



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Jonathan Dove
Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 31st March 2023
Tynecastle Stadium, Edinburgh

PRESENT;

Committee and Musical Advisers;

Chair	Jim Grant	Musical Adviser and Vice President	Helen Hooker
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler		
Treasurer	Erica Crabtree	Musical Adviser	Pamela Flanagan
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke	Musical Adviser	Alyson Lewin
Trustee	Stephanie Sutherland	Musical Adviser	Caroline Jones
Trustee	Jill Taylor	Musical Adviser	Sandra Foxall
Co-opted Trustee	Rod Callow		

Branch Delegates

Birmingham	Ruth Churn	Leicester	Sophie Gray
Bristol	Rachel Mason	Lincolnshire	(Rodney Callow)
Cambridge	Liz Bassett	Manchester	Jenn Stanley
Cheltenham and Gloucester	(Erica Crabtree)	Mid Herts	Cheryl Hale
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Newcastle	Joyce Watts
Cumbria	George Thorp	Nuneaton	Joan Gibson
Dorset	Ruth Pealing	Orkney	Mary Doyle
Durham	Judith Hills	Roxburgh	Mary Bonsor
East Berkshire	Bridget Bentley	Sheffield	Jill Lauriston
Edinburgh	Catriona Hillhouse	South London	Sheila Richards
Essex	Ingrid Black	South Staffordshire	Wendy Shepperson
Glasgow	Heather Read	Wales	Ann Davison
Guildford	Sheila Bray	Warwick	Helen Jones
Ireland	Jane Fry	West Riding	Linda Fisk

Observers

Ireland	Ciara Flanagan	Nuneaton	Marion Hart
	Ulli Burchette		

1. Welcome – Apologies for Absence - In Memoriam

1.1. Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting at 4.30 pm by welcoming delegates from 28 branches, SRP Trustees, Musical Advisers, and observers, to the Conference. He referred to the difficulty of having to relocate the Conference at short notice, and thanked the local committee for their assistance with this.

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

- Diana Asbridge – Somerset
- Christopher Ball – arranger and conductor
- Gwen Bragg - Nottingham
- Viva Good – Edinburgh
- Robert Hoffman – Birmingham
- Jessica Lennon – Ireland
- Joyce Mason – Peterborough
- Joyce Motley – Hillfoots
- Emma Murphy – performer and tutor
- Robert Muston – Bristol
- Wendy Pettitt – Birmingham and SRP Visiting Conductor
- John Robinson – Peterborough
- Dick Russell – Birmingham
- Michael Sharman – Cambridge
- Helen Stuart – Edinburgh
- Colin Touchin – Musical Adviser
- Keith Walmsley – Suffolk
- Bernard Westren – Suffolk
- John Wexler – Edinburgh
- Marcus Zahnhausen – composer

1.3. Apologies for absence were received from;

- Our President, Jonathan Dove
- Vice-Presidents; Piers Adams, Tom Beets, Tim Cranmore, Sarah Jeffery, Evelyn Nallen, Philip Thorby, John Turner
- Trustees; Deborah Nicholas, Samuel Constable
- Musical Advisers; Evelyn Nallen, Moira Usher
- Role Holders; Sarah Bronnert (Competition Administrator), Tessa Rolph (Gift Aid Administrator)
- Branches: Aberdeen, Bath, Beds & N.Herts, Cornwall, Devon, Hillfoots, Kent, London, Macclesfield, North Cotswold, North London, Nottingham, Oxford, Somerset, Suffolk, Weald of Kent, Wessex, York Guildhall
- Honorary Life Members: Ashley Allerton, Andrew Collis, Andrew Mayes, Graham Danbury, Anthony Hall, Jeanette Hipsey, Janice Ormerod, Alistair Read, Bob Whitmarsh

2. Minutes of Conference 2022

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the minutes of Conference held on 22nd April 2022 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Jill Taylor **Seconded:** Alyson Lewin **Carried** unanimously

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

4. Reports from Officers

Most of the reports had been previously circulated to delegates.

Chair

- 4.1. In addition to his formal report, the Chair said that it was important that delegates take the opportunity to ask the officers and post-holders questions, in the main meeting, or in the informal session afterwards, should they wish to do so.

