

**Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No 3 – 13th February 2011
Howden Park Centre, Livingston**

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President opened the meeting by providing an update on the Vice-President's progress after being hospitalised, and was pleased to report steady improvement. The Meeting also noted the passing of Major Peter Parkes.

Present:

George Burt (President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Alan Edmond (Development Officer), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Mark Bell, Carrie Boax, Robert Burns, Brian Deans, John Gilmour, Robert McCorkell, Lynsey Paterson, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

Apologies:

Peter Fraser (Vice President), Jennifer Fox, Steven Gray, Ann Murray.

2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting of 9th January 2011.

After a minor alteration, this was accepted as an accurate record, proposed by Robert Burns, and seconded by Robert McCorkell.

3. Matters Arising

- A letter of congratulation will be sent to John Wallace;
- A meeting has yet to be held with the Publicity Officer

4. Development

Alan McLaren

A meeting has been held with Alan McLaren during which several facilitating roles were discussed, including the possible chairing of the Development Committee.

Re-formatted Rules

A few technical difficulties have emerged in the rewording of the transfer rules, but it is anticipated that these will be resolved shortly. This work has also exposed some contradictions and tensions within the internal structures of the rules. The Minute Secretary agreed to lead the analysis of this. The rules will be circulated shortly.

External Liaison

The second Brass Band summit has been held, attended by Scottish officebearers. The aims of the Scottish Association have been realised:

- There will be a UK Brass Band Alliance;
- The Alliance will be governed by representatives of the four national brass band associations;
- There will be an English Brass Band Federation (to be ratified at the AGM of BFBB).

There was a clarification of BFBB and the 2012 Olympic activities mentioned in the previous Minute.

Annual Census

Ann Murray has agreed to collate the annual census which is to take place immediately after the Scottish Championships.

SBBA Office

There has been a meeting with a representative of Whitburn Band. Whitburn's proposed new band hall will have accommodation which would be available for community organisations. SBBA has agreed, in principle, to take a lockable room within this space. It has the advantage of being near the M8, being in regular occupation by the band and other community groups, is heated, and would be offered at a fair rent. The final decision has to be ratified by the local Council, who have also indicated that, should there be later development on this site, a further new band hall will be built.

5. Financial Report

Accounts

There is still some concern over the Scottish Festival of Brass 2010 accounts. The apparent loss seems unlikely. The amount forwarded to SBBA by Perth Concert Hall seems to be on the low side, and an explanation will be sought. It was agreed that there has to be a full accounting of the Festival prior to handing over to a new Treasurer. Until a new Treasurer is appointed, the accounts will be supervised by the main officebearers. The Treasurer's post will be further advertised at the Scottish Championships.

Grant Funding

The first tranche of 2011 YMI grant funding (£67,000) has been received, with the balance due at the end of the year.

6. Area Associations

Funding Applications

The East of Scotland Association reported on a grant application.

Solo and Ensemble Contests

The East of Scotland Association advised of a shift of its solo and ensemble contest to a different weekend. It would be advantageous if these competitions were held earlier in the banding year. There needs to be some development work with regard to percussion competitions, although it was noted that the onus is on Heads of Instrumental Service to pass on details of these competitions. An Associations' meeting will be held in May at which this will be discussed and resolved.

7. Education/Youth

Education Committee Meeting

The Committee proposed that the Novice section of the Youth Championships should be split into two, with a new "Preparatory" section. The ladder to be used at the Youth Championships would therefore be:

- Preparatory (12 and under)
- Novice (14 and under)
- Development (16 and under)
- Senior (18 and under)
- Premier (21 and under)

Some rules pertaining to these were explained by the Convenor. An explanatory letter has been sent to Youth Bands, and responses have been positive. To solve

the problem of the anticipated increase in participants, it was proposed to hold the Senior section on a different day. There was a variance of opinion on this, but it was agreed that there is no perfect solution. The new ladder was agreed, and the possible knock-on effect on the Challenge Shield was referred to the Development Committee, where the financial implications will be considered.

Disclosure System

Information was given on the "Protection of Vulnerable Groups" registration.

Youth Development Project

The Development Officer presented a very encouraging written report. Of particular note was the following:

- Plans are under way for the launch of a brand new band, supported jointly by SBBA and an NHS Community Development Team. It was thought that this kind of association may be a UK first;
- The recent SBBA system of open adjudication was mentioned as an example of good practice at the recent adjudicating conference held recently at RNCM in Manchester;
- The Development Officer has been invited to attend a meeting in Edinburgh to discuss plans for Homecoming Scotland 2014. The President agreed to attend as well.

8. Publicity and Communications

Website

The website will be updated within the next few days, but it has become clear that we need more people capable of making alterations and updates. There have been offers of assistance from Kenny Crookston and Euan Fox.

Publicity

It is anticipated that the Publicity Officer will be present at the Championships and discussions will take place.

9. Events Reports

2011 Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships

The Besson Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships attracted a large number of entries, but entry numbers in the adult classes were disappointing. The fact that the Scottish Championships were two weeks earlier than normal was thought to be a significant factor. Some suggestions were made on how to make these classes more attractive. This will be discussed by the Development Committee. SBBA expressed its thanks to Kenny Crookston who stepped in for the absent Peter Fraser and prepared the programme.

Contest Dates / Events Calendar

- The Land o' Burns Contest will now be held on 20 August;
- The Northern Counties Association Contest will be held on 18 June. It will be pointed out that this may clash with Gala Days.

10. Registration

Registration Figures

1804: this is an increase of 60 since the last report. There were 140 new registrations. Kapitol has indicated that last date for registrations should be 8 days prior to the competition. It was noted that, while bands would have to follow this

when competing in Kapitol competitions, the Scottish regulations applying to the Scottish Championships were different.

Breaches of Registration Rules

The Registrar reported that there had been no breaches.

11. Events Planning

2011 Scottish Championships

All pre-planning has been done. However, we need a Contest manager for each of the contests. Robert McCorkell has been asked to join the Events Committee. It was agreed that a planning table, as per the Borders Contest example, would be very useful. The importance of keeping to time, while maintaining lightness and friendliness was stressed. A 3-person Percussion Squad will be in attendance. There is a small amount of fine-tuning still to be done, such as finalising the arrangements for picking up adjudicators from the airport and confirming the print run for the Programme. Two special awards will be made at the Championships: a Lifetime Achievement Award to Andrew Keachie MBE, and a President's Award to Jim Smith.

2011 Brass Band Week

May 21-May 28. Final decisions will be made at the next meeting

2014 European Championships

Budget figures were discussed, and tasks have been allocated for the various members of the organising team. The proposed venue is Perth Concert Hall, but it was suggested that the Usher Hall in Edinburgh be visited for fullness of information. An operation budget will be developed to cover running costs and EBBA fee.

12. AOB

Documentary

A documentary is being made of the Tullis Russell Band. Permission was given for filming to take place during the Championships, provided that Perth Concert Hall had no objections.

Funding

No funding has been received for sending representatives to EBBA meetings.

13. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

27 March, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

22 May, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

26 June, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

14 August, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

2 October, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

22 October, AGM, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary

14 February 2011