

**Scottish Brass Band Association**  
**Executive Committee Meeting No 6 – 19 August 2012**  
**Howden Park Centre, Livingston**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming Hugh Whelan and Jim Comerford who had important business to bring to the Committee's attention.

**Present:**

George Burt (President), Carrie Boax (Vice-President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Robert Burns, Alan Douglas, Peter Fraser, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, Damien Martin, Lynsey Paterson, Julie Sanderson, Andrew Smith, John Todd.

**In Attendance:**

Andrew Duncan (Development Manager), John Hamilton (Sponsorship Officer), Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), Claire Tomalin (Press and Publicity), Hugh Whelan, Jim Comerford.

**Apologies:**

Neil Cross, Nicola Douglas, Jennifer Fox, John Martin, Robert McCorkell.

**2. Minute of Executive Committee Meeting No 5 of 3 June 2012.**

This was agreed after minor alterations. Proposed by Steven Gray, seconded by Carrie Boax.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Development**

**Bathgate Band**

Hugh Whelan and Jim Comerford of Bathgate Band presented a paper to the Executive regarding their ambitions for moving to a new band hall. The building which has been identified contains three offices, and it was proposed that these could be used by SBBA for day-to-day administration, archive storage, and artefact storage. While discussions are still at an early stage, local councillors are offering support. SBBA would be required to contribute 50% towards the annual rental of the total space. The Development Manager and Sponsorship Officer agreed to meet with Council officials. In subsequent discussion it was noted that we have been attempting to obtain premises for some time, and that other potential options were still pending. It was agreed that a site visit was necessary.

**External Liaison**

The BFBB (now Brass Bands England) has published its new objectives, which include seeking members from other countries..

**5. Financial Report**

**Accounts**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary reported as follows:

Bank of Scotland General Account	£5,204.08
Royal Bank Youth Music Initiative	£36,593.00
Bank of Scotland Youth Account	£6.14

The 2011 Accounts were finalised in mid-July and sent to the Independent Examiner, but not yet sent to OSCR. It was agreed that, to expedite matters for the current accounts, transaction details should be forwarded to a book-keeper for preliminary organisation. A

compensation claim will be made to the bank for the problems it caused with the SBBA account.

### **Grant Funding**

We have received an instalment of £62,000 (66% of total). It was proposed that approximately £12,000 (the pro-rata) be transferred to NYBBS. We will need to integrate the NYBBS accounts into SBBA and formalise the financial arrangements. The YMI budget has been decided for 2013, and SBBA has been invited to apply for up to £100,000 for the Youth Development Programme + £40,000 for NYBBS. These applications will be made. A major target is to obtain Foundation Status to ensure long-term funding.

### **Sponsorship**

The Committee were pleased to receive a very full report. An agreement with Band Supplies has been finalised (10 x £250 monthly): the firm has also provided other names to contact. The agreement with Besson has been finalised (£50,000 over three years + the use of all their artists). Yamaha will give SBBA £3000 next year + the use of their artists including Alan Vizutti. Korg are about to launch a new range of instruments and have offered a bass trombone to be awarded by SBBA: it was agreed that this could be used as payment-in-kind for a commission. Majestic Percussion is excited about the SBBA decision to offer a Percussion class at the Youth Championships and is keen to discuss a possible contribution. The NYBBS Concert Programme, designed by Claire Tomalin, was distributed. By producing it in-house, and by the Sponsorship Officer selling advertising, it made a surplus of £1,300. Reversible Stand Banners were shown to the Committee: the manufacturer has also donated 2 reversible tablecloths. There will be a new range of merchandise reflecting the new SBBA branding.

## **6. National Youth Brass Band of Scotland (NYBBS)**

After a visit to, and meetings at, the NYBBS Summer School, it is clear that the SBBA aim that NYBBS should be the best youth ensemble in Scotland and the best youth brass ensemble in the world, could be realised. This will, however, require some alterations to the principles and practices of NYBBS and the Summer School. Because we have been advised that no suitable accommodation will be available in 2013, the Sponsorship Officer has been negotiating with the McRobert Centre at Stirling University and has also visited the Halls of Residence. These would be suitable for the Senior NYBBS. He is also looking at George Heriot's and the Queen Victoria School. Two tutors from the National Youth Choirs of Scotland attended the summer course of NYBBS for the first time this year and carried out short sessions in singing, ear training and rhythm with each of the three NYBBS bands. The sessions were extremely stimulating and interesting to watch.

## **7. Area Associations**

### **Funding and Support**

£500 has been distributed to each Association, except the East of Scotland. The aim of the funding is to support a proportion of the costs of masterclasses and similar events.

