**National Youth Brass Band of Scotland**

**Board Meeting No 3 – 19 June 2013**

**Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow**

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the members of the Board indicating the importance of the attendance of the Sponsorship Officer.

**Present**

Tom Allan, George Burt (Chair), Kenny Crookston, Neil Cross, Andy Duncan, John Hamilton, Jennifer Martin, Stephanie Mitchell, Raymond Thomson.

**Apologies**

Carrie Boax, Stephanie Mitchell

1. **Minutes of Meeting No 2**

These were accepted as an accurate record, *nem. con.* There were no matters arising.

1. **Finances**

**Management Accounts**

The accounts are relatively dormant at present, but this will change over the next few months as activity increases. The “Accommodation” entry was explained. It was suggested that a year-on-year profile would be useful to enable forecasting, planning, and comparison. It was agreed to develop this for circulation. There are 126 applications so far (approx. £40,000 income).

**Gift Aid and Bursary Scheme**

The creation of a bursary scheme is becoming increasingly important. All factors, except tuition, are eligible for Gift Aid (approx. £250 of the fee). The amount reclaimed through Gift Aid will form the basis of the Bursary Fund, and sponsorship will also be welcomed. The Sponsorship Officer was confident that businesses would be interested in becoming aligned with NYBBS. NYBBS alumni could also be used as a way of generating funds. A Gift Aid form will be sent with the membership information pack. The administration and eligibility criteria need to be developed: it was agreed that there should be self-certification based on income bands. Andy and Jennifer will meet to establish the criteria and the application process. Some funds have been disbursed for the present intake in order to ensure the quality of the band. Sponsorship by bands could be made via parents in order to qualify for Gift Aid. It was agreed that, as Gift Aid can be retrospectively claimed for four years, the parents and guardians for the past four years should be contacted with a Gift Aid form.

**Grants**

The grant application for £40,000 was unsuccessful, but SBBA has been invited to re-apply. The meeting with the YMI officer showed that there had been a misinterpretation of the application. The resubmission will emphasise the developmental nature of the way the grant will be used. Jennifer will work with Andy on the application. It was agreed to explore other Charitable Trusts.

1. **Membership of NYBBS**

**Current Position**

Around 45 have applied for the Senior Band, but this is in line with our intention to reduce numbers.

**Auditions**

In the future, all applicants will be auditioned. This will be around 80 auditions over two weekends, and can be used to generate a balanced band. Paid assistance will be provided to the Development Manager to undertake this task. Notional dates for the 2014 auditions: 30 November – 1 December, and 7 – 8 December 2013.

1. **Report on Easter Course**

This was very successful, attractive positive feedback from players and parents. Participants enjoyed the challenge of the music. An evaluation form will be distributed as soon as possible. Jennifer will assist Neil.

1. **Arrangements for the Summer Course**

**Accommodation and Logistics**

The Senior Band will be at Perth College which has fine rehearsal and performance space. The residential accommodation is excellent. With less participants than anticipated, it may be possible to move staff from the Travel Lodge (if cancellation is possible) into Perth College accommodation. The Stirling arrangements for the other bands were outlined. It was agreed that research into 2014 accommodation should begin, aiming to have a central location with all bands together. All staff are in place: final confirmation is awaited from the medical officer. With regard to players, the only concern is obtaining enough basses and persuading euphonium players to play baritones.

**Final concert**

Perth Concert Hall is booked and transport is being finalised. The obtaining of percussion from willing bands was discussed, but it was agreed to obtain quotes from professional suppliers. The sub-committee’s plan was outlined and discussed. It was agreed to approach Joe Walters to compose an opening fanfare which would allow all players to participate. It was agreed that there should not be a finale with all three bands as the setting-up required would reduce the impact of the concert. As some of the children will be presenting, it was agreed to employ a mentor to help them. Various VIPs have been invited and the SBBA Events Team will stage-manage.

1. **Appointments**

**Director**

Neil is retiring and was formally thanked for his work over the past 20 years. Neil had rescued the band from oblivion and grown it to its present position. It was agreed that, with the creation of a Management Board, the new Director’s role would be largely managerial and administrative. Discussions will be deferred until Neil has put his thoughts on paper.

1. **NYBBS Activities in 2013**

The Cumnock Festival (4.10.14) will be held in a Church of Scotland containing a good space for the band. There is interest from the BBC which should result in good publicity from NYBBS. The Director of NYOS appears to be keen on collaboration and a meeting has been arranged for August. The RSNO is also keen to liaise with SBBA and NYBBS relating to community outreach activities. Players from the orchestra could attend courses to play and have discussions with NYBBS players. We should also approach NYCOS. There is a social outreach programme at the Conservatoire which could enable NYBBS players to access a place at the Junior Conservatoire.

1. **AOB**

**Insurance:** This is now part of SBBA insurance.

**Solo Competition:** Alan Hastie or Ian Tonner will be approached to be accompanist.

**Ties, etc.:** Old stock will be sold at a low price, with new stock arriving next year.

**Tickets, etc.:** Ticketing arrangements were clarified. Tickets will be sold through NYBBS with the following prices: Family Ticket £20, Ordinary Ticket £8, Concession Ticket £6. Perth Concert Hall will be contacted to change the advertised price. Programmes will be £4.

**Uganda Link:** Too late to proceed this year.

**Concert Hospitality:** This will be in the Tay Room, to be organised by the Concert Hall hospitality team.

**Russell Gray:** There was a discussion on how he could be fully utilised. (master classes, lessons, working with the bands).

**Artistic Policy:** The sub-committee (Jennifer, Andy, Neil and Kenny) will meet prior to the next Board.

**RCS:** There needs to be liaison to avoid date clashes of NYBBS and RCS Brass Week.

1. **Next Meeting**

**Thursday 8 August (afternoon) at Perth College**

**Raymond A Thomson**

**26 June 2013**