

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)
REGAL THEATRE BATHGATE - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 2008**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

President George Burt welcomed the Executive Committee members to the first meeting of SBBA Executive following the AGM in October, particularly those attending for the first time. He explained the importance of the SBBA sub-committee system for carrying much of the ongoing work of SBBA and encouraged all members to become involved in at least one working group. The Executive was small in number compared to SBBA's aspirations, hence the importance of everyone playing a full part in delivering its objectives.

Executive members at the meeting were:- George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Alan McLaren, Julie Sanderson, John Todd, Andy Smith, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, Robert Burns, Jennifer Fox and John Hamilton.

In Attendance: Alan Edmond (YDO), Donald Reid (Minute Secretary); John Martin (Fife CBA).

Apologies for Absence were received from: Gerry Simonis, treasurer, (in Holland and he also apologised for missing the forthcoming Scottish Open); Phil Lodge, Robert McCorkell and Jim Hyslop.

2 MINUTE NO: 7 FROM MEETING OF SUNDAY AUGUST 3 2008

The minute of meeting No 7 of SBBA Executive on Sunday August 3 2008 was approved on the motion of Andy Smith and seconded by Julie Sanderson.

3 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered in the agenda

4 DEVELOPMENT

(a) Strategic Aims

The President spoke about need to balance the day to day work of SBBA and our long term strategic aims of SBBA. He emphasised the importance of forward planning, looking ahead at least 5 years. He had drafted strategic aims that SBBA should be focussing on in the years ahead and these would be circulated to members as a basis for discussion.

Among these issues were organisational matters relating to the development of brass banding in Scotland. SBBA had an important role working with Area Associations to develop brass banding throughout Scotland looking at the application of quality and standards and to provide effective support for these aspirations.

There needed to be plans put in place to increase the number of brass bands in Scotland and he made mention of the work carried out in Norway, highlighted so well at the recent AGM, which was an excellent model. Special emphasis had to be placed in setting up bands where few exist today, especially in more remote areas of Scotland.

It was also important to expand the numbers taking part in banding and that would include attracting back former players, who had a role in helping to encourage younger players with their experience and knowledge. SBBA had a role to play in supporting NYBBS and should be looking to encourage the development of new bands in schools. In support of that role SBBA needed to develop workable structures and procedures to promote and develop brass band music to the general public.

Raising the awareness of politicians and decision makers to the benefits of brass banding was also of the essence and he highlighted the increase in youth bands in Scotland over the past few years, which was very encouraging and something we needed to capitalise on.

Securing funding for SBBA and Area Associations would be vitally important and this will pay dividends in the longer term. In summary, he emphasised the vital importance of planning for the

future, knowing exactly what SBBA's vision is for the future and how we intend to achieve our aims and objectives, and keeping the SBBA Executive focused on the future.

(b) Consultation with Area Associations

The Secretary advised that he had received details of nominations to SBBA from the following Area Associations viz: John Martin from Fife CBA; Robert McCorkell from West of Scotland; Jim Hyslop from NCBBA. Other Area Associations had still to make nominations. Alan McLaren reminded members that Area Associations, if they wished to be represented on the Executive Committee and to receive funding via SBBA, should review their constitutions and bring them fully into line with recommendations agreed by the SBBA AGM. Until they fully implemented these recommendations, representatives from Area Associations to SBBA would be present in a capacity as non-voting observers.

(c) Life Membership and SBBA Awards

James Graham (Whitburn) was unanimously approved for life membership. Alan McLaren spoke about the criteria for honours in SBBA advising that Life Membership (50 years) was the norm for honouring outstanding service until last year. It was felt that Life Membership was not always sufficient to recognise good work as very often individuals would be unable to reach the 50 year criteria. The sub-committee chaired by Alan McLaren had looked at this issue in some detail and had come up with recommendations for ensuring that outstanding individual work was now recognised more appropriately. He said that there are now new categories and full details of these will be circulated to all member bands.

Life membership will remain as previous via applications from individual bands. Honorary Membership for an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to bands, with a minimum 25 year contribution, would now be a separate category, but it was emphasised that this must highlight very special contribution to banding and should never be regarded simply as a reward for 25 years service. It was important that bands and members recognised this distinction to ensure that the award had credibility.