Secretary

- 4.2. The Secretary said how lovely it was to see everyone, and encouraged delegates to come and chat during the weekend.
- 4.3. Copies of the *Guidance Notes for Branches*, and the *Pastoral Visitors List*, were available for those delegates who were unfamiliar with these documents.
- 4.4. The Secretary updated the section of her report about Pastoral Visits, to report that some branches have been able to combine events, in some cases with a neighbouring branch. Orkney branch have organised a 3-day event, of 2 back-to-back playing days, combined with a conducting workshop.
- 4.5. The Secretary wished to acknowledge the invaluable help of the webteam.
- 4.6. Delegates, and representatives of affiliated groups, were asked to collect their copies of the SRP Festival commissioned music, to take back with them.
- 4.7. The Secretary concluded her report by reporting that she will be standing down at the 2024 Conference, this being prompted by the amount of her time that the job takes. Therefore, there will be a vacancy for that role in a year's time.
- 4.8. A vote of thanks was made to the Secretary for her work over the last 2 years.

Proposed: Pamela Flanagan **Seconded:** Stephanie Sutherland **Carried unanimously**

Treasurer

- 4.9. The Treasurer wished to report that the accounts on the website would be replaced by the CC17a document, which expresses the same details in a better format. She was happy to take any questions.
- 4.10. The Treasurer explained that this was the first set of accounts with a return to playing, which is reflected in the finances, and, in summary, this has been a good year.

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the accounts for 2021/2022.

Proposed: Helen Hooker **Seconded:** Rod Callow **Carried unanimously**

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

- 4.11. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her work during the year.

Membership

- 4.12. Penny Clarke added to her report as Membership Secretary, by reporting that membership was now at 1,290, and suggested that branches should encourage regular visitors to consider joining, to boost membership numbers further.
- 4.13. On-line membership is now available at branch level, and was encouraged.
- 4.14. The Chair thanked the Membership Secretary for her work during the year.

Workshops

- 4.15. Stephanie Sutherland, as Workshop Co-ordinator encouraged more branches to consider hosting SRP Workshops, and observed that those who do organise workshops are the “movers and shakers” of the Society.
- 4.16. An updated list of the current workshops available was provided for delegates to take back to their branches, with encouragement to check the website for full details.
- 4.17. Steph encouraged members to submit ideas for new workshop topics.

Publicity

- 4.18. In her publicity role Mary Tyers explained her role, and noted that e-News has more subscribers than the SRP membership, and asked delegates to take back the message “if you don’t subscribe, why not?”
- 4.19. E-News helps the charity with its outreach objective, with over 60% of the circulation opening the newsletter, and with embedded links being opened regularly.
- 4.20. Mary encouraged submission of Events on the SRP webpage through “*Submit an Event*”, which, once moderated, creates an entry in the Events List, in Latest News, and into the e-News listing. This is becoming a useful place to look for all recorder-related activities. Professional groups are increasingly submitting events.
- 4.21. Ulli Burchette encouraged branch events to be submitted, to help with inclusion on her events list which comes out as an insert to *The Recorder Magazine*, and is of particular interest to non-computer users.
- 4.22. Mary and Steph reminded branch delegates that it is a requirement of organising an SRP workshop to submit this as an event on the website.
- 4.23. Mary encouraged anyone attending an event that was not a routine branch meeting to consider submitting a brief report for e-News, to spread the word about ideas and opportunities. It is not possible to include photographs.
- 4.24. The Chair and Mary referred to her role as “internal” publicity, and the need to appoint someone to help with the external publicity.
- 4.25. The Chair thanked Mary for her work with the publicity.

Walter Bergmann Fund

- 4.26. Jill Taylor, as Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund sub-committee, reported that in discussion with a member she found they did not know that the Walter Bergmann Fund was anything to do with SRP.
- 4.27. Sandra Foxall reminded delegates that Walter Bergmann was a co-founder of SRP.
- 4.28. Delegates were encouraged to spread the word at branch level, and to consider donations to the fund. It is vital to encourage those who will become the professionals of the future.
- 4.29. Delegates were encouraged to browse the large display of donated instruments and music, to help the funds, and so ensure that more grants can be made available.
- 4.30. Jill reminded delegates that applicants to WBF must prove that they cannot afford to buy an instrument before their application can be considered.
- 4.31. The WBF committee were thanked for their commitment.

Competition

- 4.32. Sarah Langdon had submitted a report on the SRP/Moeck Solo Recorder Competition; there were no questions from the floor.
- 4.33. The Chair encouraged members to attend the competition, at the London International Festival of early Music in November.

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.
- 5.2. Rod Callow had been co-opted after the 2022 Conference, and was willing to stand as a substantive Trustee.

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of Rod as a Trustee.

