

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15 2009 In BO'NESS BAND HALL**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

George Burt welcomed members to the 3rd SBBA meeting of 2008/2009 session and thanked Bo'ness Band for allowing the use of their Band Hall for the meeting.

Present George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), John Todd, Andy Smith, John Gilmour, Steven Gray, Alan McLaren, Phil Lodge, Robert Burns, Julie Sanderson, Jennifer Fox, Robert McCorkell.

In Attendance Alan Edmond (YDO) and Donald Reid (Minute Secretary).

Apologies John Hamilton, John Martin, Gerry Simonis (Treasurer),

2. MINUTE NO: 2 OF SBBA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF JANUARY 11 2009

Minute No 2 of 11 January 2009, previously circulated, was read and approved on the motion of Steven Gray and seconded by Robert McCorkell

3 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered in the agenda.

4 DEVELOPMENT

(a) **Strategic Aims**

Minor amendments to the Strategic Aims paper were agreed and the amended paper will be circulated to the Executive Committee and then to Member Bands.

(b) **Consultation with Area Associations**

Secretary Tom Allan had received the constitution from Northern Counties and he was corresponding with them on constitutional matters to ensure they comply fully with SBBA guidelines. It was confirmed that Fife and West of Scotland were now voting members of SBBA having complied with constitutional matters.

A meeting with the Area Associations would be arranged to discuss their role in assisting member bands and running workshops.

(c) **Constitution and Rules**

The new constitution has been lodged with OSCR and on their request the former constitution be sent so that they could compare the changes.

No members of the Executive had raised any objections to the amended Disciplinary and Appeal Rules. These amended rules had now become effective.

The draft of the new Registry Rules, which had previously been considered by the Development Committee, was discussed. Alan McLaren reminded members that bands, through the questionnaire responses, had previously agreed in principle to a modernisation of the registry system incorporating a move to a player based system and with the option of an account system for settlement of registry fees.

Whilst the ultimate aim is to create a fully computerised system with players having a plastic card style of registration card, the initial changes will be within a paper based system. The changes proposed would however create the structure of rules required for a fully computerised system in the future. The overriding aim is to simplify and improve the operation of the Registry for both the bands and those operating the Registry.

The move to a player based system will create an individual record for each player which in time will provide a full record of the playing history for each player. Once registered for the first time, the player will remain in the system until: (1) they ask to be removed, or (2) they transfer to a band in England or Wales, or (3) SBBA is advised that the player has died.

Concerns were raised about the possible operation of parts of the proposed new system. The main areas of concern related to who would hold the card for a player who is not listed as a member of any band, and the use of players who are not members of any particular band as guest players. It was agreed that the matter would be referred back to the Development Committee for further consideration.

The annual Census was ongoing. So far only 17 bands had made returns and Alan McLaren asked that bands be encouraged to make this return in early course as it contained vital information which was very helpful when making grant applications. The collection of the information on an annual basis also allowed us to track changes and identify trends.

(d) External Liaison

George Burt (President) and Tom Allan (Secretary) had met with the English and Welsh Registries and it was agreed between these Registries that each would accept the authority of each registry to set its own rules. The meeting was very constructive. The English Registry, known as British Brass Band Registry, would retain this name, albeit the name was rather a misnomer.

5 EDUCATION / YOUTH

(a) Child Protection

Jennifer Fox highlighted the problem of communication between bands and the Child Protection Officers. The system seemed to be very cumbersome and she advised that there had been no communication received by her since she took on the role after the AGM in 2008. She proposed that a stall be set up at Dundee where band members could fill in forms. She was keen to drive this forward and wished to encourage all bands to take this issue on board in a very positive way.

(b) Youth Development Report

Besson Scottish Solo and Ensembles. It was agreed that there would be a pre-draw for the Junior sections of the event to allow an early start at 9.30 a.m. Alan Edmond proposed the following:

- (a) A slow melody format be introduced and the play-off at the finals discontinued. This was agreed.
- (b) Introduce a separate percussion section. This was agreed in principle, albeit more discussion is required on items of equipment which would be included.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts

The account had been previously circulated by Treasurer Gerry Simonis (absent) who had at the same time asked for any questions to be referred to him. The account with the Royal Bank had now been opened and all the YMI funds were in this account. The event budgets need to be looked at as they were running at a loss.

