

Development Officer – Progress Report

15 February – 27 March 2010

Bands

Kingdom Band Youth Initiative – Attended the launch of the new Percussion Academy which will provide percussion tuition for local children. The course will be led by Lynsey Patterson and there will also be master classes provided by Simone Rebello.

Broxburn and Livingston – First recruitment workshops have taken place in three primary schools in Broxburn and Pumpherston. This was followed by a parents evening for the 21 children who registered an interest and the first rehearsal will take place on Sunday 28 March.

Kirkintilloch Youth – Attended the launch of the Kirkintilloch Tutor Training Programme led by Lynda Nicholson, supported by the Kirkintilloch Band tutors. 14 players involved with youth development programmes throughout Scotland have signed up to further their knowledge of brass teaching in this two year course supported by the Scottish Arts Council.

Brass Sounds Inverclyde – A strategy document has now been drawn up with the committee and Conductor Lynda Nicholson. A two stage plan, the first part of which will target kids already playing at school will be launched soon, followed later by a new recruit's programme.

Renfrew Band – Brass recruitment workshops are being planned for local primary schools to take place after the Easter holidays.

Area Associations

WoSBBA – Dalmellington Band hosted a super youth workshop by Dr. Roger Webster. The master class, which has now become an annual event, saw cornet players young and old learn some fantastic new techniques and practice routines expertly demonstrated by Roger.

NCBBA – Attended the latest meeting, which encouragingly, had more representatives from local bands. Plans were put in place for brass master classes in Aberdeen and Perth for mid September.

External Liaison

Yorkshire Regional Championships – Represented SBBA at the recent contest held in Bradford.

SAMA – Attended a recent meeting on behalf of NYBBS. A number of sensitive items were discussed, the details of which I will give at the next Executive meeting.

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

I have had various discussions with many Heads of Service and brass instructors regarding some local education authority's recent indication of reduction of budgets and therefore reductions in kids being taught brass in schools. This is causing a great deal of concern and has even led to some of our youth projects being put on hold. George Burt and I raised this matter at a recent meeting with the Scottish Arts Council, where it was agreed that a joint letter be issued by SBBA and SAC, outlining our position within the education system and the support that we can offer our brass teaching colleagues and their pupils.

Events

Scottish Open Championships – A series of meetings and discussions have taken place to further the suggestions made regarding a gala concert. A full report on developments will given at the next Executive meeting.

Alan Edmond
Development Officer
Scottish Brass Band Association