

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)  
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2009 IN THE HOWDEN PARK CENTRE, LIVINGSTON**

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

George Burt welcomed members to the 7<sup>TH</sup> SBBA meeting of the 2008/2009 session. He made special mention of Jim Henderson and Neal Wade, both attending their first executive meeting.

**Present** George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Gerry Simonis (Treasurer), Alan McLaren, John Todd, Philip Lodge, Steven Gray, Andy Smith, John Hamilton, John Gilmour, Robert Burns, Julie Sanderson, Jennifer Fox, Jim Henderson (ESBBA), Neal Wade (SBBBA),

**In attendance** Alan Edmond (DO), Donald Reid (Minute Secretary).

**Apologies** John Martin, Robert McCorkell, John Stratford.

**2 MINUTE NO: 6 OF SBBA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009.**

Minute No 6 of 2<sup>ND</sup> August 2009, previously circulated, was approved on the motion of Andrew Smith and seconded by John Todd.

**3 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA**

No matters not already on the agenda.

**4 DEVELOPMENT**

**(a) Area Associations**

Tom Allan advised that Mid Scotland BBA has now changed its name to East of Scotland BBA. Northern Counties still to confirm their constitution.

**(b) Constitution and Rules**

Alan McLaren referred members to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Development Committee held on 16 September 2009, copies of which had been circulated. The Development Committee had considered in some detail various issues concerning rules and was now placing the matters concerned before the Executive.

**Substitute Players:** It was acknowledged that the existing rules were designed to deal with a situation arising on the day of the contest and did not really cover a situation where a problem was known to exist some time before the contest. The Development Committee therefore proposed that the substitute player rules should be extended to allow SBBA to deal with situations where problems arise in advance of contests.

The Development Committee proposed that the existing section of the rules "Substitutes for sick players" should be adjusted as follows (adjustments shown in red) and with the main change being the addition of the new rule 8 in this section:-

***Substitutes for sick players***

- 1. If a player is unable to compete due to personal illness or injury or other personal mitigating circumstances, the band representative may apply to the contest controller for a deputy player and support the application by providing the appropriate documentary evidence (e.g. a medical certificate). **Subject to rule 8 below**, any such application must be made at the draw immediately prior to the ballot-taking place or, in the event of the contest being subject to a pre-draw, prior to the commencement of the contest.*
- 2. **Subject to rule 8 below**, providing that either a majority of the band delegates at the draw acknowledge that the application is genuine or, in the case of a contest with a pre-draw, the*

contest controller is satisfied that the application is genuine, the application for the deputy player will be accepted.

3. At a contest with a set test and where an application for a deputy player has been accepted in accordance with rule 2 above, the contest controller will instruct the band drawn to play immediately before the band making the application to supply the relevant deputy player complete with instrument (except in the case of a percussionist) and band part. If the band making the application is drawn number one, the band drawn last must supply the deputy player. Where the application for a deputy player relates to a percussionist and where, in the band which is to supply the deputy player, the percussion part concerned is being divided between two or more players, all such players shall be deemed to be the deputy player but they shall only play the parts which were to have been played by the player in respect of which the deputy has been requested. The secretary of the band supplying the deputy player, or the representative attending the ballot, shall be held responsible for ensuring that the deputy player fulfils this commitment. For the avoidance of any doubt, in any situation covered by this rule, the Guest Player Rules will not apply to the substitute player.
4. At a contest with own choice music and where an application for a deputy player has been accepted in accordance with rule 2 above, the band submitting the application may use the services of any player registered with another band. Any such substitute player will be treated as an additional guest player and, other than the fact that the band will be permitted one additional player over and above the maximum number of guest players permitted for the contest in question under the Guest Player Rules and the 7 day time limit for applications under the said Guest Player Rules will not apply, the said Guest Player Rules will otherwise apply in full. For the avoidance of doubt, this will include (a) the necessity to complete and submit the application form in the style of Appendix V, (b) the rule preventing a player appearing as a guest for the same band on more than **two occasions** during the banding year and (c) the limitations on the section of the band from where the guest player may be obtained in any situation where more than two guest players (including the substitute player under these rules) are being used.
5. Only one application for a deputy player per band will be considered at each contest.
6. A player acting as deputy must not accept any payment for his or her services.
7. Any Substitute player will not be permitted to win any solo or featured prize.
8. **In any situation where a band becomes aware more than 7 days in advance of a contest that a player will be unable to compete due to personal illness or injury or other personal mitigating circumstances, the band may apply to the Committee for permission to use a deputy player and support the application by providing the appropriate documentary evidence (e.g. a medical certificate). Such applications will be determined by such members of the Committee as the Committee may appoint from time to time to deal with such matters. In considering any such request, the duly appointed members of the Committee shall seek to balance the interests of the band faced with a problem of this nature with the interests of other bands in the contest and shall seek to ensure that other bands in the contest are not unfairly disadvantaged. Where an application for a substitute player is accepted in accordance with this rule, the members of the Committee dealing with the application shall be entitled to impose such conditions and restrictions on the appointment of a substitute player as they may consider to be appropriate in the circumstances of the matter. Any such substitute player will be treated as an additional guest player and, other than the fact that the band will be permitted one additional player over and above the maximum number of guest players which may be permitted for the contest in question under the Guest Player Rules and the 7 day time limit for applications under the said Guest Player Rules will not apply, the said Guest Player Rules will otherwise apply in full. For the avoidance of doubt, this will include (a) the necessity to complete and submit the application form in the style of Appendix V, (b) the rule preventing a player appearing as a guest for the same band on more than two occasions during the banding year and (c) where appropriate, the limitations on the section of the band from where the guest player may be obtained in any situation where more than two guest players (including the substitute player under these rules) are being used. All decisions on matters under this rule by the duly appointed members of the Committee shall be final and shall not be subject to any appeal.**

