

Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No 1 – 6 November 2011
Howden Park Centre, Livingston

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President opened by welcoming the new members of the Committee to their first meeting of the 2011-12 session.

Present:

George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Raymond Thomson (Minute secretary), Robert Burns, Brian Deans, Alan Douglas, Nicola Douglas, John Gilmour, Mark Good, Steven Gray, Robert McCorkell, John Martin, Lynsey Paterson, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

Apologies:

Mark Bell, Carrie Boax, Neil Cross, Andrew Duncan (Development Manager), Jennifer Fox, Karla McPherson, Anne Murray.

2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting of 2nd October 2011.

This was accepted as an accurate record, proposed by Steve Gray, seconded by Andy Smith.

3. Matters Arising

The President reported that that John Kirk's Appeal Hearing had taken place immediately after the last meeting. The Appeal was not upheld and the previous decision by the Disciplinary Sub-committee was confirmed. Since then, there has been considerable email and telephone communication from John Kirk to members of the Executive, and the Secretary's wife, claiming that the evidence against him was fabricated. It was agreed that we should obtain the services of a solicitor and that John Kirk should be informed that the solicitor will be the point of communication.

4. Development

Development Committee

The Development Committee has not met, but the development Paper presented at the AGM will be turned into a strategy for circulation to the Committee.

External Liaison

UKBBA is still stalled. Indications are that the new Welsh National Association may not wish to join UKBBA at this early stage. SBBA has made a proposal that the four national membership organisations meet informally on a regular basis to discuss issues of mutual concern. There will be a meeting with Stan Lippeat to discuss the way forward.

Annual Census

This is in progress, and it is important that it is completed soon. The Minute Secretary has agreed to collate the responses.

5. Financial Report

Accounts

There has been very little activity since the AGM. The Accounts will be completed, but may still need to be audited, by the time of the next meeting. We must now include NYBBS figures in our accounts, and they are being prepared at present. There is still confusion within our Bank's Internet Service, and Gerry Simonis has kindly agreed to assist us through this difficulty. The finances of the organisation are sound:

Youth Music Account	£37,000+
Youth Account	£ 1,937
General Account	£34,622

There is also an additional £6500 to be received.

Grant Funding

We have been awarded £89,700 (including £15,000 to assist and develop NYBBS) from the Youth Music Initiative. We have been asked to find sponsorship of £10,000 to cover the shortfall against our application figure of £99,700. We will apply to Ian Smith (Creative Scotland) to cover the shortfall with a view to obtaining funding to cover an administrator, book-keeper, publicity officer and sponsorship officer.

After 2013, it is possible that YMI funding will be moved to Youth Arts, with greater competition for funds. It is therefore important to get long-term funding from Creative Scotland by obtaining "Foundation Status". Sustainability of youth bands is paramount and, as a general proposition, the most sustainable youth bands tend to be those connected with senior bands.

A job specification has been created for the post of part-time sponsorship officer, and it was agreed that John Hamilton will undertake this work on a part-time paid basis. If sponsorship is obtained, it will also increase the profile of SBBA and NYBBS.

6. National Youth Brass Band of Scotland (NYBBS)

A quintet played at a recent wedding, and influential guests at the wedding were very impressed. The senior band played at a Music for Youth Prom in Perth before an audience which included Creative Scotland and Scottish Government officials. They spoke of the superb standard.

7. Area Associations

The West of Scotland Association has had a request for an event in Campbeltown on 17.02.2012, for someone to lead a Masterclass for youngsters and then take a rehearsal of the Test Piece with the Senior Band. It was confirmed that the funding from Creative Scotland was for youth development. We cannot support individual bands and, if a guest is to conduct a rehearsal, play a solo, etc. that particular band has to pay for that part of the event. The West of Scotland Association is organising a Philip Harper workshop and will be opened to participants from across Scotland. There was discussion about the possibility of matched funding and some possibilities were indicated. The Borders Association was congratulated on a very successful contest with the 'voice over recording' adjudication arrangements being well received. The arrangements for the East of Scotland Solo Contests are very unclear.

8. Education/Youth

The Committee has not met but work is proceeding on the Youth Championships.

Youth Championships

There have been 2 withdrawals. So far, ticket receipts total £3918, with 10 bands still to order tickets. Stewards are needed.

Disclosure System

No report.

Youth Development Report

The Development Manager was in Denmark speaking to the Dansk Amatør Orkesterforbund. Within a very interesting report was an indication of progress in the formation of 4 further youth bands, collaborative work with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and NYCoS on the creation of new manuals for adults tutoring children in youth bands, and ongoing talks about NYBBS playing at the 2012 Youth Prom.

9. Publicity and Communications

Website

Some changes are ongoing, and it is attracting a lot of hits.

Publicity

Claire Tomalin has been doing press releases *pro bono*. As we need publicity prior to the Youth and Open Championships it was proposed that we use her services on a more formal basis. John Hamilton is the photographer for the Perth weekend.

10. Membership and Registration

Figures

1750 players are registered. Stranraer has rejoined the Fourth Section (there is the possibility of another 2 bands joining this Section). Craigmillar will join as a Youth Band, a possibility for very positive publicity.

Exceptions to, and breaches of, SBBA Rules

Guesting: information is arriving very late to Band Managers because there is no longer any necessity for a Releasing Band signature. The Guest Rules will be reviewed by the Development Committee.

11. Events

2011 AGM and Conference

This had been successful with Iwan Fox of 4barsrest giving a very provocative but welcome presentation. We will consider making a closer connection with Making Music. The Howden Park Centre had not provided any vegetarian options at lunch. Peter Fraser was thanked for organising this excellent day.

2011 Scottish Open and Scottish Shield

Scottish Open: 16 bands with the programme being finalised this week.

Scottish Shield: 14 bands with all arrangements in hand.

2012 Besson Solo and Ensemble Championships

Scheduled for 4-5 February. Still in progress.

2012 Scottish Championships

Nigel Durno is donating all the scores (10) for adjudicators. Based on responses last year, Pre-Draw and Open Adjudication were discussed and agreed in principle for Sections 2, 3, and 4. Tom Allan would write to all bands for confirmation of their views.

2012 West Lothian festival

Discussions about doing this over one day are in progress, with costs from West Lothian still awaited.

2014 European Championships

The budget information from Fiona Hyslop's office has not helped as it was unclear. We have written to Event Scotland and await a reply.

12. AOB

Local Difficulties

There are ongoing problems between a senior band and its junior band (with a separate constitution). The junior band has gone into liquidation and its instruments given to 2 other junior bands. The senior band is of the opinion that it has a claim on these instruments. SBBA offers of mediation have been refused by the junior band.

13. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings in 2012

8 January	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
12 February	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
25 March	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
3 June	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
19 August	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
7 October	The Howden Park Centre, Livingston
TBC	AGM/Conference

Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary

10 November 2011