

**Sunday 30 May 2021 – 10:00am
(held virtually on Zoom)**



Executive Meeting Number 3

Present – Carrie Boax (President), Ann Murray (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Steven Gray, Danny Harrison, Damian Martin, Jim Milligan, Elaine Roxburgh and Jim Wishart

Association representatives – Anne McInnes (Fife Brass Band Festival) and Peter Fraser (West of Scotland)

In attendance – John Boax (Education Officer) and Daniel Beadle (minute taker)

Apologies – Julie Nicoll (Treasurer), Grant Brown, Lesley Crumlish, Murray White, Stuart Black (Borders) and Nigel Martin (Press Officer)

1. Welcome

Carrie welcomed everyone to the third SBBA Executive meeting of 2021.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the second SBBA Executive meeting on 19 April 2021 were proposed as accurate by Steven Gray and seconded by Jim Milligan.

3. Matters Arising

SBBA volunteer hours

Carrie reminded all executive members to send Elaine a note of their volunteer hours for SBBA work. Creative Scotland returns are due shortly and it will be important to demonstrate how much time executive members volunteer to spend on SBBA work.

European Brass Band Association (EBBA)

An online event celebrating the past 18 years of the European Brass Band Championships took place between 7–9 May. A panel picked a number of test piece performances and a public vote decided the winner – Carrie passed on her thanks to the World of Brass for organising the event.

Kapitol Forum + 2021 National Championships Update

One of the nationals qualifiers have withdrawn due to concerns over the lack of preparation and all of the current uncertainties.

Kapitol Forum due to take place on 3 July.

The 3rd and the 4th section have switched days due to an imbalance of bands across the weekend due to withdrawals. The 3rd section contest will now take place on Saturday 18 September and the 4th section taking place on Sunday 19 September.

Tony Griffiths has been appointed as the health and safety officer for the championships and qualifying bands can contact them directly.

4. Finance

Treasurer's Report

In Julie's absence, Tom provided an update of the balances of the accounts. A financial regulation document has been prepared and the trustees will meet as soon as possible to sign off.

Creative Scotland funding update

Carrie has met recently Paul Wood, to discuss YMI funding for 2022–23 who intimated there could be a reduction in funding in the future.

Sarah Lockhart (Funding Officer) has requested that the end of grant reports for 2019–20 and 2020–21 are to be submitted. The funding received in year 2019–20 has now been spent, there was a slight under spend for 2020–21 however this is due to been spent in May 2021. Carrie will complete these reports in the next coming weeks.

Update banking signatories

Unfortunately it hasn't been possible to make progress with this.

Funding working group update

Due to various circumstances it hasn't been able to make much progress in the funding working group. A log is to be created to ensure there is no duplication in efforts. Potential sponsorship avenues are being pursued. Potential communications have been drafted that can be shared across the working group to be used when approaching companies and/or grant funders.

5. Communication

Press and Publicity

PR activity during April & May 2021 – since the last executive meeting, Nigel has worked on the following:

Published the following stories on the [website](#):

1. Digital help for bands wishing to produce virtual performances
2. Whitburn to host summer brass festival
3. Carrie Boax interviews on 4barsrest and British Bandsman
4. Launch of SBBA mental health strategy
5. Dalmellington slow melody contest and AGM
6. Future European Championships venues confirmed
7. Fife Brass Band Festival to air on SBBA YouTube channel
8. Riverside Youth solo competition results
9. Nigel Durno in Wessex tuba finals
10. SBBA News Update issued in preparation for getting back to banding
11. FBBF reminder to tune in
12. West Coast ladies look to form all-female brass group
13. FBBF is won by Whitburn Band
14. Film production seeks brass players
15. The cooperation band launches online youth solo contest

16. European Championships online festival
17. Second videos now available for digital workshop
18. Online guidance for child protection officers
19. First Wellbeing workshop planned for early June
20. Alan Fernie compositions reflect optimism of getting back to banding
21. Last chance to help Nigel Durno make dream come true for two young bass players
22. Clarity to confusion over relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions
23. Special event to mark NHS anniversary day
24. Sad passing of Tommy Bolan of Croy Silver
25. Borders put on free workshop with euphonium stars
26. Kapitol announces timings for lower section finals in Cheltenham