The proposed alteration was unanimously approved.

**Rules issues for Scottish bands participating in contests outwith Scotland:** The management of the British Open series of contests have removed the reference to the Scottish and Welsh Registries from their rules.

The members of the Development Committee had agreed that, whilst SBBA cannot govern the operation of contests outwith Scotland and it is a matter for the management of each non-Scottish contest to formulate their own rules, we must take steps to ensure that Scottish bands abide by Scottish Registry rules at all times.

It was suggested that Rule 7 of the section of the Registry rules headed "Registration of Unregistered Players" should be reinstated to the wording which existed in the period immediately prior to 1 January 2005. If agreed, this rule would read as follows (the second sentence, shown in red, being added to the existing rule):-

*Notwithstanding the terms of the National Rules, where a player has previously been registered with another band, an application for a new registration for that player will not be effected by the Registrar until a period of 28 days has elapsed from the date of cancellation of the previous registration. This rule will not however apply in any situation where it is demonstrated to the reasonable satisfaction of the Registrar that, if the rule was to be applied, a Scottish band would be placed at a potential disadvantage in a contest involving bands from outwith Scotland.*

This wording was not restricted to contests taking place outwith Scotland but would include Scottish contests where non-Scottish bands were taking part. An alternative wording would therefore be:-

*Notwithstanding the terms of the National Rules, where a player has previously been registered with another band, an application for a new registration for that player will not be effected by the Registrar until a period of 28 days has elapsed from the date of cancellation of the previous registration. This rule will not however apply in any situation where it is demonstrated to the reasonable satisfaction of the Registrar that, if the rule was to be applied, a Scottish band would be placed at a potential disadvantage when participating in a contest taking place outwith Scotland.*

It was agreed that the second version of the rule should be adopted, meaning that the new provision would only apply to situations where Scottish bands were taking part in contests outwith Scotland. It was further suggested and agreed that the discretionary element involved should be exercised by the Registrar acting with other officials and not alone. The final version of rule 7 in the section headed "Registration of Unregistered Players" approved by the Executive is therefore as follows:-

*Notwithstanding the terms of the National Rules, where a player has previously been registered with another band, an application for a new registration for that player will not be effected by the Registrar until a period of 28 days has elapsed from the date of cancellation of the previous registration. This rule will not however apply in any situation where it is demonstrated to the reasonable satisfaction of the Registrar and such other members of the Committee as may be appointed for this purpose from time to time that, if the rule was to be applied, a Scottish band would be placed at a potential disadvantage when participating in a contest taking place outwith Scotland.*

It was further suggested by the Development Committee that a new rule should be introduced in the following terms:-

*In any situation where a band in membership of the Association is participating in a contest outwith Scotland, notwithstanding the rules of the contest concerned and/or any direction which may be given by the management of the contest concerned, the band must at all times comply fully with the Rules of the Scottish Brass Band Registry, except insofar as any written waiver of those rules may have been granted by the Committee or by any member or members of the Committee to whom power to grant any such waiver has been given by the Committee.*

This new rule was unanimously approved. The Registrar also felt that bands should be reminded of the existing rule 2 in the section Local and Other Contests which states that "Any band taking part in a contest outside Scotland must inform the Registrar to assist in registration requirements." He advised

that in many cases bands were not providing him with the appropriate notification.

