

Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No 2 – 9th January 2011
Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Livingston

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President opened the meeting by welcoming the new Minute Secretary and introducing all members who were present.

Present:

George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Alan Edmond (Development Officer), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Mark Bell, Robert Burns, Nicola Douglas, Jennifer Fox, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, Philip Lodge, Robert McCorkell, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

Apologies:

Carrie Boax, Brian Deans, Ann Murray, Lynsey Paterson, Gerry Simonis.

2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting of 7th November 2010.

This was accepted as an accurate record, proposed by Steven Gray, and seconded by John Gilmour.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Development

The Development Committee will meet shortly. Alan McLaren has volunteered to become involved with any SBBA tasks and George Burt proposed that Alan was asked to be a member of the Development Committee.

Re-formatted Rules

A draft rewording of the transfer rules has been prepared for later discussion. It was stressed that this re-formatting was purely for clarity. Comments will be sought via e-mail.

External Liaison

The second Brass Band summit (see previous Minute for background) will shortly be held in Manchester. Officebearers from SBBA will attend the second summit. George Burt and Alan Edmond have been involved in the working group preparing recommendations, which will include parity among all component parts of the UK, and the BFBB to be reconstituted as the EFBB (English Brass Band Federation). Members were made aware that BFBB has plans to approach Scottish Bands to participate in 2012 Olympic activities, with the potential for confusion.

Annual Census

The previous agreement to survey bands at the Youth Championships in Perth had obtained a 90% response. It was agreed that this was a considerable achievement. There were approximately 820 participants, against an estimate of just over 900. It was suggested that a suitable pro-forma could be used to further develop these statistics, particularly in respect of bands competing in the Scottish Championships.

SBBA Office

This matter is ongoing, but a formal contact will be made by SBBA in order to progress this, with £5000-£6000 available as an annual rent.

New Banding Year

The current November-November arrangement is causing confusion. The Vice President suggested that the Executive Committee should come to a decision on a new, and more sensible, banding year, perhaps January-January. During discussion, competing opinions were expressed and various complexities emerged. It was agreed to come to a decision at the next meeting in February, with the advice of the Development Committee.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer

The current Treasurer will demit office at the end of March. A new Treasurer is needed as soon as possible. The post (with an honorarium of £1000) has been advertised on 4barsrest. It will also appear on the SBBA website and circulated to bands. Other fora for advertising the post will be explored.

Accounts

These were examined and were in a healthy state. The Scottish Festival of Brass 2010 accounts are still to be completed and clarified. Some entries should be in different accounts and a clearer apportioning would alter the size of the apparent loss. A discussion of any future support for potential losses on this event will take place when the accounts are clearer.

Grant Funding

This is almost finished for the year 2010, and funds for 2011 are awaited. Attempts will be made to increase the core funding for SBBA.

6. Area Associations

Solo and Ensemble Contests

It has become clear that young people are being entered into contests other than that within their own area. This is not in the spirit of these competitions and clarification will be given to bands.

Funding Applications

Some applications are still to be received.

7. Education/Youth

Disclosure System

The changes to this are still to be clarified. Contrary to previous information received, the old forms can still be used. The Committee was pleased to hear that many bands are still interested in obtaining these certificates.

Youth Development Project

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

- Switzerland has insisted that 12 Swiss players are in the EYBB. This has meant that Scotland has been reduced to 2 representatives;
- It is hoped that Scottish input can be increased to the Music for Youth programme;

- The Minister for Culture had attended, and been impressed by, the Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships;
- The Vice President and Development Officer were able to network with regard to relating the EBBA 2014 contest to the other 2014 celebrations;
- The Arts Officer of West Lothian will provide free tickets to young people for the West Lothian Festival of Brass in order to build the audience;
- Funding will be sought to send Scottish representatives to attend the EBBA Championships in Switzerland, probably from Creative Scotland;
- The President contrasted the funding for El Sistema in Stirling with the funding for brass bands in Scotland. It was clear that we need to make more public what we achieve in terms of value for money.

Other decisions made and points noted during this report were:

- A letter of congratulations will be sent to John Wallace on being awarded the CBE;
- The Development Officer was congratulated on receiving an award from Brass Band World;
- SBBA has received an award from 4barsrest.

8. Publicity and Communications

Website

The Vice President was thanked for making documents available in word. A few problems with e-mail addresses were noted.

Publicity

The Publicity Officer has been with SBBA for six months: discussions will be held on how his output can be more targeted.

9. Events

Scottish Brass Band Festival 2010

The level of administration and teamwork had ensured a smooth operation. It was agreed that the transparency arising from open adjudication was very beneficial and this will continue. The close correlation of adjudicators' marks was examined and felt to derive from the quality of the adjudicating team. Proposals for the 2011 set-piece were discussed and it was agreed that four of these would be sent round the Executive for decision in February. The possibility of using the European Championship test-piece will be investigated. It was noted that problems which arose at the Youth Championships could be overcome with more helpers. Accommodating extra numbers at the 2011 Festival will be discussed by the Education and Development Committees, with options presented to the Executive in February.

2011 Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships

Progress is on-going. Principal and percussion adjudicators have been appointed. The second adjudicator should be appointed soon.

2011 Scottish Championships

There are 50 entries (10 Championship; 9 First Section; 12 Second Section; 11 Third Section; 8 Fourth Section). Information is on the website. Any band with members who have special requirements when entering the platform should inform SBBA. The "movement" requirements of the Third Section test-piece were clarified:

a reading of the instructions on the score indicated that there was no requirement for specific players to move from their seated positions, but bands could have these specific players stand if they so wished. With regard to suggestions for a pre-draw, it was agreed to maintain the status quo and revisit the idea next year with the advice of the Development Committee. A professional stage crew may be employed in addition to the SBBA team.

Voice-over Adjudications will be further investigated to generate a pilot using the Second Section at the Scottish Championships. The pilot would be in addition to the standard adjudication and would not be taken into account.

2011 Brass Band Week

May 21-May 28.

2012 Scottish Championships

This will be held in Glenrothes.

2014 European Championships

Nothing to report. Further meetings will be sought with the Scottish Government.

Contest Dates / Events Calendar

Brass in the Park will be on 9-11 September 2011.

10. Registration

Registration Figures

1718: this decrease can be largely accounted for by Stranraer becoming a non-contesting band. It was confirmed that Registration Cards are the property of SBBA, and should be held by them, rather than by individual players.

Breaches of Registration Rules

The Registrar reported that there had been no breaches.

11. AOB

Awards

Awards should continue be made to deserving individuals. Several significant names were discussed and accepted in principle.

12. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

13 February, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

27 March, at the Howden Centre, Livingston

22 May, venue tba

26 June, venue tba

14 August, venue tba

2 October, venue tba

22 October, AGM, venue tba

Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary

10 January 2011