

**Sunday 7 March 2021 – 11.00 am  
(held virtually on Zoom)**



## **Executive Meeting Number 1**

**Present** – Carrie Boax (President), Ann Murray (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Julie Nicoll (Treasurer), Grant Brown, Lesley Crumlish, Steven Gray, Danny Harrison, Damien Martin, Jim Milligan, Elaine Roxburgh, Murray White and Jim Wishart

**Area Association Representatives** – Stuart Black (Borders) and Eilidh Maclachlan (Northern Counties)

**In attendance** – John Boax (Education Officer), Caroline Farren (Child Protection Officer), Siobhan Crumlish (NYBBS representative), Nigel Martin (Press Officer) and Daniel Beadle (minute taker)

**Apologies** – Peter Fraser (West of Soctland)

### **1. Welcome**

Carrie welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the first SBBA executive meeting of the 2021 banding year. Carrie thanked all committee members for resuming posts, Caroline for continuing as Child Protection Officer and welcomed Daniel Beadle as minute taker.

### **2. Previous Minutes**

One correction is required to the minutes from the executive meeting number 7 held on 10 January 21 – Kinneil Band (and not Irvine and Dreghorn) had issues with insurance claims. The minutes were otherwise proposed as accurate by Jim Milligan and seconded by Steven Gray.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **SBBA Volunteer hours**

These have been logged for all executive members up until the end of January. Some executive members require to send their February hours onto Elaine.

#### **European Brass Band Association (EBBA)**

Following the last meeting of delegates on 31 January, Carrie provided an update:

- The EBBA executive committee have decided that Brass Bands England will host the 2022 championships which are planned to be held in the Symphony Hall in Birmingham.
- The provisional timetable which has been condensed into a 3 day event includes:
  - Friday 29 April – Opening Ceremony and Composers Competition
  - Saturday 30 April – Youth Contest (Development and Premier sections), Championship Set Piece Contest
  - Sunday 1 May – EBBA AGM, Challenge Section, Championship Own Choice Contest, Gala Concert and Awards Ceremony

As 2020 Scottish Champions the co-operation band are due to represent Scotland in the Championship section.

Clarity has been requested regarding qualification requirements for the youth championships and if there will be a European Youth Band in 2022. Carrie will update at next meeting.

The EBBA AGM is due to take place on 28 May.

### **Meeting with Caroline Dinenege, Minister for Digital and Culture and Alex Davies-Jones, MP for Pontypridd**

Carrie met with Kenny Crookston (Brass Bands England), Allan Davidson (Brass Bands League – Northern Ireland), Graeme Howe (Brass Bands Wales) and Alex Davies-Jones to discuss the possibility of the creation of a ‘musicians passport’ to make travel to Europe easier and less expensive. This has also been raised with Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture). No progress has been made with this request.

## **4. Finance**

Julie highlighted that OSCR has removed the grace period that was introduced last year for submitting annual information. From 1 April 2021, charities will no longer have this grace period. Bands should plan to submit within 9 months of their financial year end date.

Julie provided draft year-end figures for April 2020 – March 2021:

Unsurprisingly due to the pandemic, the accounts look very different as it has not been a standard year. Some aspects require to be discussed with the independent examiner on how things should be recorded.

Following the disbanding of Cowal Brass after the sad passing of their founder, Grace Stewart, all funds have been now transferred to SBBA.

Trustees have been meeting quarterly to discuss finances. Streamlined reports are being developed for the executive and member bands. Accounts require to be reported in different ways for OSCR and grant funding received and spent. Julie is also preparing responses to queries raised following the AGM.

A new bank account requires to be opened and change signatories for existing bank accounts which is not a straightforward process. 2 additional signatories to be added to the RBS account. It was agreed that Carrie and Julie were to be added which was approved by the executive.

Working group of Jim, Grant, Nigel and Julie has been set up to discuss and explore grant funding for SBBA. Any ideas of potential sources should be passed to Julie.

### **Creative Scotland funding update**

2 grants are currently ongoing:

- March 2020 (end date) and has been extended to (May 2021)
- March 2021 end date, funds allocated to NYBBS, Child Protection and Further Education links.

The projects for funding received for 2021-2022 are due to start in April 2021. The total costs of the projects are £68,500 with Creative Scotland contributing £50,680 and SBBA £18,820. There are 7 streams:

1. Virtual festivals
2. Virtual area workshops
3. Training – emerging practitioners (to upskill for the ‘digital’ world)
4. NYBBS (assigned to the summer course or virtual course)
5. Training for adults working with Youth Bands (learning festival, child protection training and Covid recovery)
6. Resource generation (eg prepare accompaniments for band members to record at home)
7. Youth Speaks Road show

It was highlighted that Creative Scotland has a covid recovery fund that all bands can apply for.

