

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)
SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2009 IN THE ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL, TAY STREET, PERTH**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

George Burt welcomed members to the first SBBA meeting of the 2009/2010 session. He briefly explained the SBBA committee system and structure, highlighting that members were expected to participate fully in this system as the SBBA executive was small in number and needed to be a dynamic hardworking organisation for the benefit of banding in Scotland.

Present George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), John Todd, Philip Lodge, Steven Gray, Andy Smith, John Gilmour, Robert Burns, Jennifer Fox, Lynsey Paterson, Mark Bell, Kenny Crookston and John Muir

In attendance Alan Edmond (Development Officer), Donald Reid (Minute Secretary).

Apologies : Ann Murray, Robert McCorkell and Brian Deans, Gerry Simonis

2 MINUTE NO: 7 OF SBBA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 4TH OCTOBER 2009.

With the following amendment to item 7C Youth Development report which should read "Edmond" rather than Edmonds and the title should be "Development Officer", Minute No 7 of 4TH October 2009 was approved on the motion of Robert Burns 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 highlighted the changes in representation from Area Associations to SBBA including deputies and it was agreed that this was proving very worthwhile. The nominations from Area Associations to SBBA executive are: W of S Brian Deans, (deputy tba); FCBA John Todd and deputy John Martin; ESBBBA Jim Henderson and deputy Heather Henderson; NCBBA Ann Murray, deputy Mike Chapman; and SBBBA John Stratford (deputy tba).

The President explained what funding was available from SBBA for Area Associations for infrastructure and development work. A brief report should be submitted together with claims outlining how much was being requested by Area Associations and the specific reason for the claim. The Area Association claim form is available from secretary Tom Allan. John Todd asked how Areas Associations could be involved in effective discussion either prior to or after the SBBA Executive. The key issue was that SBBA meetings tended to take only four hours and fitting in Area Associations within that would be problematic, but it would be given further consideration to provide a sensible solution.

(b) Constitution and Rules

The President stated that some of the SBBA rules may be seen by member bands as being too complex and not easy to understand. He felt that some of the rules may need to be revisited to simplify their presentation and wording and this would be part of the remit of the Development Committee.

It was important that the CPO position had some permanence and the Development Committee would come up with a solution to ensure continuity for the CPO within the structures of SBBA.

(c) External Liaison

The President highlighted recent liaison with other National Associations to protect Scottish bands taking part in competitions outwith Scotland. SBBA has been awaiting a letter from the BBBR confirming that

Scottish bands would not be disadvantaged if the Scottish Registry operated differently from other national registries.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts

The accounts had been circulated by Treasurer, Gerry Simonis, prior to the meeting. The accounts were in a healthy state and full details were outlined in the treasurer's report.

(b) Grant funding

The President was hopeful of future funding from SAC, but he reminded members that SAC was currently undergoing major change and nothing was certain for the future. Funding for development projects, however, was currently in place until the end of 2010.

6 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Nothing to report

7 EDUCATION / YOUTH

Lynsey Paterson and Mark Bell volunteered as new members for the Education committee. This increased the committee to five. Travel expenses are available to members attending SBBA sub-committee meetings.

(a) Child Protection

Jennifer Fox said that the CP input at the AGM had been very well received by those who attended and she had subsequent e-mails looking for further information. 15 bands had had a CPO in place and she was delighted to announce that this had now risen to 22 with others in the pipeline. Jennifer said that the plan is to have a training workshop before the Scottish Championships in March 2010, probably consisting of a half day input and perhaps to be held in Livingston. The CP expert would be booked for a full day and that would allow a morning and afternoon session, giving greater flexibility to bands wishing to take up this training.

(b) Youth Development Report

A detailed written report was presented and spoken to by Alan Edmond. He made special mention that Tullis Russell Youth had recently been awarded £10,000 from Awards for All, the first to his knowledge where the full amount requested had been given. This was a good example that funds were available if good applications were put together.

8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Website

Progress with the web site has been disappointingly slow. The current SBBA website is reasonably up to date at the moment which was good. Peter Fraser said that the distribution of news was of the essence for SBBA to be effective communicators and indeed would become more important in the future.

It was agreed that Peter Fraser will negotiate with the Web Manager who is involved with the Bandsman web site to design a professional site for SBBA. It was suggested that a totally new site be designed giving SBBA new fresh look. After discussion it was agreed to ask the selected web company to provide examples and quotes. It was additionally agreed that the budget should be £2,500 maximum for a quality web site which also allowed access for updating by a restricted number of key SBBA officials. Peter Fraser would go ahead and agree designs.

(b) Publicity

Allison Hunter, PRO, had attended the AGM and made a short presentation highlighting her willingness to support bands with publicity outputs. It was suggested that she could do a presentation at the 2010 AGM and conference and this would prove beneficial to bands.

9 EVENTS

(a) 2009 AGM & CONFERENCE

The President highlighted how well the conference had been with positive feedback from those attending. Richard Evans, the key-note speaker gave a first class presentation and involved the audience and this format was well received. Peter Fraser asked members to give some thought to the content and guest speaker and workshops for the 2010 AGM and conference. The President thanked Peter Fraser for all his professional work on the 2009 conference and AGM.

