

Development Officer – Progress Report

27 June – 13 August 2011

Bands

Interest has been shown from Shotts and Coalburn bands for SBBA to help with a development and recruitment programme of their youth bands. There has also been encouraging discussions with Thomas Henderson regarding the setting up of an adult band in Edinburgh. Further discussions have also taken place with Kinlochleven regarding setting up their youth project after the summer holidays. I am working with Andy Duncan to ensure an efficient hand over of the projects that have started and will support Andy with the new bands looking for assistance.

Galashiels Youth Band – Attended a rehearsal to complete some final details to the YDP.

NYBBS – A successful meeting has taken place with SBBA and NYBBS officials a full report on the developments will be given to the Executive meeting. Another successful NYBBS course took place in St. Andrews and was attended by Creative Scotland's Investment Portfolio Manager, Ian Smith. This year's guest was the international jazz trumpeter Rex Richardson who did workshops with the players and also featured in the concert as guest soloist. This year, 164 students attended with a substantial increase in numbers of the Children's Band.

Tredegar Band – Along with John Todd, we met with the committee of Tredegar Town Band and described in detail the new band set-up template used in the SBBA YDP. Ongoing support will be offered by the Kingdom Band to help Tredegar achieve their aim of setting up a new youth band. Whilst meeting with Tredegar at the National Eisteddfod, we also had the opportunity to discuss further Welsh Association development with Pedr Roberts and Lestyn Davies. After a short meeting with Gareth Ritter, Conductor of the Melingriffith City of Cardiff Band who have also expressed an interest in using the SBBA system to assist them with the formation of a youth band.

External Liaison

BFBB – Attempted to meet with Development and Liaison Officers Philip Watson and Terry Luddington, however this had to be aborted on the day due to unexpected circumstances at the English office. It has not been possible to reschedule this meeting prior to my departure for Melbourne.

Creative Scotland – Along with George Burt, attended a meeting with Ian Smith to explore future long term funding opportunities for SBBA's development programmes and the EBBC 2014. A full report will be given at the SBBA Executive meeting.

Jim Sutherland – Organised a further meeting with Jim at the NYBBS course where he also met with Richard Evans and Neil Cross to develop the collaborative event with the NYPBS and Bhangra Drummers on 11 September. Rehearsal dates of 4 and 10 September have been scheduled which will be co-ordinated by Carrie Boax.

Scottish Government - Attended a meeting along with George Burt with Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture and External Affairs. A full report will be given to the Executive Committee.

Area Associations

NCBBA – Further discussions have taken place regarding a youth workshop and solo contest for the weekend of 5/6 November.

Have held a number of meetings with Regional Development Officer's Stuart Black and Mark Good to discuss the implementation of the role and future opportunities for development.

Local Education Authorities & Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS)

I have written to HITS advising them of changes in Development Manager.

Events

West Lothian Festival – Attended the very entertaining climax to the West Lothian Festival of Brass. Audience numbers are up on previous years and I think this is a direct result of the bands making more of a concerted effort in the entertainment part of the contest. Further negotiations should be held with WLC to further develop rehearsal and technical opportunities for bands in future years.

SBBA Radio – Along with Mark Good, produced another edition of the SBBA Radio podcast. Mark now has all remaining sound clips which should be enough for another 2 or 3 shows.

Alan Edmond
Development Officer
Scottish Brass Band Association