

SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting of member Bands held on Sunday 25 March 2018 at Okehampton Conservative Club Okehampton commencing at 1030 hours.

1/18 PRESENT: Raymond Kingdon (Chair), Simon James (Secretary/Registrar), Doreen Daw (Treasurer), John Croker (Minutes Secretary) (Rep. Bideford Town Band), Frances Calver (Trophy Officer), Executive Committee - Keith Edwards (Rep Appledore Band), Keith Gibbs (Honorary Life Member), Gilbert Taylor (Rep South Molton Town Band), Robin Teague, Gillian Rogers (Rep Weston Brass)

Bands represented: Hartland Town, Okehampton Excelsior, St Dennis, Tiverton.

2/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John Woods (Vice-Chair), Brian Elliott (Life Vice-President)

Bands: Bodmin Town, Callington Town, Crediton Town, Exeter Railway, Holsworthy Town., SW Comms, Honiton Band, Torbay Brass

3/18 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME. Ray Kingdon welcomed everybody to the meeting and reported on the health of Brian Elliott. Graham Pillivant of Tiverton asked that a letter be sent from the meeting with all our good wishes and thinking of both Brian and Joyce.

4/18 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday 26th March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

5/18 MATTERS ARISING. None.

6/18 TREASURER'S REPORT.

- (a) Current bank account. £11,896.51p
- (b) Savings Account £8086.19p
- (c) Arthur Bedwell Trust A/C £810.70p
- (d) Membership. Many bands have still not paid their subscriptions. Payment was due on 1st January but given until march 31st. St Dennis rep asked if it was possible for the Association to set up a standing order for bands. Doreen Daw explained that she was still having problems dealing with the bank account at the moment as the bank were determined to still deal with the previous Treasurer Keith Gibbs. Robin Teague suggested another invoice be sent out in red as a reminder. BACs could be used and standing orders set up in the future.

7/18 CONTESTS.

(a) WESTON-SUPER-MARE Own choice. Update. Chair reported that the previous venue at the Winter Gardens was no longer suitable, the Macmillan Theatre in Bridgewater was being looked at as a possibility in 2019, although it is not close to the Town Centre and the rugby club opposite would need to be used for refreshments. Robin Teague asked if the Tropicana in Weston was suitable but the answer from Gillian Rogers was that it wasn't.

(b) EXMOUTH FESTIVAL - Saturday 1st September 2018 Robin Teague (organiser) reported that everything was moving on rapidly.

(1) Schedules: Together with entry forms these will shortly be sent out to bands

(2) Website: The event has been posted on the website

(3) Venue: Pavilion at Exmouth has been booked

(4) Adjudicator: David Marshall has been booked with accommodation.

(5) Grant: The usual grant from Exmouth Town Council may be in doubt this

- year as they have asked for a full breakdown of our accounts
- (6) **Guests:** The new Mayor of Exmouth will be asked to attend the prizegiving.
 - (7) **Car Park opposite the Theatre:** This will not be used any longer by officials and trades people unless willing to pay £3 an hour, as no longer part of the Pavilion.
 - (8) **Garden judges:** Ideas required please. Robin had asked for Championship Bands to provide judges but none had replied. Although holiday makers were suggested it was decided that Robin would approach Exmouth Town Councillors.
 - (9) **Exmouth Town Council Meeting:** Gil Taylor reported that he presented a talk about the Association to the meeting which was well received. He thanked them for the previous grants and whilst there was advised that we may be liable for a Locality Grant as each Councillor is allocated a sum of money to support events such as ours. Gil has filled out the forms and sent them off. Tiverton rep Graham asked if a local company could be approached to sponsor the event with perhaps an advert in the programmes.

(c) 72nd ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Saturday 3rd November 2018. Simon James organiser reported:

- (1) **Venue:** Riviera Centre has been booked and the deposit paid.
- (2) **Adjudicators:** David Hirst and Sam Fisher appointed. Sam is soon to complete his Adjudicator Apprenticeship during which David Hirst has been his mentor. It was felt that the Championships provided a great opportunity to promote 'New Talent' and the future of Brass Banding.
- (3) **Test pieces:** After lengthy discussion it was decided to have the open section as own Choice, with the 2nd 3rd and 4th/ungraded sections being set test piece. The Youth Section would remain own choice and the Training Band section a program no longer than 10 minutes. Suggestions from the floor were that we ask the adjudicator to suggest test pieces for each section or that the music panel provide a choice of 2 pieces per section. The decision was made that Simon would approach the adjudicators for their suggestions.
- (4) **Note:** Depending on the attendance and breakdown of the Open Section in 2018, due consideration will be given to having a Championship and 1st Section in the 2019 Championships.

