

Branch Secretary's Report for the 2024-25 Season

The second Playing Day of the 2023-24 season took place at Polwarth Parish Church Hall on Saturday 3 February 2024 when the guest conductor was Michael Graham, Edinburgh based conductor and composer. Forty-two players took part, and we welcomed visitors from other SRP branches, the Scottish Recorder Orchestra, and the Edinburgh Adult Education Evening Class. The National SRP Festival took place at the Haberdasher's School Monmouth on 23rd and 24th March with the SRP Conference on 22nd March. The Edinburgh Branch was not represented at the Conference due to illness and sent its apologies. The minutes of the Conference can be found on the SRP website [Draft-2024-Conference-minutes-v3.pdf](https://www.scottishrecorder.org.uk/draft-2024-conference-minutes-v3.pdf) The third Playing Day of the 2023-24 season took place at Polwarth Parish Church Hall on Saturday 8th June, when the conductor was Pamala Flanagan, Musical Director of SRP Irish and Glasgow Branches. She replaced Steve Marshall, who had been due to conduct on 25th May, as he was indisposed. Twenty-eight players took part, including several visitors. Our Summer Evening Concert took place on 17 June 2024 at Christ Church Morningside Hall. The conductors from the branch were Anne Martin, Peter Wraith and Margaret McLay and Marg Hall who conducted the evening class. The collection was donated to Medical Aid for Palestinians.

The first meeting of the 2024-25 season took place on 23rd September 2024 in Christ Church Morningside Hall. The Branch currently has 39 members with one new member and three non-renewals.

On the 7 October 2024, the annual EGM was held to approve the branch accounts. See EGM minutes attached with the papers for the AGM.

On Saturday 16 November we welcomed David Moses, composer and founder of Tinderbox music, to lead his "All That Jazzzzz" workshop at St. Inverleith, St. Serf's Church Centre. Twenty-eight players took part including visitors from other SRP branches and the Scottish Recorder Orchestra. On Monday 25 November the branch held an ensemble evening. In the first half of the evening, one-to-a-part groups had the opportunity to play "work-in-progress" to the rest of the branch. In the second half, the whole branch played, conducted by Margaret McLay. This year the committee decided to replace the Christmas Evening Concert with a more informal Christmas Social Evening at which we were joined by players from Marg Hall's Evening Class. The music was conducted by Anne Martin, Peter Wraith, Margaret McLay and Marg Hall. A collection was made in aid of Unicef. There will be just one concert this season on 31st March. These changes to our programme of meetings have been well received by the membership.

We look forward to our concert on Monday 31st March, to the Playing Day conducted by Ian Wilson at Inverleith St. Serf's Parish Church on Saturday 3rd May, followed by an evening concert when he will be accompanied by Libby Burgess on piano and organ, and to our Summer Social Evening on Monday 9th June. Looking even further ahead, the Edinburgh Branch is organising the Scottish Recorder Festival at Inverleith St. Serf's Parish Church on Saturday 9th May 2026 when the principal guest conductor will be Philip Thorby. The Playing Day and Festival are being organised by the branch's newly formed Events Group, consisting of Barbara Clarke, Catriona Hillhouse, Eileen Holttum, Liza Piney.

Thanks are due to all our conductors for their commitment, patience and good humour throughout the season.

Eileen Finlayson
February 2025