

Amalgamated reports to SRP Trustees November 2023

Treasurer's Report on income and expenditure

31st October 2023			
Income			
Subs	COS	2,708.50	
	Groups	1,200.00	
	Branches	10,217.50	17
Donations	WBF	2,262.20	
	NYRO	343.00	
	Central	215.00	
	CDs	20.00	
		16,966.20	
Expenditure			
	Internet	63.59	
	Insurance	1,854.50	
	Recorder Magazine	6,664.81	
	Bank charges	10.00	
	LIFEM	59.64	
	Comp Admin	275.00	
	PVs	705.00	8
	PV travel etc	1,887.05	
		11,519.59	

Erica Crabtree, Treasurer, November 2023

SRP Secretary's report to SRP Trustees November 2023

I have been notified of the death of Elizabeth Howells, a Warwick member, who was 99 years old and was playing her bass recorder at Warwick Branch and Rugby Recorder Ensemble until about a year ago, and may have been the oldest playing member of the society.

One long-service certificate has been made, for Terry Gill, co-founder of SRP Notts, who is standing down as Musical Director after 40 years.

I wrote to Philip Thorby, inviting him to take the SRP President role, and he replied as honoured and delighted. He is looking forward to working with and for SRP. Some lines from a previous SRP President role specification were used as an indication of some of our expectations. I propose to put an item in the December/January e-News, with a note to all branches as soon as the e-News is posted. I have had some details from Philip, to use for the resolution that will be presented at Conference. Philip hopes that he may be able to come to the Festival, and to Conference.

Alyson Lewin completes her current term as Musical Advisor on the committee at the 2024 Conference, and Sandra Foxall will join Trustees from then, for a 3 year term. I would like to thank Alyson for her valuable contribution and support to the Trustees over this period.

We now require a new e-News editor, as too many professional and family commitments mean that Mary is unable to continue next year. An advert has gone out to all branches, and will also go in the next e-News. Two members, and the husband of a member, have expressed an interest in the role.

Update on branches and Pastoral Visits booked or taken; 18 with 5 visits, 6 with 4 PVs, 10 with 3, 6 with 2, while 8 have only booked 1, and North London has booked none.

The list of Visiting Conductors is being updated— John Hawkes has withdrawn, and Stephen Watkins is now more available, as his health has improved. Some others have revised their details, or supplied a new photo, and a new version will be put on the website in December. Marion Scott has been proposed as an additional Pastoral Visitor, by Moira; the Trustees are asked to confirm their approval, at our next meeting.

Helen Hooker has been booked for a Pastoral Visit in Hillfoots branch next year (their first since 2013), which will complete a visit by Helen to EVERY SRP branch; what an achievement!

Anthony Hall has now deleted all conversations from the “committee” forum. The forum remains available for future re-instatement, should that be the wish of Trustees at a later date. The branch officers forum is used occasionally – I wonder if any of us is responsible for checking this regularly?

Rob Bristow has had discussions with Anthony and is now more familiar with the website and database set-up. He has been involved in setting up the facility for affiliated groups to renew online, and is now looking at a facility for new affiliations online.

I will be continuing a review of the SRP Guidance for Festival Organisers, with Erica, over coming weeks. No offer of hosting the Festival in 2025 has been received yet.

An enquiry has been received about forming a new branch in the Worthing area – I have sent some information, by revising an old document headed “Forming a New Branch”.

Some other news was deferred from the September Trustees’ meeting, due to lack of time;

Charity Commission account update – Some of the provisions in the new Charities Act that were due to be implemented at the end of 2023 have been deferred to “early 2024”. It is not clear what implications this will have for us as Trustees.

There was no opportunity at the last meeting for me to explain why all SRP Trustees received an e-mail, just before that meeting, from the Charity Commission about setting me up as the new User Administrator for SRP. This is the new way to manage SRP details on the Charity Commission website. I will need to give access to some other Trustees, and super user access to at least one other, to be able to upload the annual documents next time.

The latest news circular from the Charity Commission, for Trustees, was circulated to Trustees for their interest. Any comments on this could be discussed at the end of our meeting, time permitting. I have confirmed with Tessa that the item about Gift Aid does not affect us.

Finally - Policies – Our Safeguarding Policy has been checked by myself and Penny, so that it can be updated on the website, but it then needs a full review next September. We still urgently need a complaints policy as ours is 10 years old. I circulated a document from Charity Commission which states that we need a social media policy. Penny has reported about any help that NCVO can give us about policies within her membership report, so this can be discussed then.

Val Giltrow-Tyler, Secretary, November 2023

Membership Secretary Report - November 2023

Member totals – current year plus previous 4 years				
2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
1446	1226	1273	1319	1175

- Some branches have been very slow to mark renewals and subscriptions are still coming in so the current total will obviously rise. We can also expect approximately 50 reduced subs new members in January. Last year we had 73 reduced new member subs but this was higher than normal.
- We have 32 Affiliated Groups compared to 31 in 2022/2023.

