

**MINUTE Number 4 - of THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)
SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2010 IN THE HOWDEN CENTRE, LIVINGSTON**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

President George Burt welcomed members to the fourth SBBA meeting of the 2009/2010 session.

Present George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), John Todd, Andy Smith, John Gilmour, Robert Burns, Mark Bell, Steven Gray, Lynsey Paterson, Jennifer Fox, Kenny Crookston, Brian Deans (W of S) and John Muir.

In attendance Alan Edmond (Development Officer), Donald Reid (Minute Secretary).

Apologies : Gerry Simonis (treasurer), Ann Murray (Northern Counties), Phil Lodge (ill), Robert McCorkell, and John Muir,

2 MINUTE NO: 3 OF SBBA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF SUNDAY 14 February 2010.

Approved on the motion of John Gilmour and seconded by Jennifer Fox without amendment.

3 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

There were no matters not already covered on the agenda.

4 DEVELOPMENT

(a) Constitution and Rules

The President advised that due to the work involved in the run-up to the Scottish Championships, the Development Committee had not been able to meet. It was envisaged that an early meeting would be held and a report given to the next meeting of SBBA. The President advised that updated constitution and rules had been circulated and he asked for any views on the papers to be forwarded to himself prior to formal adoption.

(b) External Liaison

There is a meeting on 3rd July of BFBB probably in Birmingham, but SBBA have as yet to received a formal invite. It was felt that SBBA should be represented. The secretary will contact Robert Morgan of BFBB and advise that SBBA wished to be represented at this meeting. The issues to be discussed were, in the main, the regulation relating to brass band contesting.

(c) Annual Census

Secretary, Tom Allan advised that the annual census form returns had been disappointingly slow. Interestingly, the returns so far received indicated that a number of training/youth bands were in existence some formally unknown to SBBA. The secretary will again contact those who have not made a return and ask for their co-operation in this important issue.

(d) SBBA Office

Alan Edmond reported that it was intended to invite Gordon Connelly of West Lothiann Council to the next meeting of SBBA Trustees to discuss office premises for SBBA..

(e) Awards

The President advised that he had circulated a 'Criteria for Awards' paper which simplified and standardised the various types of SBBA award and the criteria required to meet standards. Members were asked to review the document and revert to the President prior to the paper being formally agreed.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts

The accounts had been circulated by the Treasurer Gerry Simonis (apologies) prior to the meeting highlighting the current financial details of the Association to-date. This shows a surplus to-date of £8,904.67 over all operations.

After extensive consultation with the President in connection with various claim-returns to the Scottish Arts Council there are three notable events in these results raised by the treasurer.

1. The Youth Development Scheme was able to support the Youth Championships 2009 as well as the Solos and Ensembles Championships 2010 with £4,905 and £3,073 respectively. The affects can be seen in the events summary.

2. From SBBA's own resources (the registry) £1,986 was transferred to the Scottish Championships 2010 also shown in the events summary.

Consequently none of this season's events are shown a loss. However the treasurer emphasised that it was prudent to remind the SBBA executive that the total sponsorship and support (including the registry) has amounted to £17,731.52 this 2009 / 2010 season. Without this level of support it will only take one season to wipe out any reserves we might have. In short bringing sponsors on board was of the essence to ensure that all the contests/champions did not run at a loss.

3. In the other Scottish Arts Council (SAC) claim for infrastructure support the sum of £5,000 has been set aside for Area Associations to use for funding area wide workshops. Further details about conditions in this regard may be had from the President or the Youth Development Officer. This latest £5,000 will be in addition to last year's provision for Area Associations' admin support, none of which has yet been claimed by any areas. Again details about terms and conditions for such claims can be obtained from the president, secretary or development officer..

The vice-president has been invited to submit a claim to the West Lothian Council (WLC) for support of events run in or on behalf of West Lothian Council. The maximum grant would be £2,000 and needs to be at a maximum of 50% of total expenditure.WLC has been very slow submitting invoices to the Association and any thus far have been for catering and not for accommodation (since returning to Howden Park Centre).

The President emphasised the importance of Area Associations claiming the £1000 grant for the past two years encouraging them to claim this money for infrastructure and Youth Development. £15,000 was made available via SAC, but so far only £5,000 has been drawn down. It was vital that this money is claimed and used in early course. A brief report was required from each Association to SBBA secretary highlighting what the money would be used for by area associations.

Peter Fraser advised that some advertising and trade stand income had still be received from the Scottish Championships.

Peter Fraser reported that ticket sales for Solo and Ensembles was up considerably, because West Lothian staff were manning the doors and were effective in ensuring that everyone entering had a valid ticket. The same applied at Glenrothes for the Scottish Championships, so having professional stewards on the door was of the essence to maximise ticket sales, rather than SBBA stewards who may not be so astute at such duties.

