

Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No 3 – 12 February 2012
Howden Park Centre, Livingston

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Meeting was chaired by Carrie Boax. The death of Mrs George Burt was reported to The Committee and profound condolences were expressed.

Present:

Carrie Boax (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Robert Burns, Alan Douglas, Jennifer Fox, Peter Fraser, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, John Hamilton, Robert McCorkell, Alan McLaren, John Martin, Lynsey Paterson, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

Apologies:

George Burt (President), Karla McPherson (Treasurer), Neil Cross, Andrew Duncan.

2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting No 2 of 15 January 2012.

After minor alteration to Item 8, this was accepted as an accurate record, proposed by Julie Sanderson, seconded by Steven Gray.

3. Matters Arising

Pre-Draw

There has been discussion with Kapitool about our decision to have a pre-draw in line with the wishes of Scottish bands. There was an opinion that we had initiated this change too close to the Championships and the decision should be deferred. Alan McLaren read out a letter which had been sent to Kapitool, clearly setting out SBBA's case, and indicating that the debate had moved on to the question of who was in control of banding in Scotland. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was proposed by Robert Burns that we proceed with the pre-draw, seconded by John Martin. This was accepted nem.con. It was also agreed that we would not take the £1500 donation offered by Kapitool

4. Development

External Liaison

Stan Lippiat has reported that UUKBBA is standing down.

Section Restructuring

The Development Committee has tried to achieve a pyramid which should elevate standards throughout the sections and release space at the bottom to bring more bands into contesting. Of particular interest in the paper was the desire to increase activity and involvement in the Fourth Section. Suggestions include having a split section, with one part being "test-piec" based and the other being "own-choice" based. The discussion paper is complex and gave rise to much discussion. It was agreed that members should examine the paper and come to a decision at the next meeting. Ideas for a large-scale public event were discussed and will be further developed.

5. Financial Report

Accounts

The figures to hand are:

Youth Music Initiative Account	£23,172
Bank of Scotland Youth Account	£ 3,174
Bank of Scotland General Account	£ 8,315

The NYBBS accounts are still being finalised. Gerry Simonis is helping in the finalisation of the accounts.

Grant Funding

Funding of £89,000 is anticipated. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sponsorship

The Sponsorship Officer reported that a further 74 invitations to sponsorship had been sent to candidate companies. Large companies take time to process decisions through their hierarchies and there has been widening of focus to include 37 smaller companies which can make decisions more quickly. There have been meetings with 9 companies, two of which have committed £1300. The Sponsorship Officer is now beginning to explore charities. There is now formal stationery and a PowerPoint template to present a corporate front.

6. National Youth Brass Band of Scotland (NYBBS)

Application forms have been distributed and 14 applications have already been received. The NYBBS rehearsal in the Borders was very successful. Alistair Hutton has been approached to comper the 2 major Summer School concerts.

7. Area Associations

The **East of Scotland Association** reported that its organisational procedures had been problematic, and it was felt that assistance was needed from SBBA to help revive its activities. This will be passed to Andrew Duncan for his input. The **West of Scotland Association** reported that Raymond Thomson is the new secretary, and that its committee will meet after the Scottish Championships. It was agreed that there should be an Area Association meeting after the next Executive to include in its discussion the development of plans for Area Qualifying Contests.

8. Education/Youth

The Committee has had a very productive meeting:

- Andrew Duncan has spoken to 5 conductors who were of the opinion that the rules were fluid enough to allow own choice, but that the word “entertaining” should be removed from the contest prospectus as it caused some confusion;
- The bringing-in of players from outwith a band’s area was discussed, and it was decided that the words “bona fide” should remain in the prospectus;
- A schedule for the year is being prepared;
- It was proposed that the Youth Championships and Solos/Ensembles should be organised by the Education Committee: as this formed part of a larger weekend, there would need to be liaison with the Events Committee;
- The expression “12 and under from January 1st” will become “12 and under from August 1st” was agreed as this provided consistency among all contests: the necessity of adhering to this style will be emphasised at the next Area Associations meeting;
- SBBA should further the development of percussion at all levels of banding.

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.

Youth Development Report

The Committee were delighted to be told of 2 new bands; Brass Central (Crieff) and Doonhamers Junior Band (Dumfries), giving a most impressive 57 youth bands signed up as SBBA members. The report expressed a willingness to help senior bands who did not yet have a youth band of their own. The possibility of developing university brass bands will be developed with the assistance of Mark Good. Work is ongoing with local authority music services, and the Development Manager attended the HITS conference in Perth. SBBA has been asked to submit a paper outlining our vision for a new building (at Spier's Lock in Glasgow) to house the administration of all Youth Arts Organisations in Scotland. The dates of the NYBBS Summer Course (30 July – 4 August) and the Conductors' Training Weekend (14 – 15 April) were confirmed.

(During the discussion of the report, it was clarified that if a band instrument is damaged while being played in another band, it is still under the insurance of the original band.)

Child Protection

Maureen Wylie has offered to give another Child Protection Workshop. Although the entire process has been simplified, it is still onerous, requiring retrospective checking. Because of the length of time this is taking, we need to look at the problem to determine if we can simplify it by altering the weight of responsibilities.

9. Publicity and Communications

Website

There are some changes imminent to create greater clarity.

Publicity

John Hamilton met with Clare and Andrew to discuss publicity materials and press releases.

10. Membership and Registration

Figures

There are 1780 contesting players and 54 contesting bands. There are now 57 Youth bands.

Exceptions to, and breaches of, SBBA Rules

At last week's Under-12 Competition there was an incident in which an instrumental instructor was assaulted by a parent. It is clear that SBBA can have no responsibility or sanction in this area, but agreed to write to the pupil's school indicating our concern that the behaviour of supporting parties was inappropriate and unsporting.

11. Events

2012 Besson Solo and Ensemble Championships

There had been some confusion over the percussion prizes and photographs which needs to be resolved. There were also difficulties with performers keeping to time limits. It was agreed that there should be pre-draws for both days. Consideration was given as to whether the percussion elements of the competition should be separate: this will be discussed by the Education Committee. The Committee again expressed its thanks that Percussion equipment hire had been offered free.

2012 Scottish Championships

The number of applications is healthy. The costs of printing 500 programmes will be £650.

2012 West Lothian festival

6 bands will compete at the 1-day event held on 10 June. An adjudicator is still to be appointed.

2012 AGM

This has still to be finalised, but possibly 7 October in Bathgate. To be confirmed.

2012 Scottish Open and Scottish Shield

This will be on Sunday 2 December in Perth Concert Hall.

12. AOB

Banding Year

It was agreed that 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012 will be the Banding Year.

Rules

Professor Thomson was thanked for the work done to clarify the Rules, Procedures and Transfer Form. These will be sent to Peter Fraser to be loaded on to the SBBA website.

Life Membership

This will be granted to:

Eric Kerr and Neil Ward (Shotts St. Patrick)

Bill Giles, Bob McInnes and Tom Smith (Tullis Russell)

Nominations for President's and other SBBA awards will be considered at the next meeting.

13. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings in 2012

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

AGM date to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary

13 February 2012