Moreover, a special Lifetime Achievement Award was to be introduced and this was a very special and high award and SBBA committee will decide on an ad hoc basis on individuals considered to be worthy of this honour. It was stressed that this would be unlikely to be more than 1 or perhaps 2 individuals per year. It was agreed that the first of these awards would be presented at the Scottish Championships in 2009.

Peter Fraser said that it was important to ensure that recipients and their service were given wide coverage in the band and local/national press and details of the individual's service would be given prominent coverage in the Championship programme together with a photograph of the recipient. Again the President and Alan McLaren stressed that this will not be an automatic decision, and that where there might be 20 nominations, there will only perhaps be 1 or 2 awarded each year. This was a very special honour and needed to be earned with extra-special work for brass bands in Scotland.

It was noted that Honorary Membership applications were confirmed for two applicants, as the bands concerned wish the names not to be mentioned at this stage as they would like to organise their own surprise presentations.

For Honorary Membership each band with a recipient would be likely to organise their own presentation ceremony in honouring their member's service. In addition, to show SBBA's appreciation to award recipients, they will now also be invited to the Scottish Open or Scottish Championships to acknowledge them appropriately at national level. They would also be given access to hospitality facilities at the Scottish Championships.

James Stewart, a long-time servant of SBBA for over 50 years was proposed for Honorary Vice Presidency of SBBA. Mary Stewart, who had given over 35 years sterling service, was nominated for Honorary Membership. Both were unanimously approved for presentation at the Scottish Open Championships in Perth.

Hugh Johnstone MBE (Dalmellington Band) with 70 years service to brass banding in Scotland and Willie Tennant (Kirkintilloch Band) approaching a similar milestone, two extremely well known and popular giants of Scottish brass banding who had given quite outstanding and unique service, were proposed to be the very first recipients of the Lifetime Achievement award to be presented formally at the Scottish Championships in 2009. This was unanimously agreed, everyone being of the opinion that this special honour was very well deserved.

(d) Constitution and Rules

Alan McLaren raised the issue of the work of the Development Committee looking at key issues such as the constitution and rules, the SBBA Registry, and ensuring that practices and procedures of the Association are fit for purpose.

The President suggested that it might be helpful to have a specific sub-committee looking at the Registry. The Secretary, operating at present also as SBBA Registrar, highlighted that under a new system this would involve an extra workload and it was not possible for the current Registrar to do this role and also that of Secretary.

It was agreed that the Development Committee, chaired by Alan McLaren, continue with the previous committee (except for John Martin who intimated a wish to stand down). John Gilmour raised issues about getting the small numbers on the Executive, all busy people, to attend sub-committees and he saw this as a real problem.

Alan McLaren said that the new rules had now been published after the AGM. However, when he went to incorporate the changes, he found that there were certain anomalies which might be problematic and these seemed to arise from rules changes the previous year which seem not to have been updated onto the master rule book.

The President suggested that necessary rule changes, to avoid doubt, be made by the Development Committee in a comprehensive review because the rules issues could be quite complex and failure to get things right would undoubtedly lead to problems in future. It was agreed that the SBBA constitution would now be issued as part of the SBBA Resource Book in due course, once the work of the Development Committee was complete. Rule changes arising from the AGM had been updated.

(e) External Liaison

A response had been received from Mr Robert Morgan (Chairman BFBB) to a letter from George Burt which had expressed concern about comments surrounding the British Open. The Executive Subcommittee will consider a response.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts

Treasurer Gerry Simonis in his absence had arranged that a fully detailed set of current accounts had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and further intimated that anyone with questions should contact him. Prior to the meeting he confirmed that no one had raised any issues with the accounts. This was the first report of the new financial year and there were no questions on the accounts.

In a prepared paper the Treasurer, based on the recent financial problems in the UK and relative to previous discussions on this at SBBA, now sought formal agreement of the Executive to open a Treasurers' bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The reason is the new bank guarantee limitations of £50,000 per account per legal entity. He further proposed that the funds, which are ring fenced in the accounts on behalf of the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) should be transferred into this new account. He advised that this will have the additional benefit of keeping the SAC funds and the SBBA funds separated as well as keeping each account below the guarantee limit "just in case" of

future banking problems. This motion was unanimously approved on the proposal of Julie Sanderson, seconded by Tom Allan. The Treasurer had previously advised that when formal approval was forthcoming from the SBBA Executive, he would take the necessary steps to open the requisite account. For the purposes of formalising and clarifying this matter in terms of meeting the needs of the Royal Bank of Scotland plc and SBBA the following was formally and unanimously agreed:

"It was resolved that a treasurers' account should be opened at the Royal Bank of Scotland plc. containing all funds held on behalf of the Scottish Arts Council. It was further resolved that any two signatures would be required for any authorised withdrawal or cheque payment."