8/18 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(a) Review of Brass and Percussion workshop 10 and 11 February 2018

John Croker joint organiser reported:

The 20th Mid-winter brass workshop (re-named Brass-percussion workshop) was held again this year at West Buckland School near Barnstaple. The 10th year held at this location. The tutors this year were all from Cory Band. Philip Harper (MD), Tom Hutchinson (Principal Cornet), Glen Williams (Principal Euphonium), Helen Williams, (Flugel, and Ailsa Russell (Solo Horn) who came in at the last moment. The number of participants was capped at 120 which was the maximum number it was felt the Committee could deal with. The event was partly funded by The Arts Council of England Lottery Grant and Westacott Co-operative Funeral Care. The participants were from all age groups and standards of playing and judging by the feedback provided by 91 of the 120 participants, the majority enjoyed the course. The food as always was provided by Gwen Kingdon and her band of helpers and was first class. The Committee are grateful to various publishers namely Pennine Music, Studio Music, R Smith & Co, Kirklees Music and Wright and Round who provided the sets of

music free of charge and to our President Sue Richards and John Woods for contacting the publishers for the music. General discussion followed. Felt that we should revert to Brass only for next year. 1 delegate reported that there were complaints because a couple of the sections did not get Philip Harper as a tutor. It was explained that the tutors altered the schedules at the last moment to accommodate Ailsa Russell and this did cause some confusion, beyond the control of the organisers. In future it was suggested that the tutors be acquainted with the number of participants and instruments and be allowed to have an input during the initial scheduling of the event. This will be taken on board by the organisers.

It was thought that tutors from the same band was a good idea and this will be attempted for 2019.

West Buckland does not have facilities for disabled persons with regard to getting into the existing concert hall. The organisers have been tasked with approaching the school to see what other facilities they have that may overcome this issue.

(b) To Approve the date and venue for the Mid-winter workshop 2019

West Buckland School 9th and 10th February 2019.

(c) Suggestions for other workshops

(1) Conductor workshop

(2) Bass/euphonium workshop 2019 November time Possibly Steve Sykes as a tutor.

(3) Percussion workshop. St Dennis rep questioned whether there are enough solely brass band percussion players in the area to warrant a workshop. Sec. asked to e-mail bands to find out what interest there would be.

9/18 COUNCIL OF WEST OF ENGLAND BRASS BAND ASSOCIATIONS (meeting previous day)

(a) Feedback required for improvements

(b) Adjudicators a problem to find with 3 other contests on same day

(c) 4th Section. Some bands want to go back in the Arena.

(e) Length of test pieces was discussed at their meeting

(f) 3rd section had a long break. Some bands had to wait a long time before going on stage. This will not happen in the future.

10/18 FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Chairman appealed for younger people to come and join the Committee. Go back to your bands and ask them. Tiverton rep asked if the Committee could have assistant roles come to committee meetings and events and see what goes on without an initial commitment, as an observer. Robin Teague suggested that help at events is always welcome, St Dennis rep offered their help as a steward without being on the Committee. A recruitment drive and structure for succession is required. Discussed later at the Executive Committee meeting.

11/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Gilbert Taylor asked if meetings could go ahead with the low numbers of bands represented. Perhaps Sunday afternoon would be a better time. The Constitution has been amended recently to delete the number of bands required to make up a quorum.

(b) DBS checks. All members of the Committee have now been checked

(c) St Dennis rep told the meeting that Terry Sleeman from Cornwall is trying to resurrect solo and quartet contests in the area. At the present time Bideford and St

Dennis are the only successful ones, others have not been getting enough entries to make them worth running. He will be organising a group get together to discuss this. If anybody is interested please contact Jayne Joy of St Dennis Band. Should you not have her number this contact can be facilitated either through the St Dennis Website or via SWBBA General Secretary Simon.

(d) Exmouth. Appledore band asked if it is possible to let 4th section/ ungraded players to play in the hall during the morning in case they become intimidated by a large audience later in the afternoon waiting for results etc. Tiverton rep countered that surely bands prefer to play to a good audience. The existing process

Next meeting to coincide with AGM in 2019
The meeting closed at 1215 hours