



The Society of Recorder Players

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422

President: Philip Thorby

Minutes of SRP Trustee Meeting

(via zoom)

December 10th 2024

1.30-5pm

Present:

Trustees: Jim Grant (Chair), Liz Bassett (Secretary), Penny Clarke (Membership Secretary), Erica Crabtree (Treasurer), Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor (*arrived 2.50pm*), Pamela Flanagan, Rod Callow, Debbie Nicholas

Musical Advisers: Caroline Jones, Sandra Foxall

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

There were no absences.

2. Conflicts of interest

It was noted that for those trustees and musical advisers who are also conductors, there will be a conflict of interest for item 7.

3. 1.30pm - Sarah Bronnert in attendance for update on competition and plans for 40th Year anniversary

Next year the competition is the 40th – more than a decade for Sarah! There is the possibility of hosting a reception after the competition – lunch or drinks have been provided informally in previous years but Sarah suggested a special reception for the 40th with an invited guest list. The venue is at the halls in Blackheath so the catering is provided more easily – there is a café downstairs and a bar. It would be a replication of a previous event but Sarah would invite previous winners, judges and organisers, as well as performers, their families and friends. The bar and staff would be provided and Moeck would go halves on refreshment. There are 80 on the list who may be invited. Some are overseas so unlikely to come. The reception would be in the gap between the competition and the evening concert. It will be a recorder focused concert this time – Sarah reminded trustees of a free ticket to those attending. The event is on Friday 14th November 2025. Generally the audience for the concert is around 100-150.

Pamela proposed that the trustees agree both to this plan and to Sarah providing more specific costings for discussion at the next meeting. This was seconded by Erica seconded and all were in favour.

Sarah also reported that Moeck are now planning next year's competition.

Dorothee Oberlinger is one of the judges and other judges are a harpsichord player and a multi instrumentalist who played on the Harry Potter film.

Sarah also shared that Moeck are working on a nut free recorder for her! Almond oil is usually used on the wood but they will be providing a recorder which has been treated with linseed oil. Trustees agreed this was an interesting thought with regards people with nut allergies.

The Chair thanked Sarah on behalf of the committee - Sarah works hard and gets fantastic results.

Action: For Sarah to provide more specific costings for the next meeting.

4. To approve the draft minutes of the Trustees' meeting held on Friday 25th October 2024 and any matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.

The draft minutes of Friday October 25th 2024 were approved subject to retracting a few names for confidentiality and basic editing. Pamela proposed the minutes be accepted with the changes and Rod seconded. This was unanimously agreed.

<i>Matters Arising not on the agenda:</i>	<i>Comments on actions</i>
<i>Jim to explore how to vote on zoom further</i>	<i>Link sent to secretary. Trial at this meeting.</i>
<i>The nomination forms were reviewed and agreed - Pamela, Liz and Jim to have a final check of them.</i>	<i>Complete and ready to send in January.</i>
<i>Nomination forms will be advertised again on ENews and sent out early January.</i>	<i>Reminder of nominations went out on the November E-News</i>
<i>Sandra and Caroline will talk to Lyndon and Miriam and invite them to be musical advisers. It was noted that musical advisers must be members. When they are asked, the job role agreed should be shared with them and they must be asked to join as members of the SRP.</i>	<i>Complete – both are pleased to be asked to be musical advisers and are now members of the SRP. This has to go as a resolution to conference.</i>
<i>Jim has contacted the branch seeking a merger and will contact them further.</i>	<i>Further contact made and the chair has supported the branch. Encouraging a review was discussed.</i>
<i>Secretary to write to the Pastoral Visitors to check their current situation and to update the list.</i>	<i>Email sent to all PVs – all wish to stay on the list despite some not having done any visits recently. Tabea Debus has been added to the list.</i>

<i>Sentence added to WBF Terms of Reference</i>	<i>Done and new version uploaded to website</i>
<i>Liz to write to Barbara Clarke with the outcome of the request for funding</i>	<i>Complete</i>
<i>Liz to write to Heidi Fardell with the outcome of the request for funding</i>	<i>Complete</i>
<i>Liz to email Barbara and EMS to ask for a more specific request for funding with costings from the WBF and/or central fund and to inform them more trustees would be interested to attend a future update. The email should also suggest that funding for the primary school workshops could also be sought from WBF.</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Caroline to contact Benslow re. 7th February 2025	<p><i>Complete.</i> Booking in process and Liz is in communication with Kate from Benslow – a room and catering is assured. Those staying a night will need to book at the local Premier Inn. Awaiting agreement today before confirming the booking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £154, including VAT for the meeting room • £26 pp for catering which includes lunch, as well as tea and coffee breaks <p>This was proposed by Liz and seconded by Penny. There was unanimous agreement to hold the meeting at Benslow.</p>

5. Urgent AOB

Email received 9.12.24 referring to the online membership list and GDPR – the Membership Secretary explained that the online list is secure and only seen by members who consent to have their own details displayed. Any member can log on and remove some or all of their permissions. Removing *all* permissions removes a member's right to see any of the list. It clearly says on the website that the online membership list is secure. Recent SRP News currently has information about the online list – it was pointed out that this should be put elsewhere so it does not fall off when the next recent news replaces it. The email included a question about whether we should be on the Information Commissioner's Register. It also questioned our Privacy Policy. The question of active consent was discussed.

The committee wished to thank Anthony for the huge amount of hours developing the online membership list.