The President thanked Treasurer Gerry Simonis (in his absence) for his hard work and stewardship of SBBA finances, particularly as everyone appreciated how much more complex they had become in recent years.

Grant Funding

The President advised that a second £15,000 grant had been received from the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) for 'infrastructure development' and he highlighted some of the areas where this could be legitimately spent including: promotional work; support for the work of the officials; the involvement in SBBA of more young people including innovative approaches to communication by using IT systems linking young people throughout Scotland.

The President commented on the YDO Post and advised that funding had been applied for through the SAC Youth Development Fund which, if granted, will take us through to 2010.

Alan Edmonds, YDO, spoke about applying for grants to SAC Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Fund available up to £5,000 for taking young people to RSAMD for tutorship.

VP Peter Fraser raised an important issue about Officials of SBBA having to use their own computers, printers and other equipment. He felt that the 'infrastructure funding' was really ideal to cover these important areas. The committee unanimously agreed that officials should be able to purchase necessary equipment from this fund and provide a report back to committee as appropriate on such spending. The President advised that some £30,000 had been received in Infrastructure Funding and spending on items of equipment fitted comfortably with this.

In addition, VP Peter Fraser in his role as SBBA Events Manager, advised that he and Secretary Tom Allan, had to regularly lay out considerable sums of money in relation to organising large events such as the Scottish Championships and the forthcoming Scottish Open which they had to later reclaim; a far from ideal situation.

It was advised that the SBBA Development Officer also operated on this deferred payment system as he was travelling widely throughout Scotland and organising seminars and having to expend necessary up-front finance. It was unanimously agreed that this was an unsatisfactory situation.

The President said the use of credit cards was standard practice in business and that SBBA should be run on a similar professional footing. It was unacceptable that SBBA Officials should be using their own credit cards to enable the work of the association to be taken forward. It was agreed that a future report will be made on the operation of the SBBA Credit Card system together with standard operating rules taking full account of appropriate advice from Treasurer, Gerry Simonis.

After a full discussion it was decided that, in consultation with and taking appropriate advice from the Treasurer, necessary arrangements should be made to have SBBA Credit Cards organised for the Events Manager, Secretary and Development Officer, with formal spending limits and operating rules to be arranged to protect SBBA.

6 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The President spoke about Phil Lodge, chair of the Disciplinary Committee, having had recent problems and because of this the disciplinary committee had not been able to meet as agreed at the last Executive meeting. It was also highlighted that Donald Reid, following the October AGM, was no

longer a member of the Executive and consequently could not serve on the Disciplinary Committee, albeit he was present at Executive meetings in his capacity as SBBA Minute Secretary.

After discussion it was agreed that a new Disciplinary Committee be formed with Robert Burns (Chair), Julie Sanderson and John Todd to examine the current disciplinary matter and report back. The President said it was unfortunate that this matter had not been dealt with expeditiously, but in reply to a comment, emphasised nothing was being swept under the carpet or ever would be.

7 EDUCATION/YOUTH ISSUES

(a) Child Protection

The President advised there had been a generally disappointing response from bands relating to this issue. The key question was how can SBBA encourage bands to become involved in the SBBA Child Protection system? He stated that CRBS & Disclosure Scotland administer the system and provide training, albeit at a price. There are a lot of bands not registered in either system. The Secretary pointed out that as far as he was aware, only 5 Band Child Protection Officers have been disclosed by CRBS at this time.

The Secretary felt that we need to get more people registered and trained, albeit he fully appreciated it was seen as an administrative problem for band officials and the SBBA Lead Signatory, Danny Harrison, who were already very busy people.

The Lead Signatory has already agreed to provide the introductory course in place of CRBS and this will help to speed up the process and be more cost effective. This system will allow more localised meetings to take place, making it much easier and convenient for people to provide the information required to start the disclosure procedure.

The Secretary advised that the SBBA Lead Signatory should be a member of the committee. Jennifer Fox indicated that she would be willing to take on this role on behalf of SBBA and her offer was gratefully accepted with the proviso that she work initially with Danny Harrison before eventually at an appropriate time taking over the role.