Prepared and published the following press releases:

1. SBBA takes a pioneering stance on mental health of brass musicians
2. News Update issued in preparation for getting back to banding
3. Alan Fernie compositions reflect optimism of getting back to banding

In addition Nigel has:

- Worked with Damian Martin on revising the Wellbeing strategy letter before distribution to bands.
- Spoke to Carrie regarding the SBBA 'back to banding' message for newsletter.
- Prepared proofs for exec. committee and final work on newsletter prior to issue to band secretaries, press and website.
- Attended Zoom sub-committee meeting on 18 April.

Social media and sub-committee

Unfortunately it hasn't been possible for this sub-committee to meet yet.

Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received:

- Thanks from Anne McInnes (FBBF) for SBBA's assistance in organising their virtual contest
- Volunteer Week information
- A CV from Andrew Warriner (adjudicator).

6. Education

Child Protection update

A reminder that SBBA's child protection training is taking place on 10 June – a reminder to be sent to all bands.

Sub committee report

A meeting is due to take place of this sub committee is due take place in the near future.

Education Officer's report

John provided the following updates on his work since the last executive meeting:

- Worked with Alan Fernie to finalise and distribute the Alan Fernie "Back to Banding" ensemble music for our member bands. The uptake for the free music was excellent with approx. 20 bands receiving the PDF scores and parts.
- Continued with the project to produce Digital Workshops for the SBBA YouTube channel allowing any band member access to the videos explaining the process of putting together Virtual Performance videos. The project is now completed.
- The project to produce new compositions from 4 Scottish composers is coming to an end. We will have 12 new pieces that will be useful for youth bands of various standards. Nigel Durno has been involved in the project to publish the new music. I will ask Nigel Martin to do a press release when completed.
- Just Music's Nigel Durno has contacted me to discuss an idea he has to support 2 young bass players moving into further education by purchasing instruments. These young players often have to borrow or hire bass instruments. SBBA is looking to support this excellent venture.
- I have been working closely with Mae Murray (MEPG) and Alison Reeves (Making Music) to understand and implement the Scottish Government roadmap through Covid-19 in relation to musicians. I will continue to keep our members fully informed about the lifting of Covid restrictions.
- MEPG have contacted me about an 'Make Music Day' event on 21st June where youth bands and choirs will perform. Mae Murray specifically wants youth brass bands to perform as they have been particularly hit hard by the pandemic. I have contacted youth bands and received a positive response. It is hoped that the performances will be a mixture of virtual and live performances.
- I have been working with 2 young brass players on a Creative Scotland funded project called "Youth Speaks Roadshow". This project will be organised and put together by young people. The event will take place on 5th June on Zoom.
- I continue to receive NYBBS 2021 application forms and answer calls and emails from parents and students. Tom and I to visit Strathallan on 2nd June to discuss the summer course.

Wellbeing

The first Wellbeing workshop is taking place on Saturday 5 June with 2 remaining spaces left. Payment where required should be made to the SBBA account.

A closed Facebook group to be set up for all course attendees, to allow wellbeing leads from bands to support one other after the training has taken place.

A manual has been received from Tabby, which won't require too many updates prior to circulation. This will be circulated to those who attend a training session.

Another training event could be set up for the 2022 learning festival. Other dates for later in 2021 to be explored to catch up with those who would have liked to have attended on 5 June but couldn't make it.

7. Membership and registration

Sub committee update

Further amendments are required to the constitution regarding attendance at virtual AGMs – it was agreed that 20% of member bands would require to attend to have a quorum.

The revised constitution requires to be circulated 5 weeks prior to the EGM taking place.

No registration matter arising. Some registrations have been received from bands who are attending the Nationals.

8. Events

Sub committee update

A meeting took place on Thursday 27 May.

NYBBS

There are around 100 course participants signed up.

The following mitigating risks have been discussed:

- Staggered registrations across the three bands to take place on 1 August
- It is proposed that a live streamed virtual concert takes place on the Friday evening (6 August).
- For those that are unable to attend, virtual tuition may be offered.