Implications of ceasing the printed Membership List

I have spoken to Anthony Hall who developed the software/template for the printed list. No other members of the web edit team have had any involvement in the actual process of producing the printed list so I haven't involved the team as a whole. Anthony is neutral about our decision to stop printing the list but raised the following points:

- Producing PDFs (rather than printed copies) does not mean they cannot also be inappropriately 'given away' ie forwarded to non members.
- There are considerations such as how will we accommodate members who have not provided email addresses (currently approximately 35)? [We should probably now emphasise that providing an email address does not mean we make it available to anyone else as that is controlled by the publishing 'permissions' each individual member gives].

An option allowing members to log directly into the membership system (using an email address and password) and search members could be developed and should be fairly straightforward. Anthony would be prepared to work on this and thinks it could be achieved even as soon as March 2024. The most obvious way would be to mimic the functionality of the printed list: so someone could look up the members and roles of any branch (+ hon members, affiliates and conductors) by choosing from a list ie as on the 'edit' tab of the membership system; or search for a member (mimicking the index) in the same way that a memsec does, by starting to type the surname.

Policies

I have made contact again with the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations). I asked for information on policy requirements specifically for organisations *without* employees as this is very different from policy requirements for employers, where there are firm legal obligations. I think it would be beneficial to join the NCVO as we could then have more individualised advice and support, both on policies and other things. The cost for our organisation (it is calculated on gross annual income) would be **£179 (annual by direct debit) or £479 (3 years by direct debit)**

Penny Clarke, Membership Secretary November 2023

SRP WORKSHOPS

Workshops are continuing to be booked at a steady pace, and pleasingly some branches have booked one for the first time.

Dr Anne Day and Ilana Cravitz are new members to the tutor team, experts in their fields of Tudor and Stuart Dance, and Klezmer music.

I would like the Trustees to consider the following proposal concerning tutor workshop fees:

I would like to propose that the present tutor fee of £300.00 per 5hr SRP workshop be raised to £350.00

This would truly reflect the time spent on travel to and from the venue and the collection and preparation of material.

Workshop material is geared towards a branch's requirement with their particular workshop, using the Title as a guideline, so the tutor is often 'adding' new material, printing more copies etc for each one.

'Crossing Boundaries' workshop for example, was created from 'scratch' after a U3A/SRP player was enquiring how to encourage descant players to tackle the treble, and others to be comfortable in the Bass clef.

Steph Sutherland, SRP Workshop Co-Ordinator Nov 2023

Walter Bergmann Fund Report November 2023

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 agree that they have a case worth supporting within our remit.

We received 9 applications for grants this November. 3 were from individuals asking for funding for instruments. 2 of these were granted and we are seeking more clarification before granting any funding for the third applicant.

5 applications came from teachers either wanting assistance in schools with class lessons or for a having a workshop and concert at a Early Music Festival.

We are seeking further information with these applications as we were a little unsure as to how the money was to be spent. We also received a application for assistance in the repair of instruments which we agreed to fund.

Debbie Nicholas, WBF sub-committee

Competition Report for SRP Trustees

It was a wonderful afternoon at LIFEM for the 2023 Society of Recorder Players/ Moeck solo recorder competition.

At a new venue this year, the Recital Hall at Blackheath Halls was full of recorder fans awaiting the three finalists: Mathis Wolfer, Jiyeon Bang and Nura Natour.

This years' judges were Erik Bosgraaf, Annabel Knight & Adrian Chandler and they certainly had a difficult decision to make after 3 varied and enjoyable programmes.

Both Mathis and Nura shared beautifully thought through programmes, with excellent ensemble skills and enjoyable music but it was Jiyeon with her virtuosic Vivaldi that stole the show, winning first prize.

We are so looking forward to hearing more from all of the performers but especially to welcoming back Jiyeon to LIFEM for her winner's recital next year.

Unfortunately, the day after the competition, Jiyeon was mugged on her way to the festival and had her mobile phone which was her only means of payment stolen. By this point, I was already back home and unable to help in person but did assist Jiyeon in finding ways to get to the airport in the morning and safely back to Germany. Jiyeon had previously reached out to both Jan from Moeck who was staying on the other side of London, and the team at LIFEM.

The team at LIFEM failed to assist in any way, despite being 10 minutes away from Jiyeon's hotel, and decided that Jiyeon's account had been hacked and it was a scam, despite me reaching out to them. In the end, they ignored my messages and call. This is a very disappointing reaction from LIFEM to a young woman, alone in a foreign country, having been robbed and left without any means of payment for food/travel.

I have spoken to Jiyeon since she got home and I hope she will feel safe enough to return next year. Perhaps I need to meet her at the airport and escort her to the festival to reassure her.

Sarah Bronnert, Competition Administrator, November 2023