Elected unopposed.

5.3. Accordingly, the full list of Trustees is as follows;

Chair	Jim Grant – to 2026
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler – to 2024
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
Trustee	Rod Callow – to 2028

5.4. Other named posts are held by;

Competition Administration	Sarah Langdon
Gift Aid Administrator	Tessa Rolph
News Editor	Jean Campbell
Publicity	Mary Tyers
Walter Bergmann Fund Chair	Jill Taylor
Walter Bergmann Fund Administrator	Deborah Nicholas
Web editor	Nigel Birch
Webteam member	Susan McLarty
Workshop Co-ordinator	Stephanie Sutherland

6. Resolutions

- 6.1. Honorary Life Membership is awarded to those who have given distinguished service to the Society. The Trustees propose the appointment of five additional Honorary Life Members.
- 6.1.1.** Ulli Burchette, in recognition of her services to SRP, and in particular her extended term of service as SRP National Treasurer, from 2006 to 2021.
- 6.1.2.** April Munday, in recognition of her services to SRP, and in particular for taking on the role of the Secretary at a difficult time.

6.1.3. Mary Bonsor, in recognition of her involvement with SRP since 1961, as a co-founder of the West Riding branch, and holding officer posts at Roxburgh, as well as a conductor at all the Scottish recorder weekends.

6.1.4. Moira and Mark Usher, in recognition of their unstinting support for the Walter Bergmann Fund, raising thousands of pounds for the fund over the years which has enabled many youngsters to purchase instruments and receive lessons which they would have otherwise been unable to access.

6.1.5. Several delegates spoke in support of these nominations.

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of these five new Honorary Life Members. **Carried** unanimously, with one abstention.

6.2. During lock-down, the charity regulators allowed meetings by electronic means, for a limited period. That exemption no longer applies, so, in order to retain the ability to do this again, should it be deemed necessary, the Trustees propose a modification of the Rules**, by inserting the following text into section 10, between 10.2 and 10.3

Participation in meetings by electronic means

(a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the SRP Trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

(b) Anyone entitled to participate in a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the SRP Trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

(c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

6.2.1. The Chair explained that the e-Conference had worked well when there was no other option, and an electronic meeting was more likely to be quorate.

6.2.2. In response to a question the Treasurer confirmed that the proposal would ensure that the online option would be acceptable, should it become necessary, and that there are no current plans to take this option.

6.2.3. Pamela Flanagan questioned whether it was the Rules or the Constitution that required updating, and suggested that Trustees should be tasked with implementing the changes in the appropriate manner. The Chair undertook to arrange to modify the Constitution to implement these changes, and voting on the resolution took place on that understanding.

***It was subsequently confirmed that the proposed text was to be added to the Constitution, not the Rules, which was a typographical error. [VGT 1/4/2023]*

Resolution; the suggested text was approved by delegates
Carried unanimously

- 6.3. In response to a question that had been submitted about holding a blended Conference in future years, the current Chair stated that he would be unhappy to chair a blended Conference, although others might be prepared to do so. There would be costs involved in a blended Conference, possibly substantial ones. Several delegates contributed their experiences of blended meetings mainly from their workplaces, most of which had been less than satisfactory. The SRP is unlikely to use blended Conferences in the near future.
- 6.4. In response to a report of confusion between the location for the Conference and the Festival, it was confirmed that this meeting is a Conference, rather than an Annual General Meeting, as only branch delegates, and SRP officials, can vote, not individual members.

7. Future Festivals

- 7.1. Caroline Jones confirmed that the next SRP Festival will take place in Monmouth on March 22nd to 24th 2024, at Monmouth Haberdashers' School, the date being governed by availability of suitable accommodation. A flyer was made available to all present, and Caroline described some of the features she hoped to include.
- 7.2. The Chair invited other branches to consider running a Festival in 2025, possibly in conjunction with a neighbouring branch. There can be financial benefits for branches running a Festival.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1. In response to a question submitted before Conference, the Chair explained that the current web team are settling in, and working with Trustees on various problems with maintaining and improving the website.
- 8.2. In response to a question from the floor, Trustees confirmed that there will be no increase in central SRP subscriptions for the forthcoming year. The subscription rate is reviewed by Trustees annually, at the autumn meeting.

The Chairman thanked all for their participation and closed the Conference at 6.11pm, and invited delegates and observers to stay on for informal discussions with SRP officials.

It is the intention of the Trustees that the next Conference will be on Friday 22nd March 2024, in Monmouth.