Other commercial options for the system are being investigated which may cost around £1500 a year.

Actions:

Penny to respond to the email and to update the privacy policy

Trustees to check our status with regards to the Information Commissioners Register

B) The committee explored the usefulness of a zoom for treasurers or secretaries. The difficulty of knowing all the right contacts would be useful though some felt it was a good idea.

Actions:

Secretary to ask branches to ensure roles linked to emails are correct on the database.

Updates to Privacy Policy - Penny

Penny to respond informally and to explore the status of the SRP with regards the Information Commissioners Register.

Review of this item - agenda item for Feb 7th

6. Treasurer report

Erica updated the trustees on income and expenditure since 1st September. Subs are still due from 15 branches and she will chase these in the new year.

The Irish branch have surplus monies in their account which could be used to make euro payments if required. Erica will contact the treasurer about 2 WBF invoices €1000 and €1200 which will be due shortly.

The year end accounts are in progress; all the branch returns are now in.
The committee thanked Erica for her updates.

7. Discussion and decision about conductors at our SRP festival for 2026 (conductors already being booked)

NB: Caroline, Sandra and Pamela withdrew temporarily from the meeting and returned for item 8.

This matter was discussed in the knowledge that the branches organising 2026 are beginning to book conductors currently. Musical advisers have been asked for their views.

The arrangement for the joint festival in 2025 was considered as a start to the discussion - £45 a session plus expenses.

The committee discussed the need to consider parity for professional and amateur conductors where their role in a festival is the same. The difficulty of committing to a set amount year on year was also considered. A possible cap on accommodation and expenses may be needed also as it is for Pastoral Visitors.

The current arrangement of splitting the surplus might in future, if conductors are paid a sum, become a three way split.

Following discussion Liz proposed that any branch organising an SRP Festival clarifies a fee at point of invite and it be the same fee for professional and amateur conductors running sessions. Steph seconded this and trustees agreed unanimously.

Liz also proposed that Dorset and Somerset work on the same fee as EMS this year - £45 a session plus expenses. Jill seconded this and trustees all agreed except for one abstention.

It was noted that a branch should consider charging a little more for tickets to cover conductor fees in the first instance and will always discuss the budget with the trustee treasurer. However a branch might also apply to trustees, providing the number of conductors plus number of sessions, for additional funding. Trustees agreed in principle that we sponsor any request for funding to that extent.

Actions:

To inform Dorset and Somerset of the decision.

To review the matter following the 2025 festival.

8. Finalising the visiting conductors / Pastoral Visitor List

The list sent round was agreed.

There is currently one person applying to go on the list and they have organised an assessment from a musical adviser for next July.

Action: Liz to upload the new list to the website.

8. 4.15pm - Update from Dianne Charles re NYRO

Dianne arrived 4.15pm. She went through the history of NYRO with the SRP. Originally a sub-committee of the SRP, then formed their own charity. Prior to this all funding came from the SRP.

Finance remains tight They are not able to put courses up without some being unable to afford it – NYRO do two residential courses a year (Easter and Summer). They no longer move around the country. They are though paying higher fees than numbers attending. 16 attended the last Easter course. The summer course was well attended with 18 taking part. Trustees questioned the level of playing at the courses. Dianne informed the meeting that at the last course 9 were grade 8 plus and the others on grades up to grade 8. A couple were diploma standard. It was agreed the courses were valuable for these youngsters.

Dianne shared the souvenir programme with the trustees. Dianne informed them that salaries are not affordable from current income. There is a tiny surplus currently. The matter of few young recorders coming through was discussed as a major part of the difficulty. While it is not viable from a business or cost point of view, all agreed it was important to keep on providing such opportunities for young players. The WBF do fund applications for those who wish to attend courses but who cannot afford it. Courses have got really good feedback.

NYRO applies to many organisations for funding but with no result. However they continue to put on £35 recorder days around the country and work with schools - 4-6 days a year and recorder workshops on line.

The SRP has provided an additional £1000 in addition to the usual £3000 for 2024-2025, for promotional activity. The treasurer is due to pay the grant as agreed. Trustees agreed that

continuing to support NYRO was key and noted the paucity of resources available outside the SRP to support and encourage recorder players, particularly those at a junior level. The point was made that maybe the National Youth Orchestra should have a sub group for recorder orchestras.

Dianne reminded trustees of the summer concert in Uppingham – free tickets for SRP members.

Trustees suggested that NYRO should make it more explicit when advertising courses that those on low income can apply through WBF if not able to afford the residential.

Action:

NYRO to provide an update on expenditure of the 20204-5 grant and to put in a bid for any future years.

9. Voting on zoom (possible dry run at polling)

The committee trialled using polls and surveys online in zoom. The difficulty with surveys seemed to be that people could vote twice. Some way of solving this problem needs to be considered. Breakout rooms are difficult if not all members manage the process and have the up to date version of zoom. Polling will work if the results are not seen by all – this needs to be thoroughly checked.

Action: Liz to check each aspect with zoom

10. Update on 2025 SRP Festival – the funding request for the fringe has not been emailed to us yet. The link is being updated and tickets are still being sold.

11. Complaints Policy – this will be moved to the next agenda due to time left in the meeting.

12. Dates of next meeting and items for next agenda

Friday 7th at Benslow

The Chair reinforced on behalf of the committee, thanks to Anthony and Penny for all their work on the membership lists and online facility.