

## **SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBER BANDS HELD ON SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2016 AT THE OKEHAMPTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB OKEHAMPTON COMMENCING AT 1100 HOURS.**

**1/16 PRESENT:** Raymond Kingdon (Chairman), Brian Elliott (Secretary/Registrar), Keith Gibbs (Treasurer), John Croker (Minutes Secretary), Frances Calver (Trophy Officer), Executive Committee – Martin Cordy, Alan Gears, Gillian Rogers, Gilbert Taylor.

**Bands represented:** Bideford Town, Hartland Town, Holsworthy, Honiton, Okehampton Excelsior, Pendennis Brass, Phoenix Brass, Sidmouth Town, Soundhouse Brass, South Molton Town, St Dennis, Tiverton Town, Weston Brass.

**2/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Sue Richards (President), John Woods (Vice-Chairman), Robin Teague (Exec. Committee member).

**3/16 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015** were approved and signed as a correct record.

**4/16 MATTERS ARISING.** There were no matters arising but as a quorum was not obtained at last year's meeting no decisions could have been substantiated.

#### **5/16 TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a) Current bank account. £11,259.37
- b) Savings account £8030.75
- c) Membership. 55 bands currently but 7 bands still outstanding. Letters have been sent but not too certain whether we have correct addresses for current secretaries.

#### **6/16 CONTESTS**

- a) **Weston-Super-Mare Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017.** The winter gardens have been sold to Weston College freehold for £1, so they are in the process of refurbishing. So better to leave this year. Other premises have been looked at but not suitable. Grand Pier not possible to get bands in and out of there. Pontins at Weston have made contact with John Woods but hopefully 2017 Contest will be in the Winter Gardens.
- b) **Exmouth Festival Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016.** The Pavilion and gardens have been booked. The adjudicator will be Sarah Groarke-Booth a member of ABBA from the North West region.
- c) **70<sup>th</sup> Annual Championships Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016.** The Riviera Centre has been booked. The adjudicators will be Steve Sykes and Stan Lippeatt. Steve Swindon from Chorum Recording will be recording band's performances. A photographer is being organised. Gilbert Taylor a member of the music sub-committee said that in appreciation of Goff Richards wonderful compositions for bands, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary will celebrate his music. The 4<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> section test pieces will have been composed by him. Championship and first section combined as 1 section will be own choice. Mr Taylor also pointed out that the Association consistently requests ideas for test pieces but rarely gets any replies. We need this information from bands. The association holds between 180 -190 scores in its library which can be borrowed for £5 via Brian Elliott or Frances Calver.

#### **7/16 EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- a) **Review of Brass Workshop Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016.** 92 participants were registered for the 2 days. Brian Elliott said that he received several e-mails from participants and the tutors about how much they had enjoyed the weekend. A question

was asked about disabled access. The main band rehearsals are now held in the gymnasium which is on the ground floor at West Buckland School. There was criticism from the floor that the last day is too long as some people have to travel long distances. Brian Elliott said that he had a complaint that the first day was also too long finishing at 6 pm so the committee will consider the finish times to be 5 pm on the Saturday and 4 pm on the Sunday.

- b) **Date and venue for the Mid-winter workshop 2017.** This will again be at West Buckland School on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017. This will be our 19<sup>th</sup> Workshop. The tutors will be **Leonard Adams, Brett Baker and David Childs.**
- c) **Percussion workshop, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016.** Adrian Evans of Eventz has been booked together with Geraint Evans. They are not charging us a fee. The difficulty we have is finding a venue with the required 3 rooms. Suggestions from the floor – Further education colleges – may prove to be very costly. Frances Calver suggested Launceston Methodist Church. Committee will consider. All suggestions welcome.
- d) **Suggestions for other workshops.** Bideford asked for a Conductor's workshop. Sidmouth band suggested one for junior members, particularly as schools were pulling out of tuition. St Dennis thought one for beginners no big names as tutors. Two tutors suggested Chris Spreadbury and Gareth Churcher. Committee to consider.

### **8/16 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWBBA**

Suggestions required on how to celebrate this event. Chairman said that a lunch is being arranged on the Sunday at the Redcliffe Hotel Paignton during which the 2 adjudicators will attend. Suggestions from the floor: a concert on the Saturday evening with a big named band. A special commemorative programme for the contest. Presentation to players who have played with same band for 70 years. As a marketing ploy offer more favourable terms to bands who don't normally enter the contest.

### **9/16 COUNCIL OF WEST OF ENGLAND BRASS BAND ASSOCIATIONS.**

- a) **Bar.** At the recent meeting of the Council following the regional Championships the main concern appeared to be that the Riviera Centre ran out of beer on the Saturday and the Sunday and closed the bar 2 hours early. Chairman is contacting the Riviera Centre.
- b) **Timings.** Organisation and timings went ok. 30 minutes out on the Sunday.
- c) **Misuse of wristbands.** Concern about this. Wristbands are issued for the use of players. One band member had to pay full price when the Conductor gave his 3 children the wristbands.
- d) **Blowing of instruments in assembly areas.** One or two bands very noisy, officials had asked bands just to keep warm by just blowing into their instruments.
- e) **Adjudicators .**Generally bands happy with reports which were very clear and precise.
- f) **Fire regulations.** Again concern about persons standing in auditoriums instead of finding a seat, particularly during prize givings. The balcony was opened for the Championship section.
- g) **Grading tables.** These have been published and bands have up to the end of May to appeal.
- h) **Treasurer's report.** This was accepted by the Council. If the contest was cancelled for any reason the savings account would disappear. Costs for the 2 days are about £60,000.
- i) **Regional contest 2017.** 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 March. At the Riviera Centre Torbay. Provisionally on the Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> section will be in the arena with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> sections in the forum. On the Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Championship sections.
- j) **Youth banding.** Proposal to encourage youth a West of England youth contest to be held with £3000 donated to this. Suitable venue at Exeter. This still to be agreed.

**10/16 FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION.** **Chairman** stated that Brian Elliott and Keith Gibbs are both stepping down next year from the respective posts of Secretary and Treasurer. Despite being widely advertised, nobody had come forward particularly for the Secretary's post. Some thoughts are being made to split the post up to make it more amenable. Please ask anybody within your organisation if they are interested. Preferably for the Secretary's post a non playing member would be more suitable. As the Association is a Limited Company it is necessary to have a Company Secretary.

**11/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** There was none.

The next general meeting of member bands will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

The meeting finished at 1150 hours.