



THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

President: Jonathan Dove
Registered Charity No.282751/SC038422

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE (DRAFT)

Friday 22nd March 2024

Haberdashers' Monmouth School, Monmouth

PRESENT;

Board of Trustees and Musical Advisers

Chair	Jim Grant	Musical Adviser and Vice President	Helen Hooker
Secretary	Val Giltrow-Tyler		
Treasurer	Erica Crabtree	Musical Adviser	Pamela Flanagan
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke	Musical Adviser	Alyson Lewin
Trustee	Stephanie Sutherland	Musical Adviser	Sandra Foxall
Trustee	Jill Taylor		
Trustee	Debbie Nicholas		
Trustee	Rod Callow		

Branch Delegates

Bath	Heather Locke	Mid Herts	Sue Cross
Beds and N.Herts	Glynne Parry	Newcastle	Kate Eagle
Birmingham	Annette Brown	Norfolk	Katherine Gray
Bristol	Rachel Mason	North Cotswolds	Hazel Hodgson
Cambridge	Liz Bassett	Nottingham	Trevor Brown
Cheltenham and Gloucester	Lynda Hinton	Nuneaton	Joan Gibson
Cleveland	Sandra Foxall	Oxford	Maggy Lynch
Cornwall	Pam Hall	Sheffield	Jill Lauriston
Cumbria	George Thorp	Somerset	Joyce Rudall
Devon	Linda Gibson	South London	Sheila Richards
Dorset	Maxine Gibson	South Staffordshire	Wendy Shepperson
Durham	Kate Eagle	Suffolk	Trish Cole
East Berkshire	Neil Stafford	Wales	Sue Russell
Guildford	Jeanette Bayliss	Warwick	Helen Jones
Ireland	Pamela Flanagan	Weald of Kent	Ian Jutting
Leicester	Sophie Gray	Wessex	Jan Ecob
Lincolnshire	Linda Hepburn-Booth	West Riding	Linda Fisk
Manchester	Jenn Stanley		

Observers

Beds and N.Herts	Gill Mitchell	Weald of Kent	Mike Wilkinson
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Nuneaton	Marion Hart	Warwick	Julie Houlton
Gift Aid admin.	Tessa Rolph	Pastoral Visitor	Naomi Wellings

1. Welcome – Apologies for Absence - In Memoriam

1.1. Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting at 4.30 pm by welcoming delegates from 35 branches, SRP Trustees, Musical Advisers, and observers, to the Conference.

1.2. In Memoriam: Conference noted with sadness the passing of the following members and friends of the Society since the previous Conference:

- Elizabeth Howells – Warwick
- Sylvia Davies – Bristol
- Ann Landsbury – Warwick
- Rosemary Berry – Somerset
- Margery Wood – Lincolnshire
- John Halliwell – Suffolk
- Frank Slocket - Ireland
- David Grosvenor - Cumbria

1.3. Apologies for absence were received from;

- Branches: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Essex, Glasgow, Kent, London, Macclesfield, Orkney, Peterborough, South Downs, York Guildhall
- Our President, Jonathan Dove
- Vice-Presidents; Piers Adams, Tom Beets, Tim Cranmore, Sarah Jeffery, Evelyn Nallen, Philip Thorby
- Musical Advisers; Evelyn Nallen, Moira Usher
- Role Holders; Nigel Birch (web editor), Sarah Bronnert (Competition Administrator), Jean Campbell (SRP News), Susan McLarty (webteam), Mary Tyers (publicity), Lindsey Smith (e-News)
- Honorary Life Members: Ursula Burchette, Andrew Collis, Graham Danbury, April Munday, Janice Ormerod, Alistair Read, Bob Whitmarsh

2. Minutes of Conference 2023

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the minutes of Conference held on 31st March 2023 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Alyson Lewin **Seconded:** Sheila Richards

Carried unanimously with 8 abstentions from those who had not been present at the 2023 meeting

3. There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.

4. Reports from Officers and post holders

All reports had been previously circulated to delegates.

Chair

4.1. In addition to his formal report, the Chair referred to the current vacancy for an e-News editor, as Lindsey Smith had to step down for personal reasons, and he invited expressions of interest. He mentioned his gratitude to all those who keep the SRP running; too many to mention by name. There were no questions from the floor.

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Secretary

- 4.2. The Secretary said how lovely it was to see everyone, and encouraged delegates to come and chat during the weekend.
- 4.3. Copies of the *Guidance Notes for Branches*, and the *Pastoral Visitors List*, were available for those delegates who were unfamiliar with these documents.
- 4.4. Delegates, and representatives of affiliated groups, were asked to collect their copies of the SRP Festival commissioned music, to take back with them.
- 4.5. The Secretary concluded her report by confirming that she will cease to be the SRP Secretary at the end of this Conference, as announced last year, but she will continue to be involved for a while, as matters are handed over to her successor.
- 4.6. A vote of thanks and a bowl of tulips was made to the Secretary for her work.