(b) Grant funding

SBBA have applied for a grant of £267,000 for two years from SAC. There is still no response yet and the President reported that all the applications from various bodies were currently being evaluated by SAC.

SBBA intend applying for YMI youth development for 2011 and the application will be submitted by May 2010.

The President advised that a SAC grant is being applied for in respect of the Scottish Open for 2011 and an application form will be forwarded to SBBA when this funding round opens.

6 AREA ASSOCIATIONS

Kenny Crookston suggested that a forum for Area Associations Forum be organised, perhaps in May 2010. It would allow a good exchange of ideas and good practice and perhaps encourage Area

Associations in their work. This was felt to be a good idea. Kenny agreed to take this issue forward. And Saturday May 22 was suggested as a possible date at the Howden Park Centre. Kenny Crookston agreed to drive this forward and in liaison with the secretary, Tom Allan, will circulate all Area Associations. The President advised that travel expense and hall expenses/catering would be reimbursed by SBBA for this and similar events.

Alan Edmond had been at Aberdeen on 27 March for a meeting of the Northern Counties BBA where 4 members were present. A number of local bands seem to be interested to encouraging the NCBBA. Alan felt that there were good prospects for positive work in this area.

It was suggested that if Area Associations put together a report on proposed spending, a block grant could be made available, followed up by a further report highlighting areas of spend.

7 EDUCATION / YOUTH

(a) Education

John Gilmour circulated a paper from the Education Committee relating to the Youth Brass Band Championships on 21st November 2010 in Perth. Concerns had been raised about the 2009 event with some bands allegedly using players from outwith the area represented by the band. In future bands will be reminded that only bona-fide members of the band should participate at this championship in the spirit of fairness. In short, all players should be genuine members of the participating band and bands should avoid bringing in players for simply to take part in the championships to give them a better chance of winning. This was agreed.

Changeover times at contests was another issue of concern. It was highlighted that SBBA engage a very experienced stage crew to facilitate changeover. It was emphasized that it was not the fault of the young people, but rather the adults in the bands. A stage plan should be supplied by bands prior to the contest. The stage crew now always included very experienced percussionists who could ensure that changeovers were slick. There were so many bands that it was essential that there was no delay with changeover. The bottom line is that each band has six minutes to make the changeover, ensuring a level playing field for all bands. The problem seems to relate to far too many adults involved in setting up and conductors were a particular problem who seemed to give scant regard to the 6 minute rule. The aim is to have a professional changeover with bands asked to ensure that they are ready to play 6 minutes after the previous band exits the stage and this will be highlighted in paperwork circulated to bands prior to the championships on 21 November.

A discussion ensued on the pricing of tickets for the young people at the Youth Championships. After much debate it was agreed the young players would receive a bandsman ticket for £2 each whilst adults will be asked to pay £5 if tickets are purchased in advance or £8 (£6 concession) via the box office on the day. Entry fee would remain at £25, and £10 SBBA membership which could be paid together. Peter Fraser highlighted that sponsorship had dropped dramatically for this contest, so SBBA had to be careful about reducing costs for tickets.

(b) Child Protection

Jennifer Fox advised that a workshop, with two different sessions, will be held on 11 April in the Howeden Centre, Livingstone and there was a good uptake from bands wishing to take part. Everyone attending will receive an attendance certificate. All attendees will also receive a pack for them personally and another pack to be lodged in band halls so everyone can be aware of key child protection issues.

Jennifer said that in her view it would be helpful if at least one member of each Area Association should be disclosed, especially as more work was being channelled through them in terms of workshops, competitions etc.

(c) Development Officer Report

A detailed written report, amazingly (for Alan Edmond) reduced to only one A4 page and covering the period 15 February – 27 March 2010, was circulated and spoken to by the Development Officer in his usual erudite manner. This report is also circulated to all member bands direct by the Development

Officer. Of special concern was the proposed cutbacks in music, including brass tuition, in just about every local authority in Scotland. It was anticipated that these cutbacks will be particularly bad in 2011/12. A joint letter was being sent by SBBA and SAC offering support to local authorities with the caveat that SBBA could not ever replace teachers, but could provide adhoc assistance such as brass master-classes and in particular, point pupils to their nearest local brass band.

8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Website

Peter Fraser was delighted to report that the SBBA web site was up and running and he had already received very positive feedback. There were several changes suggested and these would be organised in early course. The web builder is based in Holland, so communication was not always easy. So far it has cost 2,750 euros. SBBA are open to suggestions about what else might be included in the web site or other changes that would enhance the professional approach to brass banding. Peter Fraser particularly mentioned the ease of updating the site which he found very convenient and helpful and this, too, had found favour with bands who appreciate the site being up to date. SBBA minutes, once approved, and the Development Officers report can also be added. Accounts for the previous year can also be added and other suggestions for the site were welcome from anyone in banding.

