



The Society of Recorder Players

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Philip Thorby

Approved Minutes for SRP Trustee Meeting (zoom)

May 2nd 2025

Present:

Trustees: Moira Usher (Chair), Liz Bassett (Secretary), Penny Clarke (Membership Secretary), Erica Crabtree (Treasurer), Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor, Pamela Flanagan, Rod Callow.

Musical Advisers: Lydon Hilling, Sandra Foxall

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Debbie Nicholas.

Moira welcomed all to her first meeting as Chair.

1. Conflicts of interest in relation to this agenda

None declared.

2. To approve the draft minutes of the Trustees' meeting held on Friday 7th February 2025 and any matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.

The draft minutes of Friday February 7th 2025 were approved subject to removing a sentence from section 11 and a word change in section 5.

<i>Matters Arising not on the agenda:</i>	<i>Status and comments</i>
Liz will clarify, when sending the paperwork out to Conference delegates, who is entitled to vote.	<i>Completed – email sent to those who asked about this and included in the Briefing Notes for Conference. Further clarification will be made when reviewing the Rules.</i>
Liz to add the date on Complaints Policy for ratification; edit the last paragraph and upload	<i>Completed and now on the website</i>
Liz to add date to Privacy Policy ratified and upload	<i>Completed and now on the website</i>
Jim to ring EMS to voice concern that: regular SRP Festival stalls have not been invited; we do not need to advertise the festival further unless further justification is given.	<i>Completed: Jim spoke to Jerry who confirmed that Recorder Music Mail had received an invitation to the 2025 SRP festival. Jim also spoke to Peter Booth from the Early Music Shop. Peter reassured Jim the usual shops have been invited and Jim sent him a list from Caroline of those who were at Monmouth to check. There will be a room sized space for WBF and a table for SRP membership matters. Penny is happy to man this at key times</i>

To remind that the SRP logo and charity numbers needs to be included on leaflets etc; the membership secretary would like a stall and welcome point for SRP members at the festival. A table, banner and badges are available; A large space for the WBF music and recorders will be needed.	<i>EMS have paid for an advert in TRM. Documents referring to the SRP will have our Charity Number on and should have our logo on also.</i>	
Liz to reply to the email re Edinburgh Festival with the agreed response	<i>Completed and email shared with trustees</i>	
To organise a meeting for the committee to discuss the forthcoming conference	<i>Completed – the committee met informally on 16th Feb 2025 – the organisation of the forthcoming meeting was discussed and agreed</i>	
Liz to relay trustee views on the public face of the SRP to Jean Campbell	<i>Completed</i>	
3. <u>Dates for the rest of the year</u> Trustees discussed whether to have the Conference online or at the Festival in 2026. Comments included the pros and cons of ensuring most delegates will attend as opposed to the value of delegates meeting trustees in person and having the chance to network. It was agreed that it will Conference will be at the Festival in 2026 and the suggested time will be 3.30pm. Trustees then looked at meetings to ensure the cycle worked with the conference dates and timelines. The decided to meet next in July then September and to make whichever date was possible with Benslow Music, the face to face meeting.		Actions: Trustees to send dates they cannot make to Liz and Liz to contact Benslow Music to arrange the face to face meeting. Liz to inform Dorset and Somerset of the decision to hold the Conference at the festival and the time preferred.
4. <u>Update from Membership Secretary on the trial data base and response to the discussion paper from Anthony Hall</u> Moira has spoken twice to Steve Hodgson and highlighted the additional difficulty of continuing with half year memberships. The trial has happened and trustees considered the paper from Anthony Hall. It was felt that while there will be a number of issues to iron out and the change-over will		Actions: Moira will speak to Anthony and convey our decision. Penny will liaise with My Clubhouse on our behalf.