It was highlighted by Jennifer Fox that when bands come through SBBA for Child Protection checks, each band will also need a registered Child Protection Officer in place. Jennifer Fox was thanked by the President for her willingness to tackle this complex role.

Julie Sanderson and Jennifer Fox both agreed to join the Education Committee.

(b) Youth Development Officer's Report

See Appendix 'A' attached and had been previously circulated.

In addition to his published YDO Report, Alan Edmonds advised that Abbey Brass in the Borders held a workshop and recruitment process in local primary schools at which they played some great brass band music to inspire their young listeners. It was hoped that this will prove to be the catalyst for further recruitment to Abbey Brass and perhaps may encourage the setting up of youth brass bands in Primary Schools locally.

John Todd mentioned problems that had arisen at the recent Fife Youth solo and quartets competition over a recent change in rules. The current rule indicates that children can only play with one band in any one section. In his opinion, this was unduly restrictive and should be amended to allow children to play with any number of bands, in the spirit of encouraging rather than discouraging children and young people. After discussion it was agreed that it be brought back at a subsequent meeting.

8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Resource Book

The President advised that Gerry Simonis had done a huge amount of work on the Resource book. It was agreed that he should meet with the Development Committee before going to press, so that everything could be double-checked, particularly issues relating to rules as there had been so many changes over recent years.

VP Peter Fraser advised that Gerry was now doing a separate page for each band, but communications between bands and Gerry would need to be speedy with accurate information provided for the Resource Book. A full report would be provided at the next meeting from Gerry on this issue.

The President commented on the success of the 2007 Annual Survey. It was suggested that the survey forms go out in January and ask that bands return the information by March 2009. This provides a huge amount of information that proves extremely helpful to SBBA about the progress of brass banding in Scotland and especially when soliciting support (eg applying for grand funding).

(b) Brass Band Week

Brass Band Week is scheduled to take place on the week commencing May 23 2009. The President emphasised that this was a vitally important time for getting the Brass Band message out to the public. He said that with even 100 (that is, one per band) events happening in one week this would generate a huge amount of publicity. Last year's Brass Band week was rather disappointing. VP Peter Fraser will prepare an information sheet to go out to bands with helpful suggestions as to how they may wish to help make the Brass Band Week a resounding success in local areas.

Brass Band week needs to be planned and some recognition given to bands who support this initiative. Ideas were discussed for innovative ways of encouraging bands to take part. As a build up to the week, Black Dyke Band were performing at Glasgow Concert Hall on May 23 2009 and MSLBBA were planning to hold a marching contest. Other events could be developed around these and given maximum publicity in local newspapers and other outlets.

(c) Publicity

A discussion ensued on how SBBA could be more professional in our publicity and public relations. It was noted that VP Peter Fraser and Alan Edmonds (YDO) were attending a conference dealing largely with publicity. Some £5,000 was available from SBBA funds to hire a Publicity Officer in a part-time capacity and a number of names were suggested as being suitable. It was decided to look at these possibilities, and that attention would be given to any recommendations made by VP Peter Fraser and Alan Edmonds (YDO) following their attendance at the PR conference.

(d) Web Site

John Martin advised that SBBA web site was being kept up to date. The Committee page has been updated showing the new Executive. Links on the site to various SBBA rules etc have been removed from the site until they are updated. John Martin asked to be given a copy of the new rules once they are to hand and he would arrange to post them on the site.

9 EVENTS

(a) 2008 AGM

The SBBA AGM was considered to have been very successful, though it was disappointing that not more bands had attended. It was highlighted that the AGM was the place to air views. The input from all participants was first class and the example of Banding in Norway from Ulf Rosenberg provided much food for thought, with many learning points. We need to think ahead to 2009 and plan ahead early. Special thanks from the President to Peter for his organising of the event.

(b) 2008 Scottish Open, Challenge, Shield, and Scottish Youth Championships

VP Peter Fraser advised that arrangements for the event on 29/30 November were progressing well. He intimated that the Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire had agreed to present some of the prizes. It was also advised that the Band of the Year results will also be announced at this event. It was anticipated that the Scottish Open Result will be announced around 9.00 pm, so it would be a long but hopefully enjoyable day for all.

