



# The Society of Recorder Players

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Jonathan Dove

## MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 by Zoom at 9.30 am

### PRESENT:

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

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the SRP Trustees and Musical Advisers. Apologies were received from Alyson Lewin.

### 2. Conflicts of Interest

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

### 3. Report of the SRP 2023 of Conference and Festival

3.1 An initial draft of the minutes of the Conference held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 had been circulated to delegates for comments. The Chair asked for amendment to elements 4.1 and 4.7, which will be modified before going onto the website as version 3 of the draft.

3.2 The venue for Conference had to be re-arranged at short notice, but proved to be suitable.

3.3 Following concerns expressed at the February Trustees' meeting, the number of branches represented at Conference rose, to reach a quorum, although not an excess.

3.3 The opportunity for informal discussions at the end of the business meeting was popular.

3.4 The Festival had been very successful, and the organisers had been thanked. The accounts are being finalised, and there is likely to be a surplus. Some suggestions were made for the 2024 event.

### 4. Minutes of previous Trustees' meeting

4.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on February 26th 2023 were approved.

**Proposed** Erica Crabtree      **Seconded** Steph Sutherland      **Carried** unanimously

### 5. Matters arising

5.1 Item 6.1 The Trustees' Report and accounts have been successfully uploaded onto the charity regulators' websites.

5.2 Item 7.2 The 3-day event on Orkney, comprising two Playing Days and a conducting workshop had been very successful. The Orkney branch secretary sent a note to express their appreciation of the Trustees' support for the event, as a small and rather remote branch.

5.3 Item 7.4 The website link to Tabea Debus's *Continuo Lines* is now added as a resource.

5.4 Item 7.5 Two Musical Advisers have recommended that Harriet Oliver be added to the SRP List of Pastoral Visitors, and Naomi Wellings has also been approved at a recent conducting session. The Trustees approved the addition of both names to the list.

**Action:** Secretary to add Harriet and Naomi to the list, and inform branch secretaries.

5.5 Item 11.3 The Secretary had been in touch with the NYRO Administrator about the NYRO grants, to confirm that the second half of the 2021-2 grant had been authorised with no matched funding required, but requesting that they let Trustees know in February 2024 what other funding they had tried to source, and how successful they had been. The agreement of a grant of £3,000 to maintain access to all during a cost-of-living crisis was reported.

5.6 Item 15.1 The request for some support with maintenance of the membership system has raised some interest, with meetings taking place with Anthony Hall to explain to interested members what is required.

5.7 Item 15.3 The essential elements to be included on branch websites were sent out to all branch secretaries in March, as requested.

## **6. Any other urgent business – *The Recorder Magazine***

6.1 The Chair had forwarded a letter from Jerry Burbidge alerting Trustees of a proposed increase in the cost of providing future issues of *The Recorder Magazine* to members, due to increased postal and other costs. He explained some of the history, when it was agreed that all members would receive a copy, allowing the production costs to be kept down. However, the current cost to members is unsustainable for the publishers.

6.2 Trustees discussed the possibility of providing an electronic version of the magazine to those who wished to receive that, while recognising that this may not produce the savings some might expect. Further information is awaited. Bulk distribution via branch meetings was suggested, but is less practical, and will result in delayed receipt for many members.

6.3 It was agreed that the postage costs are out of our control, and that the current increase in price should be accepted for the autumn issue.

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

6.4 The Treasurer confirmed that the increased costs would inform the annual review of membership subscription values at the autumn meeting of SRP Trustees. Any increase would be presented to delegates at the 2024 Conference, to take effect in September 2024.

6.5 Jean Campbell had sent a report informing Trustees of the plans for the SRP News pages in the next issue, which sound very interesting. She enquired about a missing link to *The Recorder Magazine* page on the SRP website, and the lack of recent news itself on that page.

**Action:** Secretary to thank Jean for her inspiring pages and her support

**Action:** Secretary to follow up the enquiry about the web pages and hyperlink.

6.6 Following a recent SRP workshop that had been attended by non-members as well as members, there was an enquiry about whether a non-member could submit information for the SRP pages of *The Recorder Magazine*. The Trustees confirmed that contributions are welcome from anyone participating in such an event, fulfilling a commitment to the charity regulators, at the editor's discretion and assuming space is available.

## **7. Update from the Treasurer**

7.1 The Treasurer presented the bank balances, with a summary of financial activity.

7.2 A summary of income and expenditure from the Walter Bergmann Fund showed that grants are being paid out in excess of the donations coming in. Jill Taylor confirmed that the WBF committee are restricted to spending no more than one third of the fund within a year, without recourse to permission from the Trustees.

7.3 The Treasurer proposed that Penny Clarke should be added to the mandate for payments from the SRP CAF account, to provide more flexibility in the absence of another authoriser. The four officers would arrange a rota that suits all.

**Proposed** Erica Crabtree      **Seconded** Jim Grant      Carried unanimously

7.4 In order to facilitate Festival payments in and out, the Treasurer proposed an ongoing Festival bank account, with the signatories being updated between Festivals, when the balance would be zero. The Trustees were asked to give authority to the Treasurer for a Festival account to be set up, under the auspices of the SRP.

**Proposed** Erica Crabtree      **Seconded** Jim Grant      Carried unanimously

7.5 The Treasurer noted that 21 players had entered the SRP/Moeck Solo Recorder Competition.

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

8.1 The Secretary had circulated a report on various administrative matters, and updated Trustees on some of these matters at the meeting.

**Action:** Secretary to inform SRP members about the Benslow Music Trust instrument loan scheme

8.2 The Trustees approved a suggestion by Helen Hooker to make downloads of the *Bravo Bonsor* recording via her website.

8.3 The Trustees approved a proposal from the Secretary to move the information about the "allbranches" group e-mail address from the website front page into the page which has a detailed list of office holders and committee members, this being prompted by a number of messages sent out inappropriately to all the branch contacts, rather than directed to a named individual.

**Action:** Secretary to move the text, and inform all branch contacts and SRP officials.

8.4 The Secretary pointed out that the LIFEM Festival will take place 8-11<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with the recorder competition on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed that having a table provides good publicity, with a mention in the programme. As Penny would not be available to co-ordinate and man the SRP table this year, other volunteers, and an overall co-ordinator will be required.

8.5 The Secretary reported that Sarah Bronnert may require some help clearing the scene after the competition, which takes place at LIFEM.

## **9. Festival 2024**

9.1 Caroline updated the Trustees with plans for the next Festival, in Haberdashers' Monmouth School, between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

9.2 Ten conductors have confirmed their availability for the Festival already. Trustees provided anecdotal evidence of the difficulties in moving from one session to another within the time allowed at Edinburgh, and Caroline's team will take this into account in planning the programme.

9.3 A ceilidh band has been booked for Saturday evening, and separate booking will be required for that.

9.4 The Conference will take place on the Friday afternoon, probably between 4.30 and 6.30, and will be followed by a supper and some combined playing.

## **10. Planning towards next SRP President**

10.1 The Chair explained that Jonathan Dove's appointment was initially made for 7 years, and, at that time, this was set up with the possibility of one renewal for a further 7 year term.

10.2 The Trustees were asked to consider the requirements of a President. Consideration could be given to asking one of the Vice-Presidents to step up as our President for a term, and then reverting to a Vice-President.

**Action:** Secretary to add to the next agenda

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

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July in-person, Bristol venue to be confirmed, all day

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September by Zoom

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November or Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, by Zoom

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in person.

The meeting closed at 1.05pm