The Society of Recorder Players

Registered Charity No. 282751, SC038422
President: Philip Thorby

Minutes for SRP Trustee Meeting
Tuesday 19th May 2026 9.30am, Zoom

Present:
Trustees: Moira Usher (Chair), Erica Crabtree (Treasurer), Rod Callow, Jill Taylor, Pamela Flanagan, Liz Bassett (Secretary), Steph Sutherland, Jane Sellek (Memsec and Personal Membership Secretary), Caroline Jones
Musical Advisors in attendance: Lyndon Hilling, Sandra Foxall

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

There were no apologies – all present.

2. **Conflicts of interest**

During the discussion regarding item 11, the allocation of surplus from the Annual SRP Festival, those trustees who are also conductors and Musical Advisors present will not be involved in this discussion or any associated vote.

3. **To approve the draft minutes of the Trustees' meeting held on March 17th 2026**

The draft minutes of the Trustee meeting March 17th 2026 were approved unanimously.
Proposed: Jane Sellek Seconded: Rod Callow
Carried unanimously by all trustees.

4. **Matters Arising from March 17th 2026 not otherwise covered by the agenda.**

Matters Arising from the last meeting not elsewhere on the agenda:	*Comments on actions*
Liz to inform Heidi of the decision and ask her to contact us again when planning the publication.	Completed – Heidi was very pleased with the outcome.
Liz to contact EMS to request more information about the Fringe groups attending and the number of young people involved in the Fringe; the timetable for the Fringe events.	Completed. She has not yet heard back from Ann Barkway though has heard from Fiona. The schools part is not going ahead. The Fringe will be two ensembles and a solo performer. It was noted that it is good that NYRO are playing. **Further action:** Moira to contact Chris to inform that we have not yet heard back with the further details about requested grant.
Liz to ask Pip to keep us involved and informed of his project for schools	Email response from Pip to read out – considering Birmingham symphony hall spring summer 2028; may request funding and representation – trustees agree

	in principle and await further details.
Pamela to relay the modifications requested by the trustees to the SRPI committee, and then to submit the document. Pamela also to check whether a yearly report will be required from the Irish Charity Regulator.	The document is finished –and Pamela is ready to submit it. The Irish Charity Commission will require a report from the SRPI. Certified accounts will be required separate to the whole of SRP accounts. The Chair thanked Pamela. Trustees note that a financial statement will be required and December 31st is the end of the Irish financial year. Future transfer of funds will need to be considered. **Further action:** PF to let the treasurer know what is needed regarding a financial report.
Erica and Liz to explore current situation and any future actions required re Making Music	Still to complete
Liz, Sandra and Pamela to review the current certificates	Ongoing and Sandra has worked on a new design which she will forward to trustees for approval.
Training for memsecs	Steve Hodgson is in place until December 2026 and will support any new memsecs up until this point.

5. **To approve the first draft minutes of the Annual Conference April 10th 2006 and any matters arising.**
The first draft minutes of the 2026 SRP Conference were approved subject to the following changes:
7.1.6 the wording is not quite right. The minutes will remain draft until the working group have met again and rechecked the rules re associates; insurance and payment to other branches.

Action: The working Group to meet on this matter before trustees alter the wording and approve the initial draft to be sent to delegates.

6. Confidential Item – minuted as a confidential minute.

7. Amendment of rules/organisation for the SRP/Moeck competition as requested by Sarah Bronnert - Sarah joined the meeting at 10am just for this item.

7.1 **Proposal One: To move the cut off date for entrants so it aligns with the entry date – if under 30 at the entry date of 31st March in any given year.**
Sarah made the point that other competitions have this ruling and current requirements do not align with academic dates and are difficult for those who turn 30 between the entry date and the final.

7.2 **Proposal 2: To alter the rules in two places to a) ensure contestants stick to whatever accompanying keyboards are stated as available or if they use electronics they have prepared themselves and b) where 75% of the programme is solo recorder only.**

Sarah feels this year's competition did not feel like a solo competition and different keyboards were additionally requested making organisation very difficult and costly.

7.3 Trustees were asked how they feel currently about the competition – trustees continue to support the competition unanimously as it raises the profile and standard of recorder playing and helps students to aspire. Encouraging players to excel is important as the society is not just about branch playing.
The point was made that the SRP need to advertise the competition more to those inside the society and outside the recorder community. Filming was discussed with the difficulty of performers having given written permission for their performance to be recorded which is difficult. Costs and not filming the audience were also raised as important considerations. It was noted that LIFEM charge £10 a ticket to watch the performances online for their competition.