It was reported that Treasurer Gerry Simonis was finding more and more difficult to attend meetings and would be happy to step down. But after a meeting with Tom Allan and Peter Fraser he has agreed to continue at present, but would not attend meetings. He would provide a financial update to all members before each meeting, and any questions should be emailed to him.

(b) Grant Funding

The President advised that the application for the Inspire Fund had been unsuccessful. The President felt that the time was now right to have discussions with the Arts Council about a higher level of core funding and he agreed to take this issue forward. Alan McLaren felt that there was a need for longer term funding to give SBBA greater stability and to enable better forward planning.

7 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

In the outstanding disciplinary issue, the Disciplinary Committee had heard the case and made a decision and an Appeal had now been intimated by the band concerned.

It was agreed that as the appeal had been intimated prior to the change in the Appeal Rules, the process should continue under the previous rules. Arrangements had been made for the appeal, to be heard under the chairmanship of Peter Fraser with John Martin and Jennifer Fox.

A letter had been received from Alan Douglas of Tullis Russell Band regarding his suspension of 1 year, once again profusely apologising and asking that it be reduced to 9 months. There was also a letter from Tullis Russell Band asking that Alan Douglas's suspension be reduced from 1 year to 9 months. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the 1 year suspension would remain in place.

8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Resource Book

Peter Fraser advised that he felt that much of what was in the Resource Book should already be on the official web site. He felt there was little point in having a Resource Book which was expensive to produce when it could be out of date within days of publication. After discussion it was agreed that the web site should be the main focus for important information about SBBA. It was emphasised that if the web site was to be the main focus, it was vital that it was regularly updated. It was agreed that this was the most efficient way of communicating information to member bands.

(b) Brass Band Week

BB week takes place from 23 – 31 May 2009 and supporting information would be sent out to bands. Peter Fraser advised that he only had six events intimated to him so far. It was agreed that bands will be reminded of this event and encouraged to organise a concert or other event. The President said that it was important to have an active and successful BB Week 2009.

It was agreed that each band be given a grant of £50 per event held during that week, or at either end of these dates. This could include an open rehearsal. Maximum one application per band, albeit it is hoped that some bands will organise more than one event.

To qualify for the grant there would be a cut-off date of the end of April 2009 for bands to confirm details of their local event to the SBBA secretary. It was again highlighted that this was an important opportunity for bands to promote themselves and recruit new players.

(c) Web Site

Getting up to date information on the website was of the essence. It was agreed, if practicable, that several members of the committee should have access to the site to enable them to update the site on a regular basis. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with John Martin to ensure that this issue is taken forward.

9 EVENTS

(a) 2009 BESSON SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FINALS

Peter Fraser reported that it was a successful weekend with an excellent concert by Whitburn. A few changes, as outlined in the Development Officer's report (See Appendix 'A'), will be taken account of in 2010. There were 20 Ensembles; 11 junior solos; 15 youth solos; 15 intermediate solos and 18 open solos. The competition is growing year by year and was a great advert for brass banding in Scotland. The staff at Bathgate Theatre, Strathbrock Community Centre and West Lothian Council at the event provided excellent service.

(b) SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS – 21/23 MARCH 2009

Peter Fraser advised that Peter Roberts, adjudicator, had called off. Alan Ramsay has been appointed to take his place and this relates to Sections 3 and 4.

It was agreed that new music stands be purchased and Peter Fraser will arrange this. It was agreed that Peter would purchase a suitable new trophy in memory of

James Abbott and make the arrangements for purchase. He intimated that £200 would be a reasonable figure.

The SBBA Lifetime Achievement Awards would be presented for the first time. They would be a plaque with suitable wording highlighting the background to the individual award.

There will be a pilot section for non-contesting bands to help develop these bands and it will be adjudicated in terms of encouraging the band. This will take place between the First and Championship Sections. There will be no registration or other rules. It was hoped in the longer term that this would encourage non-contesting bands to consider becoming contesting bands in the 4th section. It was agreed that the adjudicator would attend a subsequent rehearsal of each band to provide a positive way of helping the development of the band.

Carrie Boax and Jennifer Fox had offered to help with percussion on stage at the Scottish Championships. This offer of assistance was greatly appreciated and it was hoped that this would prove helpful in ensuring that the changeover between bands would be expedited.