## **5. Communication**

### **5a – Press and Publicity**

Since the last executive meeting there have been:

- 29 stories on the website
- 6 press release
- 130 copies of the ‘That was...2020...That was!’ has been circulated to bands and nominated recipients.)

Some requests have been received for additional copies. It was agreed that the remaining copies were to be made available for £6.50 which included postage and packaging. An article to be created to promote this. It was also suggested to circulate copies to various sponsors to thank them for their support to SBBA.

Nigel has been working on drafts costing for ‘A History of Bands’ booklet celebrating 125 years of SBBA. This project is to be considered by the grant funding working group and it was suggested that the Scottish Heritage fund could be applied to for this.

In addition, Nigel has been working with Damien Martin and Tabby Kerwin on the forthcoming communication to bands regarding the proposed ‘Developing & Supporting Positive Health & Wellbeing in Scottish Brass Bands’ initiative that is being developed. This was discussed later in agenda item 6(d).

It is proposed that a ‘Back to banding’ newsletter is created and would be circulated to all member bands. Content to include:

- Potential funding sources
- NYBBS summer course
- Suggested online workshops for bands to explore,
- Promotion of supporting positive health and wellbeing initiative
- Considerations for returning to the band hall

No guidance is currently available from the Scottish Government regarding when it may be possible for bands to return to rehearsing together and/or if any restrictions or measures need to be put in place. A working group could be established if required to develop SBBA guidance (based on Scottish Government guidelines once available) for bands if required.

Other suggestions for content for the newsletter to be provided to Nigel for inclusion.

## **5b – Social media**

No update provided.

## **5c – Correspondence**

- Whitburn Band's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and achievements was recognised in Scottish Parliament in February.
- Children in Scotland 's Child Protection training programme – see agenda item 6a
- Contact has been made regarding a supporter who would like to leave SBBA a donation in their will – Tom to liaise.
- A member band has raised concerns over participating in the National Championships – Carrie is liaising with this band regarding their concerns.
- BrassPass.tv Band of the Year contest on 3 July – there is one Scottish band due to participate. Carrie is liaising with this band.

There are concerns Scottish bands may be at a disadvantage at both contests if rehearsals resume later than for other competing bands depending on government guidelines.

## **6. Education**

### **6a – Child Protection Update**

Member bands have been requesting child protection training which has been becoming more frequent recently. Working in conjunction with Children in Scotland is being explored who can offer a training course for SBBA for up to 50 delegates.

Following Children in Scotland's course, the materials could be adapted and delivered and offered as annual refresher training for member bands. A reminder that bands with members under the age of 18 should have a Child Protection Officer.

A proposal is to be drafted and discussed by the Education sub-committee. Training could potentially be delivered as part of the Youth Speaks road show.

### **6b – Sub committee report.**

No update was provided as the education sub-committee is due to meet week commencing 8 March.

### **6c – Education Officers Report**

Activities have included:

- Attendance at a MPEG meeting (along with various other organisations) to discuss activity during the pandemic
- Uploading all videos from the Learning Festival onto the SBBA YouTube channel
- Coordinating the Creative Scotland funded project for the composition of 12 pieces by 4 different composers. These are due to be published by Nigel Dunro by the end of May 2021.
- Coordinating the Creative Scotland funded project to deliver workshops to help bands to create virtual band performances from scratch. The workshops are to be targeted at bands who haven't yet created virtual performances. This work is also to be completed by May 2021. Tom to circulate a reminder to band secretaries.
- Processing of NYBBS applications and answer queries from parents and students. Badges are to be circulated to summer 2020 virtual participants.

- Working with Ann Murray on the Scottish Solo and Ensemble Finals following the two regional qualifying rounds where there were 57 participants. The finals are taking place on 13 and 4 March. There are 9 ensembles, 36 youth solos and 17 adults participating.

It was discussed that the date could be reconsidered in future years as it is normally close to the Scottish Championships.

Ann passed on her thank to John for all of his work on the Scottish Solo and Ensemble Finals. Really positive feedback has been received from the qualifiers. Carrie passed on her thanks to Ann and John for coordinating this event.

#### **6(d) Wellbeing**

Following workshop led by Tabby Kerwin at the Learning Festival and positive feedback received from delegates who have attended, Damien and Ann have continued to develop a SBBA's proposed initiative of 'Developing & Supporting Positive Health & Wellbeing in Scottish Brass Bands'.

Costs for workshops have been received and ideally 2 volunteer members from each band and/or organisation would be involved in this initiative. SBBA have the opportunity to develop the content of the workshops in conjunction with Tabby and member bands. The outcome of this initiative would be to create a health and wellbeing charter for our bands and potentially offer a quiet space at SBBA events.