7.4 The costs were clarified for all trustees:
Moeck pay the first prize (£1500)
SRP pay for prizes 2 and 3 (1750 combined), the judges (1600 in total + £16 each per entry over ten)) and for Sarah as the administrator.
SRP pay costs for the finals (up to £250 travel and two nights at a hotel + winners & accompanist expenses).
LIFEM pay for the venue hire for both years, staff, keyboard hire, tuning, and winners fee for the recital year (£500 +£200 for accompanist)
7.5 Sarah raised the suggestion of a junior competition in the morning of the current competition as proposed by LIFEM and conservatoires.

7.6 A trustee raised the matter of judges with a conflict of interest where their pupil may be in the competition. Sarah explained her reasons why she feels this is not a problem. Following discussion trustees were unanimously happy for the rules relating to judges remaining the same.

Action: While trustees were supportive of the proposals in 7.1 and 7.2, they requested Sarah draw up the rules in writing with proposals included ready for the next meeting in July, for trustees to approve formally.
Action: Sarah will also write up a more formal proposal for how to organise and manage the junior competition she suggested.

8. Rules of hospitality for conductors – due to time restrictions this item was left for the next agenda.

9. Financial updates from Treasurer

9.1 Jerry has informed the Chair that the magazine may be going up 10 or 15p next year (for printing, postage, wages) –The Treasurer explained that we have some leeway re subs – this year we made a slight deficit and will likely do so next year also.
The Treasurer explained why subs have not needed to go up 2026-2027.

The point was made that the choice of a digital or paper magazine would not lower costs.
Trustees may have to consider raising subs at conference 2027 to cover costs for 2027-2028.
The question of succession for the magazine was raised.
Action: Jane to inform branch membership secretaries, treasurers and branch secretaries that subs remain the same for 2026-2027.

9.2 The Treasurer alerted trustees to the need for bank mandates to be changed to put Jane on as memsec and to remove Penny.

9.3 The Zoom account has be increased to add three additional users.

10. Date and venue of next meeting
It was agreed to have another Zoom on a Monday or Tuesday in July and the next face to face in late September.

11. Review of Conference 2026 and 2027 Conference (90th Year).

Trustees were pleased to read the positive review from the festival organisers.

11.1 Excess money from the festival has in recent years been divided four ways between WBF, the organising branch, conductors, central fund. Conductors this year were paid a commercial rate per session thus trustees discussed how to split the surplus this year.
A proposal from the treasurer was to stick with the four-way split. Trustees agreed and felt strongly that conductors are a key element of any festival which was why the £45 per session payment was decided upon. Trustees felt they still deserved however the additional bonus of a share of the surplus money.
Proposed: Treasurer Seconded: Rod Callow
Unanimously agreed by trustees (those with a pecuniary interest were not part of the discussion or vote).

Action: treasurer to contact James Stringer, the festival treasurer, to inform him of the four way split and to request he send conductors the correct share of the quarter provided for conductors.

11.2 The 2027 Festival remains uncertain –it was agreed that if nothing had been finalised by the September meeting, a date for an online conference will be set in case a festival cannot be organised thus face to face becomes impossible.

12. Discussion about insuring NYRO instruments, how we take them back and where they will live for now. (Paper – SRP Proposed Hiring Scheme)

MU and LH presented a draft business plan which could be presented to possible music shops.

The point was made that the whole cost of the storage etc would not be passed on to members hiring the recorders – the SRP would subsidise the project.
4 businesses will be approached regarding running the scheme.

13. Updates from Officers and working groups Jill requested a trustee for the next meeting however the committee agreed that due to the difficulty of finding meeting dates for the WBF to ensure it is quorate, Jill as trustee and chair could attend as the only trustee. Where a second trustee could attend any meeting that would be best practice. Steph – canvassed for Level 2 Conducting Courses and got a good response. As a result, Caroline Jones will run a Level 2 conductor course in Swindon; in July, Michael Graham will run another in Sheffield with six people; in October Alyson Lewin will run another in Leicester.
Items suggested for future agendas (to be agreed and added to during the meeting) *Set date for the next Conference* *Rules of hospitality for conductors* *Website work – update and communication to members; updates from the working group how to appoint someone to design it; consideration to budget to afford a web designer.* *Privacy Policy (in the light of changes to the membership data base)* *Unacceptable Behaviour Policy* *Discussion of WBF donation being raised to a maximum of £1000 from £850* *Philip Cole Bursary – how to make schools more aware/Arthur Ingram Fund – awareness of possible grants on website*