<p>pose some challenges, the society does need to address the situation urgently.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the process could take months of work but that once the change has been completed the company, My Clubhouse, will provide ongoing support in the way Anthony has done previously. The amount of work and time it may require was not overlooked. Discussion highlighted the complexities of our system. Some thoughts that we should reduce the complexities in time were raised however this will be a matter to address once the change has been made.</p> <p>The membership secretary hopes the system will be more straightforward once the change-over is complete.</p> <p>Trustees are aware of the need to support branch secretaries in getting to know a new system.</p> <p>The company offer a 6 month guarantee and as membership is such a key aspect of the society, it was felt this was completely justifiable financially.</p> <p>The proposal was to agree, following the trial, to the new system with My Clubhouse. Proposed: Penny Seconded: Steph 6 trustees voted for the transfer; 2 abstentions; none against.</p>	
<p><u>5. The Wessex amended resolution: Wessex propose that the trustees pursue the revision of the SRP website in consultation with appropriate personnel, in the coming year, as a matter of urgency.</u></p> <p>Trustees shared some of the aspects they felt needed changing.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that while word press works well, the website needs redesigning to make it more efficient; more attractive and easier to navigate thus design and development work is required.</p> <p>Nigel, one of our web editors, has already begun to use google analytics to see how the site is currently being used and by who. Moira will talk to our two web editors.</p> <p>It was felt that before finding someone to spearhead this, trustees need to canvas more widely to find out what people want from the website; what pages they use most and which things they really need to find quickly.</p> <p>It was decided to canvas branches and personal members and for Steph to collate the information, so as to find the common areas coming through that require change. Trustees will also let Moira know what they want to find quickly on the website and their views on the workability of the site currently. Redesign can be based then on these findings.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Moira will talk to the two web editors</p> <p>Liz to email branches – information to go to Steph to be collated by the end of June.</p> <p>Moira to collate the information from trustees.</p>

<p>6. <u>Review of the Rules to ensure they are consistent and clear</u></p> <p>The committee briefly discussed the difficulty with inconsistent terminology in the rules relating to posts; named roles and clarity of those who can vote. It was agreed that a small group will work on this before the next meeting. Moira, Pamela and Liz volunteered and it was suggested that Helen Hooker, who was on the previous review group, be asked to attend also.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Pamela to lead the group and to invite Helen; set the meeting All in the working party to consider the current rules and to send Pamela thoughts on any consistencies prior to the meeting.</p>
<p>7. <u>An application for the role of Visiting Conductor</u></p> <p>Trustees considered an application, accompanied by an observational assessment by Musical Advisor Helen Hooker and recommendations from a few branches. Trustees unanimously agreed to inviting Nick Epton to join our list of Visiting Conductors.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Liz to inform Nick and to update the list of Visiting Conductors.</p>
<p>8. <u>To agree the draft accounts and 2023-2024 Charity Commission Report.</u></p> <p>The Treasurer presented the Statement of Financial Activities agreed with the Independent Examiner. These accounts were unanimously agreed by trustees.</p> <p>The draft Charity Report for 2023-2024, which will also be uploaded to the Charity Commission website was also agreed unanimously, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - removing Moira from the list of trustees, as not on the board within the timescale of the report. - re-working one sentence concerning a computer set of music, to provide greater clarity. <p>This sentence led to a discussion of the Copywrite proofs of Alex Ayre's work currently kept by Moira – trustees felt they did not necessarily need to be kept. However, Steph's branch is linked to the Chesham group which was founded by Alex Ayre and Steph offered to seek suggestions from the Chesham group as to finding a new home for the set. Moira also asked for future discussion about how best to back up the storage of key documents and historical data.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Liz and Erica to sign both documents on behalf of trustees and to work together to upload all key information onto the Charity Commission website and the OSCR Scottish Charity Commission.</p>
<p>9. <u>Request for funding from the Competition Administrator.</u></p> <p>Sarah Bronnert provided more specific costings for the meeting, as requested by trustees for the 40th anniversary celebration of the SRP/Moeck Competition. Trustees were in favour of providing drinks and canapes and sharing the costs with others involved. Trustees agreed to provide up to £500 towards the costs.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Liz to inform Sarah Bronnert of the decision.</p>

