



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS
President : Philip Thorby
Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

ANNUAL SRP CONFERENCE 2026

April 10th, Taunton

Chair's Report to Annual Conference 2026

As most of you know, my main focus this year has been enabling the membership system to migrate over to its new home with a commercial organisation.

It has been a difficult year but we are now on track and we hope to have everything up and running for the start of our new year in September. Thanks must go to Anthony Hall who built and maintained our old, complex, system for many years and now wishes to retire from this role. He found a commercial company, My Clubhouse, which deals with computer systems for membership organisations, who have taken over most of what we do, though obviously the system is not the same and I am grateful to all branch membership secretaries who have taken on the job of getting to grips with the new system. Huge thanks are also due to Steve Hodgson who is not even a recorder player but has taken on the job of gently explaining to all membership secretaries individually how the new system works. Penny Clarke has been our national membership secretary for the last 8 years being an expert on how the old system worked. I know she has done a wonderful job of helping membership secretaries. She will be sorely missed from the trustee group as she has done a lot more for the society - for example helping write policies and representing the SRP at LIFEM. Our grateful thanks to her for all her work.

There are only 9 trustees whose legal role is to manage the SRP's money. Unusually for a national charity, the trustees also run the society. We are all volunteers and cannot legally be paid for any trustee work that we do, so do please remember that we are doing our best to fit the trustee work into our normal lives!

Our next challenge is to employ someone to give us a modern, redesigned website as per the resolution passed at Conference last year. This will require a professional. We need to have a very clear idea of what we want before we ask for tenders and a new group has been formed to look at this. Rod Callow has kindly offered to chair this group which consists of a couple of trustees, 2 members of Wessex Branch (who proposed the resolution to conference last year) and our web editors. I will keep you informed as to the progress with this as the year goes on.

Meanwhile, we have a friendly group of trustees who are working hard for the SRP to keep this wonderful organisation going, meeting its charitable objectives and satisfying the many legal and regulatory objectives.

Moira Usher

SRP Secretary's Report to Annual Conference 2026

In the last year, with a new Chair at the helm, there has been much to do, keeping regular duties going as well as reviewing paperwork; systems and processes.

Trustees have increasingly been focusing on the benefits membership to the SRP brings which includes the financial support it can provide for youngsters, professionals, schools, festivals and other events. It also provides insurance; support with Performing Rights Licenses; and provides advice for many and information about the wealth of recorder courses, festivals and concerts that go on across the year. It provides financial support and expertise for Playing Days and for the Workshops and our list of conductors is widely used. We also continue to organise the SRP/Moeck Recorder Competition with our able competition administrator and contribute to the prize money.

I have been involved in a working party to review, revise and amend the Rules, alongside three other trustees and one of our Vice Presidents, Helen Hooker. A huge thank you to Pamela Flanagan for heading up this work.

The resignation of our long standing Membership Secretary, and the process of moving to the new membership system, prompted us as trustees to discuss the role. We have decided to split the membership secretary role out and to appoint a Personal Membership Secretary. A delegate last year asked about representation of personal members at conference. This question was discussed by trustees and the Rules clarifies that while personal members are not entitled to vote as individuals, the Personal Membership Secretary is there to receive their views on any matter and can represent them at Trustee meetings and as a voting delegate at a Conference in the same way as a branch delegate receives the views of their own branch members and is the voting delegate for their branch. While this named role is not part of the trustee body, we aim to continue co-opting the appointed person along to trustee meetings.

Since the last conference, trustees have met every two months and musical advisors Lyndon Hilling and Sandra Foxall, have attended and contributed to meetings. 39 Playing Days have occurred since the last Conference and 25 have already been booked for the future. My impression is that the E-News advertising has really helped people stay in touch with what is happening around them and has resulted in people attending more events and playing days - not just those organised by their own branch. It has been lovely to hear feedback from some of the festivals the SRP has provided grants for and to hear the reviews of the playing days, workshops and festivals people have attended. It has also been good to hear of some really positive work happening in schools – the Lancashire project for example.

Across the year I have been in contact with many people in order to fulfil my own role - branch players; branch officers, affiliated groups; musical advisors, the web-edit team, our publicity officers, our President and Vice Presidents; competition entrants and those professionals who conduct, teach and perform. I am ever thankful of this wider team who helps to keep the SRP afloat. They all do a brilliant job. As SRP Secretary it has had the added benefit of enabling me to get to know all these lovely people and often to meet them at playing events. I am ever thankful that the SRP exists to keep on providing so many opportunities for recorder players.