The goal for all bands would be to develop a health and wellbeing policy using a template provided. The volunteer mental health leads would be a source of support and could direct band members to sources of help.

Ongoing costs should be limited following initial workshop costs. A small annual subscription may be required.

Damien to provide funding requirements to the trustees to review finances available and consider if subsidised places can be offered to member bands.

#### **7. Membership and registration**

There has been very limited registration activity.

A sub committee meeting is to be arranged to discuss the constitution as updates are required due to the change in the financial year end reporting dates.

#### **8. Events**

An Events sub committee meeting is taking place later in the month.

#### **Sunday 31 January 2021 – AGM and Learning Festival**

This virtual event was very successful.

#### **Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 March 2021 – Scottish Solo and Ensemble**

Invites have extended to feature the winners of the 2020 Scottish Championships in the form of a virtual performance or voice over. Damien has agreed to compere this event.

Kaptiol, brass band media and supporters have provided content for the virtual event.

## **1 – 7 August 2021 – NYBBS Summer course**

It is hoped that the summer course can take place. Communication to be issued to those that have already signed up and those who decided to not receive a refund from last summer. The NYBBS admin team met earlier in the week and agreed that there will be a dedicated mailbox for contest forms.

## **Scottish Festival of Brass 2021 – 20, 27 and 28 November**

Again it is hoped that this will be live events with entry forms being issued after Easter.

- John Boax will be the contest controller for the Youth Festival of Brass – Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November.
- Carrie Boax will be the contest controller for the Scottish Open – Saturday 27 November
- Peter Fraser will be the contest controller for the Challenge – Saturday 20 November

## **Scottish Championships – 12 and 13 March 2022**

The Perth Concert hall has been provisionally booked for 2022.

## **9. Area Associations Update**

### **South West**

- Both qualifiers are considering and working through the logistics to attend the National Championships.
- Virtual performance have been prepared and broadcasted by member bands for the Cory Online, Fife Brass Band Festival and the Whit Friday contests.

### **West of Scotland**

- There has been a recent committee meeting. The AGM is due to take place at the end of April.
- No arrangements have been confirmed for the West of Scotland entertainment contest due to be held at the end of August.
- Planning has commenced for the 2022 Youth Solo competition and enquiries made to book a venue for 5 February.

### **East of Scotland**

No update was provided.

### **Fife**

- The Fife Brass Band Festival online contest has up to 14 entries which member bands are contributing to.
- The next committee meeting is due to take place in late March.
- It is hoped that the Fife Charities Band Association contest can take place later in the year.
- The STAMP project has commenced.

### **Northern Counties**

- It is unlikely that the open contest will take place this year.
- Unfortunately, due to lack of interest the solo contest or the proposed workshops will take place virtually in 2021.

## **Borders**

- AGM took place in February with the same committee being reinstated as last year.
- A workshop has taken place with Chris Shanks. Further workshops with Chris and Scott Kerr have been organised with Hawick and the Borders Youth Band and the Borders Brass Band Association.
- Gareth Bowman has also led a virtual banding session with Galashiels.
- Other member bands are investigating doing virtual rehearsals to prepare them for getting back to rehearsals
- 2 bands are entering the Cory online contest.
- A few bands are discussing entering the online Whit Friday contest.
- Preparations are starting for the Common Ridding season with virtual performances to be included as part of online concerts.
- The Borders Youth band is preparing for a virtual concert in March/April in lieu of their annual workshops.
- The 2021 Borders Entertainment contest is planned to take place at the beginning of November in Langholm.

## **10. Premises**

Two possible options in Renfrew are being explored where asset transfer could be applied for by SBBA. Surveying is currently challenging due to covid restrictions. Murray White is liaising with both potential premises.

## **11. AOCB**

Mary Stewart sadly passed away on 5 February. Mary (honorary member) was an excellent supporter of SBBA, selling programmes at all SBBA events. Tom has kept in close contact with their family and attended the funeral on SBBA's behalf.

Storm Robertson has stepped down as one of the NYBBS representatives. Trustees to discuss recruiting a replacement.

One application for honorary life membership has been received and which requires to be reviewed and passed onto the trustees.

Contact addresses are outstanding for some participants from the youth band championships. Certificates require to be posted to these participants.

A 200 Club draw was made:

1<sup>st</sup> – Mr H Watson (7)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jamie McVicar (102)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Gary Kelly (20)

Numbers for the 200 club are still available – please contact Lesley Crumlish if you would like a number.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Executive Meeting 2 will take place on Sunday 18 April at 10am via Zoom.