

Development Officer – Progress Report

29 March – 15 May 2010

Bands

Clydebank Youth – A new youth band project has been launched with a view to start recruitment workshops in August. A strategy document will now be worked on by the committee and applications for funding completed before the next meeting in June.

Whitburn Youth Band – An Awards for All grant for over £9000 has been received which will allow the purchase of new instruments, stands and music for the new recruits. With a recent poster and information campaign, the band now has in excess of 20 players. This number will double when 3 school recruitment workshops take place in August. The youth band AGM has taken place and the new committee have confirmed that the band will attend both Brass in the Park and the Scottish Youth Championship this year.

Galashiels Town Band – Stuart Black will head up a new youth band project. Initial discussions have taken place and a meeting this week will plan for primary school recruitment workshops at the start of the new term in August.

Bonchester Brass – A new band has been set up in the Scottish Borders. SBBA has accepted the invitation from Bonchester to visit the band and explain how SBBA can assist the band develop for the future. Unfortunately the band representatives are no longer able to make the initial meeting set for Monday 17 May and an alternative date is now being sought.

Newland Concert Brass Youth – Attended the new youth band's inaugural concert which featured over 20 of the young players that started in September 2009. A further brass recruitment workshop has been planned for Windyknowe Primary on 7 June. The Youth band will play at the forthcoming Scottish Youth Championships and many will be joining the new Children's Band at this year's NYBBS course.

Brass Sounds Inverclyde – Plans are now in place for six week taster sessions for kids to take place in Port Glasgow commencing in August.

Area Associations

Attended a meeting with Kenny Crookston to plan the Area Association Forum, which will be held in Howden Park Centre on Saturday 22 May. Key speakers and programme of events are now planned, however, the number of responses from area associations has been disappointing thus far.

External Liaison

EBBA – Was elected as the Scottish representative to the EBBA committee and also as the President of the EBBA Music Commission, which also grants a position on the EBBA Executive Committee.

SAMA – A meeting discussing the finances and future of SAMA courses will be held in the RSAMD on Tuesday 18 May.

RSAMD – An invitation has been received from Matthew Chin, Musicworks Manager, to explore ways for SBBA and the RSAMD to work together in opening specialist brass centres. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss this issue.

Scottish Executive – Had a meeting with Fiona Hyslop, Culture Minister, to explore ways of promoting and funding the European Championships in Perth 2014. Fiona is extremely interested in this project and will organise a meeting for our event team to give a formal presentation to her and her ministerial colleagues in the near future. We also discussed the future of YMI funding and the importance it has had for SBBA in the hope that it can be continued past its current 2011 funding date.

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

Represented SBBA at the recent HITS AGM. It was agreed that many Agenda items were for internal discussion only and therefore not allowed to be minuted here. David McDonald, YMI Manager, Scottish Arts Council advised that they would be changing to Creative Scotland from 1st July 2010 and that Andrew Dickson had been appointed as their new Chief Executive. A showcase event will be planned for November to highlight the importance of the work that instrumental instructors provide in schools. This will be backed by the Scottish Executive and will highlight projects that involve music in conjunction with Curriculum for Excellence.

Events

British Youth Championships – Supported the three youth bands as they represented Scotland and the British Youth Championships in Manchester. Congratulations to all three for their fantastic performances, but especially to Mike Robertson and his Carnoustie and District Youth Band won first prize in the Advanced Section. Also, well done to West Lothian Schools Band who were runners –up in the Premier Section.

European Championships – Attended the European Championships in Linz, Austria where Scotland were well represented. Congratulations to Bon Accord for their two performances in the Brucknerhaus and for the work that involved, especially in raising the huge sum of money required to get to Linz. In the soloist competition, Katrina Marzella was second overall and Ross Knight won the prize for best tuba. With almost 60 competitors, Ross and Katrina should be congratulated for their fantastic contribution and results. Eoin Tonner, Hayley Edmond and Nicole Waddell were excellent ambassadors for Scotland in the European Youth Brass Band. Congratulations also to Ailsa Russell, formerly with Arbroath Instrumental who became a European Champion with the Cory Band. At 18 years, 5 months and 23 days, Ailsa must be one of Scotland's youngest winners of the European Championship.

Scottish Arts Council - Will host a Soundpost Forum on 4 June in Glasgow. SBBA have been asked to provide some music for the event which will be given by a brass quintet from NYBBS.

Tartan Heart Festival 2010 – The Scottish Arts Council has secured two spots at the festival in Beaulieu on August and would like to showcase YMI projects. Discussions have taken place with NYBBS and it looks likely that they will launch the festival on Friday 6 August and may include a specially commissioned piece by Paul Lovatt-Cooper, who will be the bands composer-in-residence at this year's course.

SBBA Radio – A new monthly webcast is being hosted on the SBBA website. The programme will feature news, music and interviews following Scottish bands and players in events throughout Scotland and further afield. The programme will be especially aimed at younger listeners in the hope that we can build on the many positive factors from our Youth Development Programme and highlight the kids that are taking part in it.

SBBA Conductors Course – Final discussions have taken place with SBBA, Roger Webster, RSAMD and UHI. It is hoped to launch the course with a registration event in St. Andrews before the NYBBS concert on Saturday 7 August. The weekend of 16/17 October has been earmarked for the final practical sessions and Roger is now engaging the tutors required.

Alan Edmond
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Scottish Brass Band Association