It was further agreed that the office bearers would, for the time being, be deemed to be the appointed members of the Committee to deal with issues arising in terms of the 3 new rules detailed above.

**(c) External Liaison**

Alan Edmond had represented SBBA at a recent Kapitol Forum meeting in Harrogate. He advised it is likely that English bands will reduce the maximum number of registered players from 40 to 35. He further advised that Kapitol are amending the rules of the National Championships to impose a 7 day period as opposed to the existing 3 day period for new registrations. It was noted that there was no requirement to change our rules, but bands attending the National Finals would need to be careful to comply with the rules of the Nationals. After a full discussion it was agreed to refer this issue to the Development Committee for a full discussion and recommendation.

**(d) Annual Census**

Alan McLaren advised that most senior bands had now submitted annual returns, whilst a few non-contesting bands had still to reply. The main problem was the lack of returns from youth/school bands. Without these figures the whole exercise loses much of its relevance and credibility. The YDO is to contact all the youth bands which had not responded although it was accepted that with school bands getting returns will always be problematic as they would not regard it as a priority, perhaps not realising how important it was for SBBA in terms of obtaining funding from SAC and other funding bodies. It was agreed that estimated figures would be better than looking at a partial return. Members were again asked to encourage all bands to address this issue in early course. It was also possible to obtain the information from those bands participating in the Scottish Youth Championships.

**(e) Development Strategy**

The Development Committee had made some recommendations as regards the preparation of a strategy for further development. Amongst these recommendations was re-titling non contesting bands, perhaps as Community Section. It was considered that these bands should not be identified by a reference to their non participation in contesting activities which could perhaps be (wrongly) viewed by some as a level below contesting bands. Whilst SBBA obviously wishes there to be a strong contesting sector and whilst support and guidance would be provided for any band which wishes to become a contesting band, we place equal value on bands which decide to operate without undertaking contesting activities. It was also felt that we should adopt another term for "lower section" bands.

## **5 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**(a) Accounts**

The detailed accounts had been circulated by Treasurer, Gerry Simonis and he responded to a number of questions. The financial summary statement is as follows as at 1 September 2009: Bank of Scotland General Account 00797191: £50,279.26; Bank of Scotland Youth Account: £3,105.24; Cash Float held by Peter Fraser Re event costs: £500; Cash float held by Tom Allan Re Registry: £200; Cash float held by Steven Gray Re CD Sales: £39; Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Arts Council Grant: £16,746.01.

The examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2009 by a professional examiner asked that items for sale category should be updated on a more regular basis. He felt that several CDs had been purchased with sales being very poor indeed.

The Treasurer had had no paperwork for the YDO fee increase. An acknowledgement letter from the YDO would suffice as evidence. That apart, he was very happy with the Accounts.

The Treasurer then took the members through the accounts page by page. The main points raised were: The deficit for the year was £4,531 whereas in 2008 there was a surplus of £24,124. Reserves had been increased by £8,490. After providing a very detailed report on the accounts he recommended that they be accepted. There was a minor amendment with regards to the date of the constitution and with that amendment the accounts were accepted on the motion of Steven Gray and seconded by Robert Burns

and unanimously accepted.

**(b) Grant Funding**

The President advised that the SBBA had to prepare a report to the Scottish Arts Council to finalise the 2008 YMI grant and to be paid the remaining £4,000.

**6 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

Nothing to report

**7 EDUCATION / YOUTH**

**(a) Child Protection**

John Gilmour advised that a training event was held in June with representatives from seven bands attending. Jennifer Fox has now been approved as an additional signatory for SBBA. 50 disclosures had now been approved for SBBA.

The President said that his understanding was that it had been previously agreed that Jennifer Fox was the responsible person. It was agreed that Jennifer Fox was the authorised Child Protection Officer for SBBA, and a meeting would be arranged involving the President, Secretary and Jennifer Fox with Danny Harrison.

**(b) Education Committee**

John Gilmour reported that the committee had not met since the last Executive meeting.