Treasurer

- 4.7. The Treasurer explained that she had provided a lot of information in this year's report, and drew attention to the fact that the Society has not yet had a "standard" year, since 2019, and so comparing current and previous year's accounts is not very meaningful. The five-year summary of income and expenditure that she had provided was more helpful in showing trends.
- 4.8. The Treasurer thanked branch Treasurers for their help over the year.
- 4.9. In response to a question from Pamela Flanagan, it was explained that the payment from the Philip Cole Bursary related to an award agreed pre-pandemic, towards travel expenses for an event which took place after the pandemic, when the travel costs had increased significantly above those formerly agreed.
- 4.10. Pamela reported that the Ireland branch had adopted a school, and was interested to know what bursary funds were being spent on. The Treasurer encouraged applications to the Walter Bergmann Fund initially, and confirmed that all applications are considered. If unsuccessful, applicants are given advice on alternative ways to achieve funding support.
- 4.11. It was confirmed that funding cannot be given for teachers' salaries, but WBF funds are available for instruments, lessons, music and for performances to children.
- 4.12. The Chair confirmed this targeted support, and was pleased to hear about the Ireland school affiliation.

Resolution; The meeting approved the acceptance of the accounts for 2022/2023

Proposed: Mike Wilkinson **Seconded:** Annette Brown **Carried** unanimously

- 4.13. Trisha Cole expressed the surprise of Suffolk members that an online version of *The Recorder Magazine* would not provide a significant saving. The Chair explained that the costings of *The Recorder Magazine* to SRP, from the publishers, Peacock Press, are based on economies of scale, and a reduction in the number printed would result in an increased cost of the remaining number of copies printed.
- 4.14. The Treasurer reminded delegates that *The Recorder Magazine* is not our (SRP) magazine, but Trustees feel it is important to provide it to members, as part of the SRP's role. The concept of the suggested change to an online version has been explored, and is not straight forward. Trustees will continue to explore possibilities.
- 4.15. The Chair reminded delegates that the proposed increases in subscription rates referred to the central component of the membership, and that branch subscriptions would need to be added to this.
- 4.16. During the process of approving the resolutions, Maggy Lynch asked for clarification about the need to increase subscriptions. The Treasurer confirmed the obligation to match income and expenditure, and to set the subscription accordingly,

at a rate to cover expected outgoings. Recent years showed a surplus during and immediately post-pandemic, but increases in expenditure due to more activity required the proposed increases now.

- 4.17. The Chair reminded delegates that there had not been an increase in subscriptions for some years, and that expenses have risen with the increase in cost of living.

Resolution; The meeting approved the increase of full membership to £30, with 4 abstentions.

Resolution; The meeting approved the increase of household membership to £42.50, with 3 abstentions.

Resolution; The meeting approved the increase of overseas membership to £35, with 2 abstentions.

Resolution; The meeting approved the increase of affiliate membership to £60, with 2 abstentions.

- 4.18. In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that the subscription rate for young members remains at £10.

- 4.19. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for all her valuable work during the year.

- 4.20. The Treasurer explained that the previous auditor had retired, and introduced Heather Locke (Bath) as a proposed Independent Examiner of Accounts.

Resolution; The meeting approved the appointment of Heather Locke as Independent Examiner. **Carried** unanimously

Membership

- 4.21. Penny Clarke added to her report as Membership Secretary, by reporting that membership was now at 1326, and close to approaching pre-pandemic numbers.

- 4.22. The Chair thanked the Membership Secretary for all her work during the year.

Workshops

- 4.23. Stephanie Sutherland, as Workshop Co-ordinator encouraged more branches to consider hosting SRP Workshops; 114 have now been taken up.

- 4.24. She encouraged delegates to promote the existing workshops, and to suggest new topics or tutors.

- 4.25. The Treasurer reminded delegates that there is no cost to a branch organising a workshop.

Walter Bergmann Fund

- 4.26. Jill Taylor, as Chair of the Walter Bergmann Fund sub-committee, reported that there was nothing to add to the written report, and informal approaches to herself or Debbie Nicholas, the WBF administrator, would be welcomed during the weekend.

- 4.27. Delegates were encouraged to browse the large display of donated instruments and music, to help the funds, and so ensure that more grants can be made available.

- 4.28. The WBF committee were thanked for their commitment.

Competition Administrator

- 4.29 The Chair accepted the Competition Administrator’s report and thanked Sarah for her work.
- 4.30 In response to a related question, the Chair reminded delegates that SRP supports the SRP/Moeck Solo Recorder Competition in a big way.