(b) Publicity

Tom Allan advised that had had sold 200 of the photo books following the 2010 Scottish Championships with other orders still to be paid. Alan Edmond advised that the booklets cost around £860 to produce. The question was asked: Should the booklets be repeated for the Scottish Championships in 2011?

After discussion it was agreed that the work of PRO, Allison Hunter, had been somewhat disappointing. It was decided that another candidate, hopefully with a brass banding background, be sought for a future appointment. Alan Edmond highlighted that there was a great story to be told about brass banding in Scotland, but gaining access to TV, radio and newspapers was always going to be a challenge and needed a professional with good contacts and know-how to push the SBBA agenda. It was agreed that Alan Edmond will look at options for recruiting a potential replacement, already identified and report back on progress at the next meeting.

9 EVENTS

(a) 2010 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Peter Fraser advised the overall the weekend had been very successful indeed with very few negatives. From an organisers perspective, he felt that Glenrothes was a very good venue, suiting SBBA needs very well. The catering had been first class too, as was the co-operation of hall staff, after a few initial problems were sorted.

The financial support from Fife Council was very good and they are always keen for SBBA to return. It was suggested that there could be a rotation between Perth and Glenrothes for future years. It was said that acoustically the hall may not be best for brass playing.

Alan Edmond felt that it was disappointing that few solo winners were on hand to pick up their prizes at the formal presentation and all bands should be encouraged to remain for the results and prize giving wherever possible.

Over the weekend it took 45 minutes between the last band finishing and the presentation of prizes. This was explained by adjudicators time; power-point presentation of results and organisation of adjudicators remarks and ensuring that all results were double checked to avoid any problems. Peter Fraser said that rushing at this stage of the competition was potentially disastrous.

Alan Edmond suggested that SBBA should adopt the Yorkshire practice of getting results quickly announced by taking adjudicators from the box, direct to the stage and announce the results without any delay. Clearly a power-point could not accompany the results in such circumstances, but the speed of results was more important than the power-point and the results could be immediately uploaded onto the web site. Peter Fraser again emphasised his view that the importance of getting the results right and

double checking and not rushing was of the essence, but they would try to achieve a result as quickly as possible at future events.

Overall the weekend had been very successful and special thanks to Peter Fraser as event organiser and all those from SBBA and other helpers. President George Burt has emailed all concerned to personally thank them.

(b) 2010 WEST LOTHIAN FESTIVAL

Nothing to report on this event taking place in June.

(c) 2010 SCOTTISH BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

Alan Edmond advised that Brighthouse and Rastrick have been engaged to play at the concert in the evening. The band was booked via Dick Evans, who will conduct them. There will be a fee of £3,000 plus VAT for the band. They have also been offered £500 towards their bus and SBBA will provide a meal for them. The band will, however, pay their own accommodation. Alan Edmonds suggested that there should be a separate committee to organise the evening concert. This concert should be announced in due course to maximise publicity. It was agreed that Alan Edmond arrange a contract to be signed between Brighthouse and SBBA.

A discussion ensued on open or closed adjudication. It was accepted that open adjudication was the way forward, albeit there will be some contrary opinion among bands. Alan Edmond pointed out that all major musical competitions in the world are open and SBBA aim to be leaders not followers.

(d) 2010 SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arrangements are progressing well.

(e) 2011 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hall booked in Perth. 26th 27th February

(f) 2014 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Being held in Linz. Alan Edmonds will make a presentation to the European Committee on 2nd May in respect of the SBBA bid to host the 2014 championships in Perth, Scotland. The members viewed the video film that will form part of Alan's presentation.

(g) CONTEST DATES/EVENTS CALENDAR

Nothing to report.

(h) GRADING

The grading tables had been checked and agreed and will be effective from 1st November details to be published on the website.

10. REGISTRATION

(a) 1762 players currently registered.

(b) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules

Nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The 'Banding Year' was being referred to the Development Committee and they would come back with recommendations.

Two life membership applications were approved in respect of Gordon Evans MBE, Buckhaven and Methil and Jacqueline Hamilton, Peebles Burgh.

Peter Fraser asked members to consider speakers and subjects for the 2010 AGM.

12 DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place on Sunday 16th May in the Howden Park Centre, Livingston. The following dates were agreed for future meetings of SBBA for session 2009/2010: 1st August; 3rd October. in the Howden Park Centre is confirmed by the Secretary.