<p><u>10. Heidi Fardell and the Banbury Early Music Festival Committee funding request</u></p> <p>Trustees considered the funding application for the Banbury Early Music Festival 2025.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that a large sum was awarded from the Arthur Ingram Fund and the Walter Bergmann Fund last year for the 2024 Festival. Feedback from the Festival had been positive. Trustees shared news of reviews and SRP logos seen on information.</p> <p>It was felt there was less this year which is recorder-focused.</p> <p>The Chair reminded the committee that trustees need to consider how much and how frequently funds are awarded.</p> <p>Trustees agreed to sponsor the Early Music Festival but wished to inform the organisers that the SRP does not usually provide grants to organisations more than twice. Thus funding will need to be found from elsewhere next year. Trustees agreed to fund £1005 to cover the Sarah Jeffery concert and 2 workshops (performer fee £700; accommodation £155; travel £150)</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Liz to inform the committee and Heidi to ensure the invoices are sent to the treasurer.</p>
<p><u>11. Report of February 2025 Meeting from the Walter Bergman Fund</u></p> <p>The report was accepted with no questions</p>	
<p><u>12. Other updates and AOB</u></p> <p>12.1 Treasurer's Notes for Meeting May 2025 were considered. The Treasurer sought agreement to pay for the second half of the NYRO grant. This was agreed by trustees.</p> <p>12.2 The current request from NYRO for 2025-2026 will be discussed at the next meeting. Trustees felt more time was required to consider it in the light of NYRO's present effectiveness. Trustees were concerned that NYRO are predicting losses and what they are currently doing may not be working. Activity in the North is lacking. NYRO need to be linking up with organisations in areas where recorder playing is happening in order to increase effectiveness and the number of attendees at events.</p> <p>12.3 The Treasurer also mentioned bank mandates and the difficult process of changing them. Liz and Penny are now on the Barclays mandate but Erica still needs to check they can access Barclays. Erica will also add Moira onto the main bank account.</p> <p>12.4 The current focus in the press and radio on the reduction of recorder playing in schools was discussed. The Radio 4 interview with Sarah Jeffery and a ukelele</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Trustees to consider the request and status of NYRO further and revisit the bid at the next meeting.</p> <p>Erica to organize a card machine for the WBF Penny to provide badges for trustees at the 2025 SRP Festival</p>

<p>player had been positive. Moira will be talking to an interviewer later today.</p> <p>12.5 The 2025 SRP Festival was briefly considered – the need for members to have specific timings in the near future was raised and trustees were informed of a survey going to attendees in the next few days to indicate choice of playing sessions.</p> <p>12.6 Penny has asked Peter for a list of SRP members and the suggestion that trustees wear badges indicating their role was thought sensible. Moira requested a card machine for the Walter Bergmann stall.</p> <p>12.7 The Treasurer explained that there is already one linked to the main bank account but that Barclays may be better as the nominated bank account so monies going in can be clearly identified as coming from Walter Bergman Fund sales.</p> <p>12.8 The Membership Secretary updated trustees on current membership which is now exactly the same as last year – 1346. 100 more members are needed to go back to pre-covid numbers. The Chair voiced thanks to Penny for all her hard work on membership and on taking part in the trial for the new database. Thanks were also given to Erica for all her hard work on the accounts and with the Independent Examiner.</p>	
<p><u>13. Items for next agenda</u></p> <p>NYRO request for 2025-2026</p> <p>To agree the draft minutes of the 2025 Conference</p> <p>Update from the Rules Review working party</p> <p>Website feedback from Steph</p> <p>Review of 2025 SRP Festival</p> <p>Update on the switch over to MY Clubhouse Finance report</p> <p>WBF minutes from end of May 2025 meeting</p> <p>Expenses for delegates for the next conference.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1.10pm</p>	