VP Peter Fraser intimated that a Besson Representative will present prizes for Scottish Open. It was suggested that Jimmy Stewart be asked to present some of the prizes for Scottish Youth Championships and Peter Fraser agreed to ask Jimmy.

Alan Edmond advised that Iwan Fox, managing director of 4 bars Rest, will be attending for the entire weekend. SBBA agreed to help Mr Fox video part of the youth championships and interview various conductors and band members. Alan Edmond will also provide assistance to Iwan Fox. Alan Edmonds suggested that a commemorative booklet for the Youth Championships could be produced giving perhaps two copies to each band. This was a possibility that would be examined further.

(c) 2009 Scottish Championships

This event was schedule for 21-22 March 2009 in Dundee. VP Peter Fraser advised that the adjudicators are: Steven Roberts, Alan Morrison, Peter Bassano, Peter Roberts and Graeme Jones (who has still to confirm).

A new trophy to be presented at the 2009 championships in memory of past president James Abbott. On Saturday, the order of sections playing will be: 3, 2 & 4 as previously agreed by the committee; Sunday would be 1st & Championship Sections.

(d) 2010 Scottish Championships

VP Peter Fraser advised that he has already had preliminary discussions with Fife Council about the 2010 Championships. This will be discussed in more detail at future meetings of the Executive, but the priority at the moment was the 2009 Championships on 21-22 March in Dundee.

(e) Contest Dates / Events Calendar

Northern Counties Solo and Ensembles will be held in Mackie Academy, Stonehaven on Sunday January 18 2009 and the Open Band Contest in Reid Hall, Forfar on Sunday 24th May 2009. The 2010 FBBF contest takes place on Saturday May 24 2010.

(f) Reports on other events

Secretary, Tom Allan, advised that the Borders Entertainment Contest on 1st November went very well with 22 bands, 18 senior and 4 junior. The MSLBBA Solo and Ensemble Contest was held on 8th November in Musselburgh with 58 young people taking part and Les Neish attended and held workshops which were very well received. There was a slight problem about rules, but SBBA will resolve this for future competitions. The West of Scotland Association Solos and Ensembles was held in Kilmarnock with 27 soloists and 5 ensembles taking part.

Alan Edmond advised of the Pontins Competition on October 21, where Tullis Russell and Lochgelly took part. He said there was some excellent prize money on offer at this competition and the opportunity to compete against good English bands. The Scottish Youth Solo and Ensemble Finals will be held on February (at Bathgate on Saturday 7th and a venue still to be confirmed for Sunday 8th as the Regal Theatre was already booked by another organisation).

A discussion took place on recent problems relating to entry forms for competitions. Some bands and areas had failed to use standard entry forms and this led to problems because all the required information was not always included in local forms. Standard formats would be issued to all the Area Associations.

Attention was draw to the SBBA rule that bands must advise SBBA when playing outwith Scotland in a competition.

10 REGISTRATION

(a) Registration Figures

Secretary and Registrar, Tom Allan, advised that there were 1791 Players registered at present. Since January 2008, there had been 287 new registrations, 277 cancelled registrations and 39 transfers. The number of bands during this time with 35 players ranged from 16 to 25 bands. The 2008 'dead file' contained 240 names.

There were 10 championship section bands; 10 first section bands; 12 second sections bands; 11 in the third section and 10 in the fourth. He advised that Stranraer and Langholm may not take part in the Scottish Championships. In response to a question he advised that not all 53 had renewed their subs. Bands have until 24 January 2009 to pay entry fees for the Scottish Championships. Six bands were overdue for refranking of cards. Langholm are now a contesting band whilst Clydebank is no longer contesting.

(b) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules

None reported since the previous meeting.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Guesting

John Gilmour raised the issue of lower section bands going to competitions with guests from championship bands. He felt this was unfair and could influence the adjudicator. The current rule states you can have 2 guest players from the same section and 2 from any other section, hence it is possible to have 2 championship section players which, he felt, can make a real difference. Alan McLaren reminded the committee that bands voted at the AGM and through the questionnaire, not wishing any change. John's concerns were, however, noted.