Another meeting to discuss preparation for NYBBS is taking place on 2 June.

Post meeting note see – <https://www.sbba.org.uk/news/6070/strathallan-school-fully-risk-assessed-for-a-safe-and-secure-nybbs-summer-course>

Scottish Festival of Brass

Following discussion at both the events and executive committees, weighing up all of the factors it was agreed that the Scottish Challenge contest would move from Saturday 20 November to Sunday 28 November.

Groups and available youth bands will be invited to perform. There will be workshops and master classes grant-funded by Creative Scotland.

Test pieces for the Scottish Open will be as planned from the 2020 event.

Entry forms without payment will be requested from bands.

Post meeting note see - <https://www.sbba.org.uk/news/6091/entry-forms-now-available-for-scottish-open-and-challenge-contests>

Sponsorship to be discussed with Besson and Band Supplies.

Volunteering week

A press release to be prepared to celebrate all of the work of SBBA's volunteers. Carrie thanked the executive members of their ongoing work for SBBA.

Volunteer week is taking place 1–7 June. Information was circulated to band secretaries on 30 May.

9. Area Associations Update

South West (Jim Milligan)

- At least 3 bands have commenced outdoor rehearsals with considered risk assessments in place.
- Langholm placed 2nd and Annan 5th in the Fodens Whit Friday contest.
- Considering starting a beginners group in the region.

West of Scotland (Peter Fraser)

- Booking confirmation to be received for solo and ensemble contest in 2022.

East of Scotland (Steven Gray)

- Some bands have commenced outdoor rehearsals.

Fife (Danny Harrison)

- Recent meeting had been postponed
- Venues are being sourced for the Fife Charities Brass Association contest
- Lochgelly were placed 2nd in Fodens Whit Friday contest.
- Requests have been received to support bands to prepare to return to rehearsals.

Fife Brass Band Festival (Anne McInnes)

- Positive feedback received from the contest and some suggestions for the future if required to run (virtually) again.
- 23 April 2022 – Carnegie Hall has been booked for next year's contest.

Northern Counties (Damian Martin)

- No meetings have taken place, hopefully to meet in the summer.
- Unfortunately a couple of members of Lewrick Brass Band have passed away, Drew Robertson their conductor and Malcolm Browne (bass trombone). Condolences to their families and everyone at Lewrick.

Borders (sent in advance by Stuart Black)

- Galashiels Town, Langholm Town, Selkirk Silver Bands have all been part of the Fodens Whit Friday event
- Galashiels Town, Abbey Brass, Scottish Borders Youth, Langholm Town, Selkirk Silver bands are all entered into the Whitburn online event
- Borders Contest is still planned for November. A decision will be made in the next couple of months depending on Government Guidelines
- At the recent SBBBA meeting the question of has there been any movement on the BOPA front since things are re-opening?
- The Borders workshops are being considered for September/October time depending on the Guidance
- A number of bands have been busy online up to now and are now commencing and executing plans for outdoor rehearsals as well as looking at venue options etc for when we can get back indoors
- Scott Kerr and Chris Shanks recently (27th May) lead their 3rd online workshop with the Border bands where we also were joined by a few from further afield

- Langholm Town and St Ronan's are still aiming to be at the national finals later this year.

10. Premises

The Clutha Trust is moving premises to a more modern facility – this new facility should have more space for SBBA to store equipment and music. Music for NYBBS will need to be retrieved from various locations if required for the summer course. Thank you to Jim Wishart for liaising with the Clutha Trust regarding this.

11. AOCB

Carrie to offer to meet with the Area Associations representatives to hopefully allow them to advise to their member bands on factors that should be considered to allow them safely to return to rehearsals.. SBBA have been working with a few member bands developing risk assessments for both indoor and outdoor rehearsals. Advice is available from Scottish Government website –

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/pages/people-involved-in-performing-producing-designing-and-supporting-events/>

Bands should consider this and their own rehearsal spaces and liaise with area associations for support for developing their own risk assessments and procedures.

12. Date of next meeting

Executive Meeting 4 will take place in August – date to be confirmed.