**Scottish Brass Band Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting No 4 – 27th March 2011**

**Howden Park Centre, Livingston**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The President opened the meeting by intimating that Peter Fraser has been readmitted to hospital. There has been a meeting with him and some management tasks have been redistributed.

**Present:**

George Burt (President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Alan Edmond (Development

Officer), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Carrie Boax, Robert Burns, Brian

Deans, Jennifer Fox, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, Robert McCorkell, Julie

Sanderson, Andrew Smith.

**Apologies:**

Mark Bell, Nicola Douglas, Peter Fraser (Vice President), Philip Lodge, Ann Murray,

Lynsey Paterson, John Todd.

1. **Minute of Executive Committee Meeting of 13th February 2011.**

This was accepted as an accurate record, proposed by John Gilmour, and seconded by Julie Sanderson.

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Development**

**Alan McLaren**

Alan McLaren will convene the Development Committee. It is proposed that all office-bearers are members of this committee and other people are appointed as appropriate. The first meeting is expected to be in early April.

**Re-formatted Rules**

A new architecture is being developed. Wrong information will be corrected and any anomalies will be ironed out.

**External Liaison**

The UK BBA Working Group proposal is expected soon. Some concern was expressed at the lack of drive in this initiative.

**Annual Census**

Of the expected 60 responses, only 22 have been received. All Youth Bands (bar one) have responded. A reminder will be sent out.

**SBBA Office**

The prospective office in the new Whitburn complex is progressing. Three sets of plans have been developed for consideration, and the building will be available for viewing at some time in April.

1. **Financial Report**

**Accounts**

The final report has been received from the Treasurer. Thanks were expressed for his work in modernising the accounts during a time of increased financial activity. Until a new Treasurer is in post, the President will superintend the cash book and other documents: other office-bearers will oversee this activity. Should it prove to be unexpectedly onerous, a part-time book-keeper may be appointed. A new format for the accounts was proposed, on which decisions and strategies could be better based. The data for the November 2010 Festival of Brass was examined and explained. In the light of this it was proposed to develop a break-even budget for the next Festival of Brass. There were some suggestions for cost reduction and income increase. It was noted that Carrie Boax and Julie Sanderson are now signatories for the bank accounts.

**Grant Funding**

There is a hiatus because Creative Scotland is still resolving its budgets and programmes. Although assurances about funding to SBBA have been given, the infrastructure grant for the present year has not been received, and we are attempting to arrange a meeting with Creative Scotland.

1. **NYBBS**

Responsibility for the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland will pass to SBBA from SAMA after their final accounts have been approved. It was made clear that no debts will be passed to SBBA, there will be a small bursary fund, and that the St Andrews course arrangements for this year are already in place. This is a major responsibility for SBBA, but it can generate very positive publicity as well as grant funding to assist economically disadvantaged children. A supervisory sub-committee will be formed. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to assume responsibility for NYBBS.

1. **Area Associations**

An Annual Meeting has to be scheduled, and some potential dates were explored. It was clear that arriving at dates convenient to all would be difficult.

**Grant Applications**

The Secretary will follow up on a reported grant application.

1. **Education/Youth**

**Education Committee**

Information on the Youth Championships will be distributed to bands in early May, and previous recommendations on the format of the weekend have been agreed. Applications have already been received across the new age ranges. It was agreed to have a general ticket price of £5.

**Disclosure System**

The Child Protection Co-ordinator will be meeting CP officials in Stirling for a fuller explanation of the new forms. The complexity of present procedures was discussed and some suggestions were made where the major responsibility would lie with the Area Associations.

**Youth Development Project**

The Development Officer presented a very full written report which was well received. Of particular note was the following:

* Coatbridge Concert Brass was launched on 24 March. One of SBBA’s unique projects, it is a brand new community band supported by SBBA and the NHS Health and Well-being Fund;
* The inaugural concert of Clyde Brass has been held. This is an excellent initiative aimed at students who move to the Glasgow area but who are unable to commit to a contest band that rehearses twice weekly;
* The Development Officer met the marketing department of Besson in Mantes-la-Ville, at which a presentation was made detailing the progress of the Scottish Youth Championships;
* The development Officer has met the Principal of RSAMD to determine if closer links can be formed and whether future SBBA events can be held there.

1. **Publicity and Communications**

**Website**

Julie Sanderson has agreed to be the new webmaster and will aim to put more information on the website.

**Publicity**

Glasgow Music Festival had a quarter page plus photograph daily in The Herald newspaper. This is the kind of coverage to which SBBA should aspire.

1. **Events**

**Events Committee**

An Events Committee has been formed and it will meet soon. It will be convened by Carrie Boax and membership comprises Alan Edmond, Robert McCorkell, Andy Smith, and Tom Allan. Carrie will assume the role of Deputy Vice President for Peter Fraser in order that Peter can still be involved while minimising his workload.

**2011 Scottish Solo and Ensemble Championships**

The Secretary reported that SBBA is still owed £130 from entrants.

**2011 Scottish Championships**

This was well organised with congratulatory messages and emails having been received. Some problems were noted with regard to the security of results.

**2011 Brass Band Week**

It was agreed to let this lapse and revive it in 2014.

**2011 West Lothian Festival**

This is progressing well: the dates are 5, 12, and 26 June.

**2011 Scottish Open and Scottish Shield**

A budget will be drafted for the next meeting. The test-piece “Music for Battle Creek” by Philip Sparke has been chosen. Two of the adjudicators are Philip Sparke and John Wallace. It was agreed to seek confirmation from Howard Snell with regard to a possible composition for 2013. A venue and date are still needed for the Scottish Shield, although it may be RSAMD. A budget for this event was distributed and it will be held 19-20 November or 3-4 December. A general discussion ensued on the possible use of the Band of the Year tables as qualification for the Scottish Shield, and also when the Banding Year should begin. Given the complex nature of the discussion it was agreed that the Minute Secretary would produce an options paper for a decision to be made at the next meeting.

**2012 Scottish Championships**

Discussion on this was referred to the Events Committee. The submitted Grading Tables were examined and agreed.

**2014 European Championships**

There is a hiatus in governmental decisions about 2014 events caused by the impending General Election in Scotland. We cannot pursue this without financial support

**Contest Dates / Events Calendar**

* The 2012 Fife Brass Band Festival will be held on 21 April 2012.
* The Northern Counties Association will meet in April to discuss the appropriateness of 18 June for their contest.

1. **Registration**

Nothing to report.

1. **AOB**

**Life Membership**

This will be conferred on John Vance and Stewart Sangster.

**Scotland on Sunday**

The article in Scotland on Sunday was particularly disappointing, as it put Scottish banding in a bad light. It was agreed to write to the main contributor to the article, James Hyslop, indicating the potentially serious consequences of some comments in the article, and demonstrating the positive progress which has been made in Scottish banding. It was also noted that it was important for Committee members to consider such matters objectively, and that no comments should be made via social media until the matter has been discussed by the Committee and a formal opinion and response have been agreed.

**Tommy Campbell**

The Treasurer of Dalkeith and Monktonhall band, Mr Tommy Campbell, has died. The band has requested the use of the SBBA banners for the funeral service. This was agreed.

1. **Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

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**

**2 April 2011**