5. Election of President

- 5.1. The Chair explained the change from lifetime appointments was changed in 2014, when Jonathan Dove was elected as President for a 7-year term, which had now ended. This process will allow the involvement of more people as President. He referred to the respect for Jonathan Dove in the musical world, and his significant role at the Durham Conference, in 2019, as a judge for the composer’s competition. Although he has had less involvement since then, he has always been very supportive, and we are very grateful for his contribution.
- 5.2. The Chair explained the process for appointing a replacement, and made the Trustees’ recommendation to appoint Philip Thorby.
Resolution; The meeting approved the appointment of Philip Thorby as SRP President.
Carried unanimously
- 5.3. The Secretary explained that the new President was unable to be at Conference, but that he would be present during the Festival, and was conducting the final session.

6. Election of Trustees

- 6.1. The Chair explained that the Secretary, Val Giltrow-Tyler, had indicated last year that she wished to stand down. Elizabeth (Liz) Bassett (Cambridge branch) has volunteered her services as a replacement, and has been attending recent Trustee meetings as an observer.
Proposed: Christine Stapleton (Cambridge) **Seconded:** Raymond Papworth (Cambridge)
Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of Elizabeth Bassett as Secretary.
Carried unanimously.
- 6.2. The Chair explained that a vacancy Trustee post has arisen, as, regrettably, there has been a lack of communication with Samuel Constable .
- 6.3. The Trustees received a nomination from Pamela Flanagan as a replacement. She would remain as an SRP Musical Adviser.
Proposed: Francis Tuffery (Ireland) **Seconded:** Genevieve Mullins (Ireland)
Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of Pamela Flanagan as a Trustee.
Carried unanimously.
- 6.4. The Chair confirmed that, with the exception of the vacancy for an e-News editor, other post holders are happy to remain in post, but the Chair expressed his wish to stand down at the 2025 Conference.
- 6.5. Accordingly, the full list of Trustees is as follows;

Chair	Jim Grant – to 2025
Secretary	Liz Bassett – to 2029
Treasurer	Erica Crabtree – to 2026
Membership Secretary	Penny Clarke – to 2026
Trustee	Deborah Nicholas– to 2026

Trustees	Stephanie Sutherland, Jill Taylor – to 2027
Trustee	Rod Callow – to 2028
Trustee	Pamela Flanagan – to 2029

6.6. Other named posts are held by;

Competition Administration	Sarah Bronnert (nee Langdon)
e-News Editor	<i>vacant</i>
Gift Aid Administrator	Tessa Rolph
SRP News Editor	Jean Campbell
Publicity	Mary Tyers
Walter Bergmann Fund Chair	Jill Taylor
Walter Bergmann Fund Administrator	Deborah Nicholas
Web editor	Nigel Birch
Webteam member	Susan McLarty
Workshop Co-ordinator	Stephanie Sutherland

7. Resolutions

7.1. Honorary Life Membership is awarded to those who have given distinguished service to the Society. The Trustees propose the appointment of an additional Honorary Life Member.

7.1.1. Mike Wilkinson, in recognition of his past services as Membership Secretary and then Secretary.

Resolution; The delegates approved the appointment of Mike Wilkinson as an Honorary Life Member. **Carried** unanimously

8. Future Festivals

8.1. The Chair expressed the gratitude of the Trustees to the 2024 Festival team.

8.2. There have been no offers to host a Festival in 2025, and so the Conference is expected to run online.

8.3. An offer to host the 2026 Festival has been received jointly from Dorset and Somerset branches, which the Chair was very grateful for.

9. Any Other Business

9.1. The Ireland branch had submitted a proposal, which Pamela Flanagan explained more fully. The branch has requested that, as the SRP is now more international, with branches, groups, members, Vice-Presidents, and Pastoral Visitors who are not resident in Britain, in the future organisers should avoid referring to the Conference and Festival as 'National', and use the term 'Annual' on all forms and publicity.

9.2. The Chair explained that the SRP Conference is required to be held within 15 months of the previous one, and the term 'Annual Conference' could be used, moving forward.

9.3. The Chair noted that recent Festivals have been held in other nations, and that the Festival could now be referred to as the SRP Festival, as it may not be an annual event.

9.4. Jeanette Bayliss (Guildford) enquired whether there were aspirations to hold the events in far-flung places that would be hard to reach. The Chair explained that the

Constitution limits the spread of branches to Britain and Ireland, and that there are no expectations of holding the Festival further away.

- 9.5. Delegates were unanimously in favour of the new terminology.
- 9.6. The Ireland branch had requested that International Bank Transfer details appear on the Festival Registration form as standard, rather than having to request them.
- 9.7. Delegates were unanimously in favour of this suggestion for the future.
- 9.8. Tessa Rolph spoke to promote Making Music Day on June 21st every year, as an opportunity to promote the recorder at free events around the country on that day.

The Chairman thanked all for their participation and closed the Conference at 6.08pm, and invited delegates to take the opportunity to meet up with SRP officials for informal discussions during the weekend.

It is the intention of the Trustees that the next Conference will be held online.

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