

Scottish Brass Band Association
Executive Committee Meeting No. 1 – 10th November, 2012
Prestonpans Primary School, Prestonpans

1 Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened by President George Burt who welcomed all present to the first meeting of the SBBA year.

Present

George Burt (President), Carrie Boax (Vice-President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Peter Fraser, Karla MacPherson (Treasurer), Robert Burns, John Gilmour, Nicola Douglas, Steven Gray, John Todd, Lynsey Paterson, John Muir, Andy Smith, Robert McCorkell (Minutes).

In Attendance

Andrew Duncan (Development Manager), John Hamilton (Sponsorship Officer).

Apologies

Raymond Thomson (Minute Secretary), John Martin, Julie Sanderson, Alan Douglas, Ann Murray, Neil Cross.

2 Minute of Executive Committee Meeting No. 7 of 7th October, 2012.

The minute of the above meeting was approved on the motion of Steven Gray and was seconded by Andrew Smith.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minute.

4 Development

Development Committee

The Committee had not recently met and there was no report.

External Liaison

Secretary Tom Allan indicated that a request to join the Scottish Brass Band Association had been received from a band in the north of England. Since that request, several other enquiries had also been received. A general discussion ensued during which the Secretary advised the meeting that the SBBA constitution related only to all brass bands in Scotland. President George Burt observed that it might be considered inappropriate for this request to be taken forward and while he would be happy that SBBA gave advice re youth development, it seemed to him that perhaps the way forward for bands in the north of England was to get themselves together and work out their own way forward.

5 Financial Report

2012-2013 Accounts

A copy of the 2012-13 Management Accounts format was circulated to members at the meeting. The President said that he felt the format or layout of the document was satisfactory and he hoped that the budget would be done in January 2013.

Extra headings would be added to include such things as the European Festival of Brass and Professional Fees for accountancy.

Grant Funding

Andrew Duncan indicated that two applications for grant funding were currently in process, namely, one in respect of the European Festival of Brass in 2014 and the other in respect of YMI.

President George Burt said he felt the Association profile in the applications was good and that foundation funding was, in his view, deserved. He mentioned the fact that Brass Band England receive £60,000 in funding and he indicated he would speak to Fiona Hyslop, the Minister for Culture regarding this matter.

Sponsorship

John Hamilton said that he had had a busy month and that 11 separate funding applications were in process in addition to "The Festivals" application and a "Homecoming" application for the 2014 European Festival of Brass.

With regard to the Scottish Open and Youth Championships ticket arrangements were well in hand and he had negotiated 1750 full colour tickets free of charge. Three tenders had been received for the printing of programmes with the existing supplier offering the same reduced price as for NYBBS in the summer. One of these tenders, from the Salvation Army, was too expensive. The deadlines to be met were tight to meet printer demands and it was important that outstanding matters relating to the programme were tied up quickly.

Besson would supply two SBBA pull-up banners and two NYBBS pull-up banners free of charge. The supply of one banner (6x2) for display at events had also been negotiated. Discussion were ongoing with Andrew Duncan and John Wallace, Principal of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland regarding a 4-day use of the Conservatoire for NYBBS at Easter free of charge.

On 18th December, it was hoped to complete a deal whereby a free bass trombone would be given to Josiah Walters as payment for his writing the test-piece for the "B" section at the European Festival in 2014.

John also reported that he was awaiting a response from 2 oil companies regarding sponsorship in Aberdeen with the possibility of 2 in Edinburgh and 2 in Glasgow.

Advertising space in the in the Scottish Open programme had been sold for £1025 and a selling price of £4 each would result in a break-even situation if 600 programmes were sold.

The provision of a new communications system was being looked into for future use at brass band events and could be "trialled" at the Scottish Open.

6 NYBBS

The meeting was advised by the Secretary that after today's meeting, there would be a meeting at which President George Burt, Vice-President Carrie Boax, Secretary Tom Allan and Development Manager Andrew Duncan would meet with Dick Evans and Neil Cross to agree a development strategy which had previously been circulated.

The meeting was also advised that the NYBBS budget had shown a profit of £2400 in the year 2010/11 while in 2011/12 there had been a deficit of £1160.

7 AREA ASSOCIATIONS

West of Scotland Association.

Vice-President Carrie Boax reported that enquiries/arrangements were ongoing for a brass band contest to take place on 24th March 2013 in Alloway. It was anticipated that the contest would take place between 2pm and 5pm and might be called "Brass At the Bard's". Further information would be available as arrangements progressed. During discussion on the financing of the event, President George Burt indicated that an application for grant funding would contain £1000 for each area association.

There were no other area reports.

8 Education/Youth

Education and Youth Committee.

John Gilmour reported that all arrangements were in place for the Scottish Youth Championships. 11 bands had still to order tickets. £6313 has so far been taken in for entry fees, tickets etc.