The Life Members lounge will operate over the weekend. Bands will be advised that Life Members will be very welcome.

The President advised that a TV Producer had asked to film as part of a BBC programme about banding and its community roots. Permission was granted for her to carry out any filming, provided they are discreet and do not disturb bands who are playing. In addition, a student from Fife has asked for permission to film regarding a college project. It was agreed to speak to the BBC producer before deciding on whether or not the student would be allowed to film. Peter would also liaise with the Caird Hall on this issue.

It was decided that, in terms of promotion/demotion in 2009, that First and Championship Sections be 10 bands and 2nd and 3rd Sections be 11 bands.

A letter was received from Queensferry Community Band about a player with ongoing illness (outlined in letter) which make it likely the player will be unable to play at the Championships. They requested that they be allowed to use a borrowed player from another band and for that player to attend rehearsals over the coming weeks. It was agreed that Queensferry be allowed to use a player from another 4th section band, and SBBA will also help in any way they can for Queensferry to sign a player in the interim.

(c) 2009 SCOTTISH OPEN, CHALLENGE SHIELD, CHALLENGE CUP AND SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arrangements were running smoothly for the event at Perth Concert Hall on 28/29 November 2009. Most of the comments about the 2008 event had been complimentary with a few issues that would be taken on board for 2009. Bands are to be informed that the closing dates would be strictly adhered to.

Besson has offered sponsorship of £3500 in cash, and instruments to the value of £3000. It was agreed to accept the Besson offer and that the instruments be used as prizes for the Youth Championships. It was agreed that the main sponsor of the weekend would be Besson but without exclusive naming rights.

Following the recent meeting of the Education and Events subcommittees, it had been agreed that Peter Fraser will remain as overall Events Manager for the weekend, including having the responsibility for the administration of the Open Contest. Alan Edmond will be Assistant Events Manager with responsibility for the Youth Contest. John Gilmour will be Contest Controller for the Youth Championships with responsibility for its overall administration. Tom Allan will be responsible for the administration of the Challenge Cup and Shield Contests.

It was agreed to look at the possibility and cost of Ray Payne providing percussion and assistance at the Scottish Open weekend. The Drum Shop has been a good supporter of SBBA in the form of Advertising and we need to check out the costing.

Scottish Open. It was agreed that the test piece for this year's Scottish Open would be "own choice." Peter Fraser recommended that the entry fee be raised to £200, to include 30 players tickets (previously paid separately). This was agreed.

It was confirmed that the top six bands at the Scottish Championships and also the first and second bands in the 1st section are to be invited to participate. There was interest from several English bands.

Scottish Challenge Shield and Scottish Challenge Cup. The top two bands from each section (i.e. 3rd and 4th in First Section and 1st and 2nd in Second Section for the Shield and 1st and 2nd in both Third and Fourth Sections for the Cup) will be invited with the remaining places open to any other bands who wish to apply, including bands that have been relegated.

Youth Championships. It was agreed that the format should remain as it is for next year but, due to the potential increase in entries, the playing times would be :
Novice Section - 10 minutes; Development Section - 15 minutes; Intermediate Section - 15 minutes; Premier Section - 20 minutes

(d) 2010 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on 13/14 March 2010. Peter Fraser had spoken to Fife Council last week, but they had still not made any decision about support and sponsorship. It was decided to go ahead with Rothes Hall as it was important to have a venue in place now.

10 REGISTRATION

(a) Registration Figures

1756 Registered players

(b) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules

Nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Application for Life Membership

Hazel Graham, originally of Alloa Band and now with Clackmannan Band, has achieved 40 years service. Approved for life membership.

(b) European Youth Brass Band

Peter Fraser advised that the flight from Edinburgh to Brussels is £200 and train from there to Ostend an additional sum. Rachael Brown, Ross Learmouth, and Stephanie Mitchell will be attending. Costs of travel were approved and Peter Fraser will organise travel arrangements. Peter has just over a year of his term with the EBBA remaining and thereafter he will be standing down.

12 DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be on 29 March in Howden Centre, Livingston at 10.30am.
Other agreed meeting dates during 2009 are: 17 May; 2 August; 4 October.