Finally I wish to draw attention to the large number of people we have lost in the last year, reflected in the In Memoriam report, whom have been really influential in branches. Many who have passed away have been not only dear friends to many in their respective branches, but at the centre of organising branches and events. It is vital that we encourage our newer members to get involved within our branches and to get to know the wider network that exists beyond.

Liz Bassett

Treasurer's Report to Annual Conference 2026

Introduction

I am pleased to present the accounts for the year to 31st August 2025.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows income and expenditure analysed as incoming resources from voluntary income, investment income and charitable activities and resources expended on charitable activities and governance costs. The accompanying Balance Sheet shows the funds held at the end of the year together with the assets and liabilities these comprise. This aligns our reporting with that of other charities and highlights the charitable nature of our activities which is an important aspect of our charitable status.

I have prepared detailed accounts as in previous years which provide further information which is important to the members and trustees and provides comparisons.

Statement of Financial Activities

This summary shows incoming resources and resources expended across all funds with the restricted Walter Bergmann Fund shown separately.

Voluntary Income includes subscriptions, donations and gift aid. Subscriptions have increased by £3k.

Investment income (bank interest) has reduced slightly as we have drawn down funds from a higher interest account to cover day to day running of the Society.

Income from charitable activities includes income from all our recorder playing activities and has reduced by £24k mainly because the Festival was organised by Early Music Shop (EMS) and the receipts do not appear in the SRP accounts.

Resources expended on charitable activities have reduced by £22k. As above, the Festival expenditure this year does not appear in the SRP accounts. Grants awarded increased by £10k. The SRP/Moeck Competition is biennial so the costs this year are lower.

Governance costs are reduced by £5k. The annual Conference was on line this year so there are no costs and the trustees have only met in person once.

Total resources expended exceed incoming resources by £3k leading to a reduction in funds from £303k to £300k

Accounts 31st August 2025

Central Fund

This is the fund used for the day to day running of the Society, including provision of the Recorder Magazine to members, Visiting Conductor visits to branches, trustee meetings and Conference. The income derives from members' national subscriptions.

Income from subscriptions has increased by £7k, £5 per member, as approved at Conference 2024.

Interest rates were largely unchanged but £20k was drawn from COIF to cover the shortfall in income in 2023/24, leading to a slight reduction in interest received.

The National Festival was held in Saltaire and organised by EMS so there is no income or expenditure in the accounts this year. The SRP received a contribution from EMS towards the Central Fund in lieu of a share of the Festival surplus in addition to a contribution to the Walter Bergmann Fund (WBF)

Total expenditure, excluding the Festival, remained largely unchanged. Savings were due to no Conference costs as the meeting was held online, as were all but one of the trustee meetings. These savings were more than offset by the initial costs of the new membership system of £3k which contributes to the deficit for the year.

The fund balance reduced by £1k to £53k.

Arthur Ingram Fund

This is the fund which was received as a bequest in 2001 and is the main means by which the Society supports its charitable activities. The income mainly comes from HMRC gift aid recovery and interest. The charitable activities currently supported include grants to NYRO and others, the biennial SRP/Moeck Competition, SRP workshops and Visiting Conductor visits to branches.

Income for the year increased due to an increase in the number of SRP workshops held and receipt of the applications for the 2025 SRP/Moeck Competition (biennial, income alternate years).

19 Workshops covering a variety of topics and tutors provided an insight into everything from Jazz and Klezmer, recorder maintenance, conducting, and Gabrielli and Tudor dances. Something for everyone.

Expenditure increased by £6k, more workshops were held, and more grants were awarded. The SRP/Moeck Competition will be held in Nov 2025; expenditure this year is for the administrator.

The fund balance reduced by £12k to £81k and is expected to reduce again in 2025/26 as we continue to encourage applications for grants.

Walter Bergmann Fund

This is a restricted fund which awards grants to young people under the age of 30 born or studying in the UK and Ireland to support their development as recorder players. The principal source of income is donations.

Income from donations increased, there was donation from EMS for the Festival and the balance of the legacy from John Clifford, former chair of Wales SRP.

Grants of £10k were awarded to 15 applicants; awards included instruments, workshops and lessons. Two awards were made from the Philip Cole Bursary.

The fund balance (which includes Philip Cole) increased by £6k to £47k.

Consolidated Branches

This is a consolidation of 49 individual branches and reflects the playing activities of members.

Net branch subs are reduced; as member numbers are basically unchanged this indicates that some branches bore the increase in central subs rather than ask members for more. Visitor fees increased by £3k, reflecting a number of successful playing days and Visiting Conductor visits.