(b) European Youth Band 2009 Ostend

Traditionally SBBA has always supported this event. They are asking that Scotland should supply an E flat bass, Euphonium and cornet to help make up the band which meets from 26 April – 3 May 2009. SBBA will pay the fares of the three Scots and all other costs are covered by the host country. VP Peter Fraser advised that he had to give names soon and some individuals were highlighted as possible for attending. He will also look at last year's youth solo results for potential candidates. The age range is 16-21, so that the individuals can look after themselves. SBBA has also sponsored a prize to the tune of 500 Euros and it was unanimously agreed that we do so again. Supporting this event was good for publicity purposes and generally positive for brass banding in Scotland.

(c) Letter from Regal Theatre, Bathgate

A Letter was received from the Regal Theatre, Bathgate asking that SBBA continue using the Regal. This was noted.

(d) Letter received from BBR requesting that SBBA investigate how the private and confidential registration history of a player was published in the British Bandsman. Secretary Tom Allan factually replied that SBBA did not reveal any information to anyone relative to this matter and SBBA would be taking no further action. This was noted.

12 DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 11 January 2009 in Cowdenbeath at Kingdom Brass, Co-op Halls, Natal Place. Other meetings during 2009 would be held on the following dates: 15 February; 29 March; 17 May; 2 August and 4 October. The locations of these meetings to be confirmed.

APPENDIX 'A'
TO SBBA MINUTE NO: 1
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 2009 – REGAL THEATRE, BATHGATE

Development Officer – Progress Report
5 October – 22 November 2008

Bands

Kirkintilloch (Imperiam) Youth Band - Attended first rehearsal and subsequent meeting with George Kelly of East Dunbartonshire Council to plan school recruitment workshops and partnership programme between band and council. The first workshop will take place in Lairdsland Primary on 28 November.

Newtongrange Silver Band – Attended meeting to discuss how the school recruitment workshops are organised with a view to helping the band attract some new recruits to the already established youth band.

Clydebank Burgh – Attended a meeting along with Peter Fraser, Tom Allan and Andy Smith to discuss plans for the future of the band. The band committee had felt that due to the continued low turnout at rehearsals, they wished to mothball the band and release any remaining registered players. After further discussion regarding other successful youth projects, it is now hoped that Clydebank will follow this route to help sustain the future of the band. Plans have been drawn up for a new band hall which would also include a Scottish Brass Band Heritage Centre and Museum.

Irvine and Dreghorn Junior Band – Meeting held with Brian Kerr of North Ayrshire Council and Carrie Boax from the band to look at ways of networking and supporting future growth of the band through school recruitment workshops. A subsequent meeting was held with Carrie and conductor Dave McKellar to organise workshops which have now been scheduled for 23 January.

Kinneil Youth Band – Organised a meeting with Gillian Thomson and Margaret McLaughlin of Falkirk Council and Kirstine Lehaney from Kinneil to plan school recruitment workshops and partnership programme. It is hoped that the first two workshops will take place in January.

Area Associations

MSLBBA – Further meeting held to organise youth masterclass with adjudicator Les Neish, in conjunction with solo & ensemble contest. Solo & ensemble event took place on 8 November with the masterclass session being a tremendous success in allowing young players to interact with the adjudicator. Around 60 young brass players were in attendance.

Local Education Authorities & Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS)

East Ayrshire Council – Further meeting held with Paul Wood to promote brass bands in the area. The council have now registered Cumnock Academy and East Ayrshire Youth Band as youth bands with SBBA.

Events

Attended two Steven Mead masterclasses to promote brass playing and brass bands in schools. The first event was held in Larkhall Academy and was promoted by Chris Bradley. The second was organised by Robert Fraser and was held in Hyndland Secondary, however, it was attended by pupils and teachers from three other secondary schools in central Glasgow and attracted over 150 participants. It is hoped that we can use events like these to help promote secondary schools having their own brass band as is the case in Norway.

Miscellaneous

Interview with Bob Dickson, Radio Scotland, regarding the progress of the Youth Development Programme in the last 18 months. This will be aired at lunchtime on Tuesday 25 November as part of a larger piece looking at the regeneration of the Newtongrange Silver Band.

Have gained sponsorship from Yamaha to provide Simone Rebello for a percussion workshop. This will be hosted by Dalmellington Band on Sunday 22 February 2009 and will be supported and promoted by the West of Scotland Band Association. It will be open to percussionists throughout Scotland and will be free of charge.

Along with George Burt, attended a meeting with Scottish Arts Council to discuss funding for Youth Development Programme in 2009.

Alan Edmond
Development Officer
Scottish Brass Band Association