**(c) Development Report**

A detailed written report was presented and spoken to by Alan Edmond, DO. He highlighted a variety of points in the report which is circulated separately to all member bands. He highlighted an excellent publicity brochure produced by Kingdom Brass.

**8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS**

**(a) Bandstand Marathon**

The Bandstand Marathon series of events had been withdrawn by SAC. It will, however, be held in 2010.

**(b) Web Site**

The SBBA web site redevelopment is moving very slowly. A meeting had been held with Alan Rudland and promises made but his response has been disappointing with no progress being made. It was agreed that John Hamilton will take the issue forward and report to the next SBBA meeting..

**(c) Publicity Officer**

Alison Hunter, SBBA PRO, has been taking news issues forward, mainly in local newspapers, and she should begin to get busier with her work leading up to the Scottish Open. She will be attending the SBBA AGM and Conference. Tom Allan reported that more publicity leaflets for SBBA youth were required to be printed. Alan Edmond will update the leaflet before it is reprinted.

**9 EVENTS**

**(a) 2009 AGM & CONFERENCE**

Peter Fraser gave an update on the AGM and Conference being held in the Howden Centre on Saturday 24th October 2009. Richard Evans had agreed to be the keynote speaker and will talk about youth brass banding, especially NYBBS, and the world of brass in general. The event will begin with a report by Alan Edmond who will speak for 25 minutes; followed by break-out groups - Local Association Support, Child Protection, Registration. It was suggested that a speaker on funding issues might be useful to delegates. Lunch is at 12.40 pm followed by the AGM with an open forum to end the day.

It was unanimously agreed that Richard Evans, for his services to NYBBS and as an adjudicator, conductor and someone who has been very supportive of banding in Scotland, have Honorary Membership of SBBA conferred upon him, to be presented to him on the day of conference.

**(b) 2009 SCOTTISH OPEN, CHALLENGE SHIELD, CHALLENGE CUP AND SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This will be held in Perth Concert hall on 28/29 November 2009. 17 Bands will take part in the Scottish Open with representatives from England and Scotland and Fountain City Brass from the USA. One issue was to ensure that adjudicators were encouraged to move quickly to enable the competition to move forward without undue delay. John Gilmour advised that 26 entries had been received so far for the Scottish Youth Championships. Rough timings had been worked out as well as a schedule detailing the number of stewards/helpers required on the day. They also required 4 walkie-talkies. The Secretary agreed to provide a table with proposed timings for the whole day as it was essential that the event is kept under strict control in terms of time.

**(c) 2010 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This will be held in Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on 13/14 March 2010. The order would be sections 4, 3 & 2. The deadline for receiving entries would be mid January and bands would be advised in early course. Adjudicators have still to be confirmed and a number of possible options were discussed.

**(d) EBBA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014**

Peter Fraser advised that £683 was the cost of preparing a video for presentation at EBBA 2010 as part of a SBBA bid to host the European Championships in 2014. The decision will be taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010. He had visited Perth College and felt it was ideal for the European Youth Championships. He was arranging to meet with Events Scotland to ensure that the event was high on their agenda. He advised that this was his last year on the EBBA and if Scotland wanted to be represented they would have to submit a name. He felt that Alan Edmond was the ideal man for this role and he was happy to be nominated. There would be an election and it was not automatic that Scotland's representative would be chosen. Peter felt that Alan's name be put forward after the SBBA AGM.

**(e) CONTEST DATES/EVENT CALENDAR**

Land of Burns 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Borders Slow Melody Contest Knowepark Primary School Selkirk Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

SBBBA Contest in Peebles on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

WoSBBA Solo and Ensembles on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October in Greenock

ESBBA Solo and Ensemble on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Port Seton Community Centre.

**10. REGISTRATION**

1772 players currently registered. The President advised that having examined the cost of registration, the charges are proportionate to the work involved for the Registrar.

**(c) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules**

Nothing to report.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Life Membership**

The following Life Membership applications were received in respect of: Morris Whitehead, Broxburn & Livingston; Andrew Gillies, Buckhaven & Methil; Andrew Henderson, Annan Town; James Buchanan, Unison Kinneil; Tommy Bolan, Croy; and John McAtee, Croy.

**SBBA golf championship**

This had proved to be successful, albeit it would have been even better had there been more competitors. The winners were Dalmellington.

**12 DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and Conference on 24th October to be held in the Howden Park Centre, Livingston.