(b) **2009 SCOTTISH OPEN, CHALLENGE SHIELD, CHALLENGE CUP AND SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP AND DRDAW FDOR CHALLENGE, CUP AND SHIELD**

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 USA . Peter Fraser spoke in some detail about the arrangements for the event.

The draw for the Shield, Challenge, and Youth was made by Jennifer Fox and Tom Allan and this will be circulated to bands with approximate timings. John Gilmour said that to date 28 bands had entered for the youth competition, but some had not yet paid fees. The President said that we should accept all entries and deal with issues over paying affiliation/entry fees as encouraging youth bands was essential for the future of brass banding in Scotland. After discussion it was agreed that John Gilmour should diplomatically speak to the bands concerned and explain the administrative systems of SBBA.

Jennifer Fox raised the important issue of percussion items, bearing in mind problems that have occurred in the past. Items supplied by SBBA should be used by bands and the list of supplied items will be circulated in plenty of time. Where bands had additional items, not supplied by SBBA, they would be entirely responsible for the items getting to and from the stage and for their safe keeping. Peter Fraser stressed that it was essential that time was not lost with getting additional items on and off stage, bearing in mind the large entry, to ensure the event flowed smoothly.

A discussion ensued on the range and variety of duties to be carried out by SBBA Executive over the weekend. Volunteers were invited to liaise with Peter Fraser and John Gilmour.

It was suggested that a composition be sought for the 2010 Open Championships and two composers were mentioned – Peter Graham and Simon Dobson. Peter Fraser will take this issue forward including looking at funding to pay for a new composition.

(c) **2010 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This will be held in Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on 13/14 March 2010. The order would be sections 4th, 3rd and 2nd sections on Saturday and 1st & Championship Sections on Sunday.

The deadline for receiving entries would be mid January. Adjudicators have still to be confirmed and a number of possible options were discussed. A pre-draw for this competition was discussed and various viewpoints raised. No decision was made, so the status quo remains meantime.

(d) **2011 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The various potential locations for the 2011 championships evoked different viewpoints with the pros and cons of various venues the subject of much discussion including issues relating to stage space, parking, warm-up rooms and costings. It was eventually agreed that Perth Concert Hall was the preferred venue and this should be pursued and Peter Fraser will take this issue forward. Adjudicators, too, should be booked in early course.

(e) **2010 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Peter Fraser said there was nothing new to report meantime other than there would be a video being made at the 2009 Cup/Shield as part of SBBAs bid for future European Championships. It was reported that Bon Accord Band had agreed to represent Scotland at the 2010 European in Linz, Austria. They were congratulated on accepting the invitation as none of the other three bands were able to accept due

to the financial commitment. We wish Bon Accord well in their preparation for the trip.

(f) CONTEST DATES AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Nothing to report.

10. REGISTRATION

1774 players currently registered.

(c) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules

Nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Student Transfers

The Secretary advised that recent rule changes by SBBA meant that students can transfer back and forward between bands in Scotland and would be tracked by the Registrar. This would be monitored to ensure that it was working effectively.

Cross border student transfers were discussed and this was a problematic area, because other registries were currently not able to be flexible in their application of rules set by SBBA. Alan Edmond spoke about one student player who wished to sign for a Welsh band, but transfer problems were anticipated. The President felt that the full solution was outwith SBBA's hands as the BBB Registry would have to agree. It was agreed that the Secretary would make enquiries with the Welsh Registrar to resolve this issue.

Life Membership

Alex Vidler, Lockhart Vidler, John Lambie and Robert Hendry (all of Whitburn) were approved for life membership of SBBA.

President's Award

Neil Cross for services to NYBBS.

Alan Fernie for services to composing and music arranging.

Alan McLaren for services to SBBA and Brass in the Park.

It was decided that the first two mentioned will be presented at the Scottish Open weekend, whilst Alan McLaren's award will be presented at the March 2010 Scottish Championships.

Adjudicators

It was suggested that the system of adjudication used in Switzerland should be trialled in Scotland using 5 adjudicators. Key issues such as the expense involved in engaging 5 adjudicators and getting them to agree to a system which they would regard as problematic was clearly an issue. The earliest this system could be introduced on a trial basis was the Scottish Open in 2010, but it did require more discussion to iron out and clarify some of the areas of contention.

It was suggested and agreed that a system for allowing prospective adjudicators to be involved with experienced adjudicators at contests should be introduced in Scotland.

European Solos for Brass and Percussion

Forms available from Peter Fraser. It will be held from 25 April – 2nd May 2010 in Linz, Austria.

DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place on Sunday 10th January in the Howden Park Centre, Livingston. The following dates were agreed for future meetings of SBBA for session 2009/2010:

14 February; 28 March; 16 May; 1st August; 3rd October.

Venues to be confirmed once the price of the Howden Park Centre is confirmed by the Secretary.

The meeting was followed by a visit to Perth Concert Hall to review arrangements.