One band which had entered would be playing 91 players (possibly up to 110 players) and discussion took place about whether there should be a limit on numbers. It was agreed that the band concerned should be accepted this year but that Andrew Duncan should make contact officials about the possibility of entering 2 or even 3 bands in the future

Child Protection.

The Committee were advised that there would be a 3 month trial period for SBBA in respect of applications under the PVG scheme. SBBA would be able to submit only 3 applications each month for the first 3 months.

Thereafter, the Child Protection Officer would request that this number be increased.

Youth Development.

Andrew Duncan presented a very full report. Meetings have taken place with Shotts Band and Coatbridge Concert Brass regarding recruitment and , in the former case, the formation of a youth band. A meeting with Croy band is planned.

There had be no meeting of HITS since the last SBBA meeting.

Andrew would be attending the "Music For Youth" event on 12th November to hear Carnoustie Band play as Part of "My Proms" and would attend a pre-concert reception with others including officers of Creative Scotland.

A meeting with the Welsh Brass Band Association was planned for late January.

Plans are now in place for the NYBBS reserve band to make their debut as a band in its own right when it performs before the results at this year's Scottish Cup and Shield in December.

NYBBS

The date of the NYBBS performance at the 2013 Celtic Connections is Saturday, 19th January, 2013 in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. -

Scottish Government/Creative Scotland

A Letter of Agreement and Contract for the Creative Scotland Award has now been received for the Commission of Rory Boyle's new test piece for the "A" section bands at the European Festival of Brass in 2014.

Two funding applications, one for "Events Scotland" funding and one for funding from the Creative Scotland Festivals Programme had been lodged and were awaiting decision.

Applications will shortly be submitted to Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative Fund for the ongoing Youth Development Project and for the NYBBS bands for 2013/2014.

Regional Development Officers

An outline of the roles of the Regional Development Officers had been given at the recent SBBA Annual Conference.

New Youth Band Contest in Alloway.

Andrew had a meeting with Hannah Teasdale, Learning Officer, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum/Robert Burns Cottage about the idea of of a new youth band competition being staged at the museum. The plan would be to have the competition on Sunday, 24th March, 2013 along with a solo contest. This new contest would be run by the West of Scotland Brass Band Association.

Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships 2012.

The Championships again has a record entry this year with 45 groups taking part – 40 bands and 5 percussion groups taking part. This is an increase of 35. New innovations this year include music in the foyer performed by small ensembles of children taking part in the competition. In addition discussions are taking place about the possibility of bands being offered the opportunity of playing outside the St. John's Shopping Centre.

9 Publicity and Communications.

Website

There was nothing new to report.

Communications

There was nothing new to report.

10 Membership and Registration

Membership stood at 1839 members. 47 bands out of 134 had still to pay their subscriptions.

There was nothing to report with regard to exceptions to or breaches of SBBA rules.

11 EVENTS

2012 AGM and Conference.

41 organisations had been represented at the above event. Feedback had been positive. It was felt that it might be worth looking at better publicity for the event to encourage more people to attend.

At this point in the meeting, a discussion took place about whether bands would wish to extend the pre-draw and open adjudication system (which operates at the Scottish Open) to cover all bands in all sections at the Scottish Championships in 2013.

A proposal to this effect was made by President George Burt and seconded by Steven Gray.

An amendment that the draw and adjudication arrangements should remain as at present was tabled by Vice-President Carrie Boax and was seconded by John Gilmour.

The amendment was defeated by 7 votes to 3.

The Secretary was asked to contact all bands regarding this matter.

2012 Scottish Open

The Vice-President informed the meeting that all arrangements for the event were in order. A new trophy would be presented to the winners of the new percussion section competition.

2012 Scottish Shield

One withdrawal from the competition had been notified. All arrangements were progressing satisfactorily.

2013 Besson Solo and Ensemble Finals.

The dates of this event were set for 2nd and 3rd February, 2013.

2013 Scottish Championships

These events will take place on 9th and 10th March 2013 at Perth Concert Hall. One adjudicator has still to found.

2014 European Festival of Brass.

Arrangements for this event are progressing satisfactorily and it was suggested that the 2013 Scottish and Scottish Open Championships could be used as rehearsals for the European Festival.

2015 Scottish Championships

The venue for this event was discussed. The Motherwell Concert Hall had now been re-furbished and could be hired at around half the cost of Perth Concert Hall. This matter would be looked at further.

Contest Dates

The Scottish Open date has been set for 23rd November, 2013 and the proposed dates for the Youth Championships are 17th and 24th November 2013. These matters to be further discussed by the events Committee.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An application for Life Membership to be conferred on Robert Dunn of Dalmellington was discussed. Raymond Thomson to take this matter forward.

Life membership was conferred on Raymond Thomson of Renfrew Burgh Band.

13 DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was set for Sunday, 13th January, 2013. The dates of future meetings will be Circulated in due course.

Robert McCorkell
Member of Committee.
7th January, 2013