the future.

8.12 Anne Martin asked the Trustees to consider a formal meeting by electronic means, together with a Festival meeting of delegate discussions.

8.13 Jenn Stanley (Manchester) felt that the electronic Conference had worked well last year, and asked if there were any technical issues, as all branches had showed that they had the technology to take part.

8.14 Joyce Watts (Newcastle) thought it was important that the Festival provided as much playing time as possible, and a Conference during the Festival weekend would cut into this.

8.15 Alyson Lewin (Musical Adviser) provided some historical context, explaining that the Festival was first developed to provide more for the delegates and partners to do whilst travelling for the Conference. It has now taken on a life of its own.

8.16 The Chair confirmed that these opinions will be discussed by the Trustees.

8.17 Joyce Rudall (Somerset) reminded the Secretary to consider the number of Pastoral Visits available to branches for the coming years.

The Chairman thanked all for their participation and closed the Conference at 4.40 pm

It is the intention of the Trustees that the next Conference will be on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, in Edinburgh.