### **East of Scotland Association**

No replies have been received from Grant Brown, and there appears to be neither a committee nor a bank account. It was agreed that impetus should be given to regenerating this Association. IT was agreed that the geographical breadth of the East and West of Scotland Associations should be examined.

## **8. Education/Youth**

### **2012 Youth Championships**

SBBA is still awaiting some entries although sections are filling up. The new Percussion Class has been discussed by the Events Committee and recommended for approval. The

Executive formally approved the establishment of the Class. The Development Manager and Education/Youth Committee will meet next week to discuss the rules. The Events Committee has still to discuss tickets and wristbands.

### **Child Protection**

Training has been completed, and the contract between SBBA and CRBS has been completed. The band contract will shortly be distributed. There will be a presentation on this at the AGM. It was suggested that any band asking for SBBA assistance in setting up a Youth Band should have to fulfil Child Protection conditions.

### **Youth Development Report**

An encouraging and positive report was presented by the Development Manager. Interest has been expressed in starting up a new youth band at Shotts St Patrick's Band and preliminary discussions have also taken place with the City of Discovery Band, West Dunbartonshire Council and in the Isle of Bute. The Tutors' Workshop will be the first SBBA tutors' training day and will be held at the Couper Institute in Glasgow. Since the last executive meeting there have been meetings discussing issues of youth development with Paul Wood, the heads of East Ayrshire Council Music Service and various meetings are planned with other music services and with the HITS meeting. Two of our member bands, Riverside Youth Brass and Carnoustie and District Band took part in the Music for Youth Prom in Perth on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Both bands played extremely well and were a credit to all Scottish Youth Bands. It is important that all of our member youth bands are aware of the performance opportunity that the 2013 Music for Youth proms can offer them. We were invited to take part in two events organised by Sistema Scotland. A workshop/masterclass with Gustavo Dudamel (which was offered to our conductors through our website), and two of our youth bands (the Gorbals Youth Band and Coatbridge Concert Brass) attended a workshop/concert with the brass section of the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra. Both of these events were a great success and we thank Sistema Scotland for their invitations. Following an advertisement for RDO's in May, we have now appointed a number of people from across Scotland who will be carrying out some development work for SBBA. A Questionnaire for Member Bands has been distributed. The Regional Development Officers have each been allocated a list of bands which they will visit over the next six weeks to assist with the questionnaire, which incorporates the annual census, and to enquire and assist with any areas of development that arise. This means that every SBBA member band will receive a personal visit from a SBBA representative.

## **9. Publicity and Communication**

### **Website**

Lynsey Paterson asked for her address to be put on the website.

### **Publicity**

The Press and Publicity Officer has been raising the profile of SBBA through press releases, Twitter, and various other avenues. There will be a Publicity Support Pack for bands available in the future. Logos have been established for the 2014 European Festival of Brass. She has requested that she be involved in the artwork connected to the DVDs deriving from the NYBBBS Summer School. She is looking at ways to keep alumni of NYBBBS connected. A meeting with Jennifer Martin of Music for Youth has provided names of journalists who may be interested in the Youth Championships.

## **10. Membership and Registration**

### **Membership and Registration Figures**

1842 members. The Secretary outlined ways in which procedures could be streamlined.

### **Exceptions to, and breaches of SBBA Rules**

None reported

## 11. Events

### **2012 West Lothian Festival**

This was successful with 180 players. West Lothian Council is proposing a new funding method. Subsequent discussion focused on the festival and its objectives.

### **AGM 2012**

This is on Sunday 28 October at the Stirling Management Centre.

### **2012 Open/Shield/Cup**

18 applications have been received for the Championships and the adjudicators have been confirmed. There are, so far, 5 entries for the Scottish Cup and 7 entries for the Scottish Shield.

### **2013 Besson Solo and Ensemble Finals**

The possibility of Duets was again mentioned

### **2013 Scottish Championships**

There are problems of obtaining adjudicators because of the proposed dates.

### **2014 European Championships**

John Hamilton has created a very useful critical path for the Events Team. Rory Boyle will compose the Test Piece and the possibility of a composition for every band in Scotland will be investigated.

## 12. AOB

### **Life Membership**

Has been conferred on John Dickson and Irene Carstairs

### **Guest Players**

There was a discussion of Championship players playing as guests with lower section bands. It was agreed that this should be left to individual contest organisers.

### **Restructuring**

Following the agreement at the previous meeting to re-visit the re-structuring proposals, it was agreed that Andrew Duncan will convene a development group to initially look at improving the standards of brass bands as measured by international comparisons.

## 13. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings in 2012

7 October The Howden Park Centre, Livingston

AGM Sunday 28 October: Management Centre, University of Stirling

**Raymond A Thomson, Minute Secretary**  
**21 August 2012**