Total branch reserves are increased by £4k to £118k.

22 branches reported a surplus >£100 (£9k), 8 branches reported a deficit >£100, the remaining branches' income matched expenditure.

Average bank balances are £2k, branches endeavour to hold sufficient to cover at least one year of running costs. 10 branches have balances <£1k, 9 branches have balances >£4k.

All Funds

Total SRP funds reduced by £3k with a £4k increase at branch level, a reduction in Central Fund £1k and Arthur Ingram Fund £12k and an increase in the restricted Walter Bergmann Fund of £6k.

Central funds are held in a fixed rate saver account at Nationwide (4% to Feb 2026), a COIF Charities Deposit Fund at CCLA (average 4% in 2024/25) and in current and deposit accounts at CAF Bank and Barclays. Total interest earned was £6,901 (£7,348 in 2023/24); £20,000 was drawn from COIF deposit, leading to a reduction in interest earned.

Total funds reduced to £300k.

Conclusion

Our activities continued with meetings and playing days at branches, workshops and an annual Festival, this year jointly with EMS in Saltaire. We continue to support young players through grants from WBF, a grant to NYRO and sponsorship of the International Solo Competition.

There is no significant increase in our membership income but we are increasing our spending on our charitable purposes as the way forward to promote the recorder at all levels. Generous donations continue to come from members and with both the Walter Bermann Fund and the Arthur Ingram Fund we can continue this work.

All that we do happens not only because of donations but also the huge amount of time and commitment given by everyone involved with the SRP. Branch activities are the basic core of the SRP and those activities only happen because of local committees and volunteers.

Thank you for all your support.

Erica Crabtree, January 2026

SRP Membership Secretary's Report to Annual Conference 2026

Membership Data

At the time of putting together this data, member figures are already higher than the final total for the 2024/2025 membership year which is good news. Numbers will continue to increase as more new members join at the reduced rate over the next few months.

Membership Data over 7 years

	Total	Full	Household	Student	Life/LH	<i>includes Personal Members</i>	* Reduced	Affiliated	Corporate
2025/2026	1367	1237	93	20	17	143	38	34	0
2024/2025	1356	1231	90	19	16	138	43	34	0

2023/2024	1346	1206	94	31	15	126	65	33	0
2022/2023	1319	1182	102	24	11	137	73	31	2
2021/2022	1273	1138	108	19	8	127	48	31	2
2020/2021	1226	1093	106	20	7	131	27	24	2
2019/2020	1446	1289	125	24	8	144	56	31	2

* *reduced price new members joining from 1 January 2026*

Current membership system: developments

The existing online membership list, although it will shortly be superseded because of the launch of the new membership system, has been successfully in operation since November 2024. It provides up-to date information for members logging in via the SRP website. Details for either an individual member or a group (ie a branch or a category) can be searched and members are able to edit and/or restrict their details by simply logging into the system.

New membership system: myClubhouse

A switch to the new system will take place before the start of the 2026/2027 membership year. I would like to thank Anthony Hall for not only developing and maintaining the current membership system over the years but also for investigating and testing a potential replacement commercial system. Our membership structure is complex and any new system needed to be able to generate the Recorder Magazine mailing list and the online membership list in addition to handling branch membership, Gift Aid etc so this was not an easy task.

In August 2025 Moira Usher took over the MCH system configuration and at the time of writing this report Steve Hodgson is currently the contact for branch support.

My resignation

Having been in the role of Membership Secretary since September 2018 I will be standing down at Conference 2026. Many thanks must go to all the branch membership secretaries and other branch officers who have worked with me to use the current system. I know from all the emails I have received over the years a little support was often needed and always appreciatively received, which made my role very worthwhile.

Penny Clarke

Workshop Coordinator's Report to Annual Conference 2026

SRP Workshops for 2026 and even 2027 are steadily being booked, with a preference on those dealing with Jazz, Folk and Klezmer.

Workshops held in 2025 and currently planned;

