

## **Development Officer – Progress Report**

**4 October – 6 November 2010**

### **Bands**

Galashiels Youth – Delivered brass recruitment workshops in Glendinning and Balmoral Primary Schools as part of the new Gala Youth Brass project. A parents evening will be held on 16 November after which it is hoped that the new youth band will commence rehearsals under the guidance of Stuart Black.

Whitburn Youth Band – Held brass recruitment workshops in 2 local primary schools. A parents evening is planned which hopes to add to the 12 players already playing in the youth band.

Newland Concert Youth – Attended a parent's night following up from recent workshops which will now bring additional new members into the current youth band.

### **External Liaison**

National Working Party – Attended the follow up meeting in London to further develop plans for a new UK wide body to assist brass bands. I have been given the remit of encouraging young players into future discussions. The next meeting is in Birmingham on 12 November before the working party's presentation of its findings at a conference to be held in Manchester at the end of January 2011.

EBBA – Susannah Downs (Whitburn Band) and Rachel Neil (RSAMD) have both been offered places as Scotland's representatives to EYBB Montreux 2011. Both have accepted and these will be submitted for final consideration by EBBA. I will attend EBBA meetings in Montreux around the Swiss Nationals as part of the final preparation of events for the EBBC and ECC 2011 from 26 to 28 November.

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

Creative Scotland – Along with members of HITS and other informal sector music organisations, I will represent SBBA at the Music For Youth School Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall on 8 and 9 November. Creative Scotland hope to launch a pilot event similar to this in Scotland and are organising meetings for key stakeholders to discuss this with the Executive Committee of Music For Youth.

### **Events**

NCBBA – In association with Perth and Kinross Council, a very successful youth workshop was held with Les Neish. Young players from the local schools, Perthshire Youth Brass and Perth and Kinross Central Groups worked with Les and local brass instructors before performing a concert finale for friends and family.

SBBA – Attended the youth section of the Scottish Borders Entertainment Contest in Innerleithen. This year saw an increase to 7 participating bands in the Novice and Development sections. Another pleasing development for the contest is the appointment of a young, female adjudicator in Alison Hall.

SBBA AGM – Delivered a presentation to the AGM detailing the progress made in the last year. Although it would be easy to become complacent when the Youth Championships are taken as measure of progress, we are about to enter into a difficult number of years regarding budget cuts at LEA's and future funding through Creative Scotland.

SBBA Conductors Course – The final practical sessions took place in Perth College UHI on 16 and 17 October. 36 of the 43 registered delegates attended and undertook an intensive weekend of conducting instruction with Ian Porthouse, Frank Renton, Philip Sparke and Course Director, Dr. Roger Webster. Many thanks to The Kirkintilloch Band and members of NYBBS who were the resident bands for the delegates to rehearse with. Thanks also to Gavin Spowart of Perth College UHI and the SBBA Executive members for their support. Following the conclusion of the course all delegates claimed that there should be more SBBA run conductor courses. Several delegates have offered to join a Conductors Development Committee if ratified by the SBBA Executive.

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