

Development Officer – Progress Report **7 November 2010 – 7 January 2011**

Bands

Galashiels Youth – A parents evening was held on 16 November which was attended by a few new players and their parents. The next round of brass workshops have been planned for 26 January.

External Liaison

National Working Party – The working party's presentation of its findings will be delivered at the next conference to be held in the RNCM, Manchester on 29 January 2011. I have been asked to give a short presentation regarding our work on youth development in Scotland.

EBBA – Susannah Downs (Whitburn Band) and Rachel Neil (RSAMD) have both been accepted as Scotland's representatives to EYBB Montreux 2011.

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

Creative Scotland – Represented SBBA at the Music For Youth School Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall on 8 and 9 November. It is hoped that we can feature a collaborative performance showcasing Scottish youth music at next year's Proms concerts. Creative Scotland is also holding discussion meetings with key stakeholders to looking at the possibilities of developing similar events in Scotland. A further meeting will take place at the end of January.

The next HITS meeting is scheduled for 25 January at the Mining Museum in Newtongrange.

Letters of support for SBBA's Youth Development Programme have been received from 5 local education authorities and discussions to undertake new brass projects in these areas are taking place.

Events

Scottish Youth Championships – Another very successful contest was held as part of the Scottish Brass Band Festival featuring 32 of the Scotland's youth bands. The greatest development was the increase to 20 bands playing in the Novice Section. Congratulations to all the players, conductors, and parents involved with the bands for providing a fantastic day of musical entertainment. Many thanks to John Gilmour and the SBBA stage crew for delivering efficient and enjoyable contest and showcasing Scotland's best young brass talent. We are also grateful to Fiona Hyslop, Culture Secretary for taking time from her busy schedule to attend this year's Championship and also present the prizes at the end of the Senior and Premier Sections.

Attended the Swiss National Brass Championships as part of the EBBA Executive Committee to look at the venue for the EBBC in Montreux 2011. It is encouraging that SBBA are very similar in approach and organisation of contests as the ever efficient Swiss. Many meetings were held developing the EBBA strategy and future championships planned in Rotterdam, Oslo and Perth.

Along with Peter Fraser, attended the International Events Conference organised by Event Scotland and enjoyed varied presentations regarding sports and arts development in Scotland. As expected, a lot of the focus has now turned towards 2014 and its many important events and gave us a fantastic networking opportunity to discuss the EBBC Perth 2014.

Joined Peter Fraser to meet with Susan Thores, Arts Officer, WLC to look at ways of developing the West Lothian Festival of Brass in celebrating its 10th anniversary. As entertainment is an increasing factor in the outcome of the results, it has been agreed with Susan that all competing bands will be able to rehearse within HPC before their performance to help them become familiar with the audio/visual facilities on offer.

Alan Edmond
Development Officer
Scottish Brass Band Association