No	Event Date	Zoom/ F2F	Course	Tutor	Branch	Organiser	No of Players
117	05/05/2025	F2F	Technique	MT	Orkney	Bruce Mainland	
118	19/07/2025	F2F	Conducting Level 1	MG	Bristol	Rachel Mason	23
119	01/03/2025	F2F	Recorder Maintenance	JD	E Berks	Steph Sutherland	14
120	29/03/2025	F2F	Gabrieli Canzonas	AC	Guildford	Harriet Oliver	30
121	26/10/2024	F2F	All That Jazz	DM	W Riding	Jennie Hall	15
122	22/02/2025	F2F	Klezmer	IC	Norfolk	Virginia Valentine	14
123	04/10/2025	F2F	Klezmer	IC	Dublin	Jane Fry	
124	15,02/2025	F2F	All That Jazz	DM	York	Matthew Taylor	9
125	08/03/2025	F2F	Tudor Day	MU	Sheffield	Jane Ellin	27
126	25/10/2025	F2F	Klezmer	IC	Warwicks	Helen Jones	
127	17/05/2025	F2F	Rounds and Catch	JD	Cornwall	Helen Whomersley	22
128	26/09/2026	F2F	Gabrieli Canzonas	AC	Warwick	Helen Jones	
129	22/05/2025	F2F	Tudor Dance	AH	Abergavenny	Caroline Jones	29
130	28/06/2025	F2F	Klezmer	IC	N London	Katie Stone	21
131	07/06/2025	F2F	All That Jazz	DM	Durham	Kate Eagle	21
132	03/05/2025	F2F	Folk	MC	Cumbria	George Thorp	canc.
133	15/03/2025	F2F	Tudor and Stuart Dance	AH	Wessex	Julia McKinley	24
134	06/06/2026	F2F	All That Jazz	DM	Bath	Meg North	
135	21/02/2026	F2F	Folk Workshop	MH	Cambridge	Tricia Perrin	
136	07/03/2026	F2F	Folk Music from E Europe	MC	Sheffield	Jane Ellin	
137	21/03/2026	F2F	Baroque	MT	Cumbria	George Thorp	
138	11/10/2025	F2F	Gabrieli Canzonas	AC	W Riding	Karen Jarman	
139	09/05/2026	F2F	20th Century Music	MU	Cornwall	Helen Whomersley	
140	12/06/2027	F2F	Big Big Big	PW	W Riding	Jane Sellek	
141	02/05/2026	F2F	English Baroque	AL	Durham	Kate Eagle	
142	06/02/2027	F2F	Explore Folk	MH	Bath	Debbie Nicholas	
143	15/03/2026	F2F	Conducting Level 2	CJ	SRP - Swindon	Steph Sutherland	

144	18/07/2026	F2F	All in Good Time	DM	S Staffs	Wendy Shepperson	
145	11/07/2026	F2F	Conducting Level 2	MG	SRP-Sheffield	Steph Sutherland	
146	09/05/2026	F2F	Folk Music from E Europe	MC	Leicester	Sophie Gray	

Workshops can benefit us in so many ways, giving us more knowledge, refined skills, motivation , confidence, teamwork, social engagement etc.

New workshop ideas are always welcome, and so far, specialists have always been found to deliver them.

Have a look at the list of workshops on the SRP website and ask yourself if you fancy any of them, and if not, then what would interest you? Let me know.

Have a look at the table above and see if your branch has had a workshop recently !!

It's not difficult to book a workshop!

Level 2 Conducting Workshop

After canvassing all branches about their members interest in a Level 2 Conducting workshop, over 30 people responded positively.

Work is underway by the SRP to provide them with a conducting opportunity geographically close to where they live.

Workshops at Swindon (tutor Caroline Jones) and Sheffield (tutor Michael Graham) have been booked, and will take place in March and July, with a third workshop in Leicester to follow.

Branches will always need conductors!!

Steph Sutherland Feb 2026 (SRP Workshop Co-Ordinator)

Walter Bergmann Fund Report for Annual Conference 2026

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.

During 2025 we had 21 applications for funds in total. 20 were approved, 8 for instruments, 3 for attendance at workshops, courses, 5 for various projects, 1 for a composition for solo recorder and electronics, 1 for starting a recorder club, 1 for a concert exchange programme between London and Germany, 1 for lessons and 1 application was rejected.

Both music and recorders are either given to the Fund or left to us in wills to sell for the WBF. Donations from fund-raising or in memory of recorder players are also made. Most wooden recorders given to us are serviced and a rough value assigned to each. These are offered to participants at places where Moira Usher conducts or teaches and they are the main source of

income for the fund. Nothing is sold: donations are made to the fund instead. All the instruments and music are safely stored with Moira.

Debbie Nicholas
Administrator

Competition Administrator's Report to Annual Conference 2026

The Society of Recorder Players (SRP) / Moeck Solo Recorder Competition 2025 was the sixth competition I have organised as Competition Administrator. The standard of each final is always extraordinarily high, but this year stood out in a particular way, not only for the level of playing, but for the breadth of styles, musicians and repertoire on the stage. In 2025 the competition also celebrated its 40th year, and the final felt like a fitting way to mark that milestone.

