

Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No 2 – 15 January 2012
Howden Park Centre, Livingston

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present:

George Burt (President), Carrie Boax (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Karla McPherson (Treasurer), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Alan Douglas, Andrew Duncan, Peter Fraser, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, John Hamilton, John Martin, Lynsey Paterson, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

Apologies:

Neil Cross, Jennifer Fox, Robert McCorkell, Anne Murray, Robert Burns.

2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting No 1 of 6 November 2011.

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

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that Minutes will be circulated to bands as soon as possible after the Executive meeting.

4. Development

External Liaison

Despite requests, there has been no UKBBA meeting since early September. The UKBBA Working Group is likely to conclude that it has done its work and that others should now take it forward. Positive outcomes are that there are now Welsh and Northern Irish Associations, and that there will be an English Federation of Brass Bands. We have proposed that the four national associations will meet informally on a regular basis.

Annual Census

The figures were reported and will be distributed electronically (Minute Secretary's Note: done on 17.01.2012). A discussion took place on possible sanctions which would make returns more timeous. It was agreed to leave this for later consideration.

Section Restructuring

If there is a consensus on restructuring, thought must be given to possible mechanisms. A scenario has been distributed to the Development Committee and there is also a paper from Richard Kidd. The Banding Year will also be considered and the Minute Secretary's 2011 Paper will be re-distributed. The matters will be voted on at the next meeting.

5. Financial Report

Accounts

After four months of wrangling with the Bank of Scotland, the Secretary has now been cleared for restoration of our Internet Banking service, but still awaits the Security Token. The form for account signatories is with the bank. We have rejected a compensation offer of £300. The Treasurer reported that the accounts were therefore at the same stage as at the AGM. There will be a meeting soon to prepare the Annual Report as this is needed for applications. We still await the NYBBS financial figures. The figures to hand are:

Youth Music Account	£28,744
Youth Account	£ 300

General Account £16,000

There is also an additional funding to be received.

Grant Funding

There have been complications since the last meeting. The approved grant of £89,000 required us to find £10,000 support funding. We protested and have had to reapply for RDO funding. The new form of contract is unsatisfactory but will be signed (with a rider) in order to get the funds. The YMI officer has indicated that this is a sensible strategy. We must begin discussions with Creative Scotland on future funding in order to plan ahead.

Sponsorship

The Sponsorship Officer reported on his first six weeks. A document pack and presentation pack have been produced. 100 individuals and companies have been identified (most have also been contacted) and the next 100 has been prepared. There are 17 responses to far with only 4 rejections. We have already been offered £600 plus a provisional offer of £2000. The Officer has set a target of £50,000 with a view to increasing this substantially over the next few years. He has contacted specific BT sections to ask for office space and secretarial assistance on a charitable basis. The costs of a Photobook of the Youth Championships have been investigated. A provisional list of activities connected with the European Championships has been prepared, including accommodation and rehearsal venue lists.

6. National Youth Brass Band of Scotland (NYBBS)

There has been discussion with 2 orchestral conductors: both are interested but cannot commit at present. An orchestral conductor has been approached to be guest conductor at the Summer Course. The NYBBS brass ensemble (8 players who are also at RCS) played at the Scottish Parliament to great acclaim. Collaboration with other groups is ongoing with NYCoS musicianship teachers working on the NYBBS Summer School. There is a pilot NYBBS Regional Band formed in the Borders Region, conducted by Alan Fernie.

7. Area Associations

£500 has been sent to each Area Association, but 2 have still to cash the cheque. We anticipate the possibility of further funding. Brian Deans and Mark Bell have resigned from their Associations. The Area Test Piece Workshop organised by WoS was very successful, although poorly attended.

8. Education/Youth

The Committee met on 16 December and reported on positive feedback from the Youth Championships. However, the following points have emerged:

- Questions were raised as to whether the adjudication would be on content or entertainment;
- Some bands changed the content without notice;
- Bands want prior notice of photographs and the costs of recording;
- There were periods when tickets were not being checked;
- There are some reports that bands are bringing in players from elsewhere: as a result, some bands have indicated that they will not participate next year. The Development Manager will pursue this.

2012 Youth Championships

We anticipate up to 45 bands, and the contest must be over 2 days. The Scottish Open needs the benefit derived from the Youth Championships and there has to be careful planning. Opinion was that the Scottish Shield should be a stand-alone event and so requires a venue and a financial plan. We also need to work on timetabling in order to demonstrate that we can take up to 50 bands, this to be available at the next meeting.

Disclosure System

No report.

Youth Development Report

The Committee were delighted to be told of 4 new bands: Leadhills Silver Youth Band, Argyll Brass Band (Lochgilphead), The Big Noise Brass Band (Raploch), and the Gorbals Youth Brass Band. It is hoped that bands can be established in remote parts of Scotland including Thurso, Elgin, Stornoway and Kinlochleven. The Development Manager spoke to the Dansk Amatør Orkesterforbund about the SBBA Youth Development Programme, and a similar presentation is planned in Norway. Two training manuals (development/organisation and musical) are planned to be produced by early 2013. Plans are advanced for a Conductor's Training Weekend to held on 14 and 15 April at the Couper Institute, Clarkston.

9. Publicity and Communications

Website

Nothing to report.

Publicity

A comprehensive paper has been circulated, on which comments will be welcome: it is a very important document, and will be used to try to attract funding to support posts within SBBA. The Publicity Officer is being paid on an *ad-hoc* basis.

10. Membership and Registration

Figures

There are 1755 contesting players and 54 contesting bands. There are 14 non-contesting bands and 55 Youth bands.

Exceptions to, and breaches of, SBBA Rules

Nothing to report. The Rules will shortly be available for the web-site. The Secretary and Minute Secretary will meet shortly to complete the update.

11. Events

2011 Scottish Open and Scottish Shield

This was covered previously in the agenda, and a new venue is being sought for the 2012 contest.

2012 Besson Solo and Ensemble Championships

This will be held on 4-5 February in the Howden Park Centre. Percussion equipment hire has been offered free for the Youth events.

2012 Scottish Championships

The results of the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary indicated a majority within Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 for a Pre-Draw and for Closed Adjudication. This was agreed. The Championship Section will draw on the day and have closed adjudication. The Hall will be set up on the Friday: accommodation has been reserved in the Holiday Inn Express, and Committee members requiring this should contact Peter Fraser.

2012 West Lothian festival

This will be a 1-day event held on 10 June.

2012 Scottish Open and Scottish Shield

This is set for 24-25 November and will be an "Own Choice" contest. Decisions have still to be made about format and adjudication. Howard Snell has agreed to write a piece for 2013

and has also offered to adjudicate. The Publicity Officer will prepare appropriate press releases.

2014 European Championships

There are tentative budgets. Event Scotland will support it: we can apply now and obtain a maximum of £25,000 or delay the application until February for the 2014 budget. We have decided to delay. It has been indicated that Creative Scotland will make funds available. We expect confirmation by April.

Contest Dates / Events Calendar

Brass in the Park 1.9.2012

Borders Contest 3.11.2012 at Selkirk

Northern Counties 26.5.2012, venue to be announced

Dalkeith and Monktonhall will reintroduce a Slow Melody Contest on 26.5.2012 in Edinburgh.

12. AOB

Office

The office offered by Whitburn is not suitable for our purposes.

Local Difficulties

Enquiries are ongoing into the dispute problems between a senior band and its junior band mentioned at the previous meeting.

13. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings in 2012

12 February The Howden Park Centre, Livingston (to be confirmed)

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

It has been agreed to move the date of the AGM to avoid a significant clash of dates. The date will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary

17 January 2012