The final took place on **14 November 2025** at **Blackheath Halls**, as part of the **London International Festival of Early Music (LIFEM)**. Our three finalists were **Olivia Petryszak, Lucas Biegel and Eunsol Lee**, and the judging panel was made up of **Dorothee Oberlinger, William Lyons and Peter Kohler**. It was a privilege to hear three such distinctive programmes side by side, each with a clear artistic identity and a strong sense of purpose.

From an organisational perspective, this year's final was among the most complex I have faced. This was largely due to the range of pitches, instruments and accompanying musicians required across the three programmes, which brought a significant level of detailed planning both in advance and on the day. I am grateful to the team at LIFEM, our SRP committee and Moeck for their support throughout, and especially to **Andrew Wooderson**, who provides and tunes the keyboard instruments. I am also grateful to the SRP committee for supporting the use of an extra keyboard instrument this year, which helped us meet the practical demands of the final. A possible first for the competition was that the final opened with a drum kit on stage, which immediately signalled the scope and variety of what the audience was about to hear.

First to perform was **Olivia Petryszak**, with a programme titled **Tuurugo** ("journey" in Bambara, a language spoken across West Africa). Olivia framed the recital as the journey she has taken as a musician, bringing together music that formed the basis of her study and exploration alongside her own voice as an artist. Around half the programme was brand new and created by Olivia herself. With accompaniment including percussion, harpsichord, organ, guitar and fiddle, the result was an exhilarating mix of styles and sound worlds, showcasing her fusion of multi-cultural, multi-genre influences and a strong, confident sense of artistic direction.

Next came **Lucas Biegel** with **Flora incognita**, a programme exploring the hidden meanings of plants in music. The opening set the tone immediately, with Hildegard von Bingen's **O vos felices radices** performed with viola, recorder and voice. From there, the programme ranged widely, including works by **Konstantia Gourzi**, and Lucas's collaboration with viola and keyboard instruments brought a vivid sense of colour and contrast to the recital. The thread of the programme remained clear throughout, giving the audience an engaging and thoughtful journey through repertoire that connected concept, sound, and performance.

Our final performance was **Eunsol Lee**, with **Dan-zzan: the harmony of disharmony**. The title reflected not only the breadth of recorder repertoire and the contrasts between the pieces she had

chosen, but also a personal point of reference: the Korean idea of sweet and salty flavours sitting together in balance. The programme moved between more traditional repertoire, including High Baroque Telemann, and more modern or less familiar works. Moritz Eggert's **Außer Atem** was immediately ear-catching as Eunsol began her performance, and the programme concluded with the Korean piece **Sang yeong san** ("The Summit of Vulture Peak"), which showcased her expressive tone, quick fingerwork and delicately precise playing.

After a short deliberation, the panel awarded **Eunsol Lee First Prize**, with **Olivia Petryszak and Lucas Biegel Joint Second Prize**.

The final was very well attended, with the room full, and the atmosphere throughout the afternoon reflected the sense of occasion. The drinks reception following the 40th anniversary celebration was wonderful, and it provided a warm and fitting moment to acknowledge the competition's history, its supporters, and the wider recorder community gathered for the event.

I would like to close by recording my thanks again to the team at LIFEM, the SRP committee and Moeck, and to Andrew Wooderson for his vital support with the keyboard instruments. Their contribution, along with the work behind the scenes from everyone involved, made it possible to deliver a complex final smoothly and to present a memorable competition afternoon that felt worthy of the 40th anniversary year.

Sarah Bronnert, Competition Administrator

Report from SRP News editor in the Recorder Magazine for SRP Annual Conference 2026

The SRP News pages in TRM continue to attract interesting and informative news from branches and affiliates all over, and to provide a comprehensive view of how active and attractive recorder playing remains across the UK. Stories in the media of its demise are simply out of touch! Last year's editions bade a fond farewell to Jim Grant and a warm welcome to Moira Usher, as well as offering President Philip Thorby the opportunity to write about his priorities for SRP. The Autumn edition ran an extensive account of the 2025 SRP Festival at Saltaire with significant input from members and composer Richard Harvey, and in addition to our regular pages in the Winter edition, it was a huge pleasure to do an interview with Ruth Burbidge of Peacock Press, who has provided so much of the music we all use and who, with husband Jerry, publishes The Recorder Magazine. - Branches and affiliates are regularly invited to send in news of events and activities, personal stories and memoirs. Hopefully they're inspired to try out new music or invite new guest conductors to expand members' experiences. Overall, the variety of music that SRP branches and affiliates can offer is astonishingly expansive!

Jean Campbell