

**SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION**  
**REPORT for the year ending 31 December 2017**

The Executive Committee, with a membership of 11 met on 5 occasions during the year.

The **Annual General Meeting** and the General Meeting were held on the 26 March 17 with a representation of 10 bands from a membership of 66 bands. The treasurer reported an excess of expenditure over income of £478.12.

The **71<sup>st</sup> Annual Championships** were held once again at the Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay on 4<sup>th</sup> November with an entry of 38 bands, of which 7 were non-member bands. It was refreshing to see the 'youth' of banding represented with 2 Youth and 4 Training bands competing. The decision by the Association members to opt for 'Own Choice' proved a popular one amongst many and it is felt that this may have resulted in the increased number of bands in attendance. All the arrangements made by the Executive Committee certainly seemed to operate smoothly and their hard work on the day certainly paid dividends with the event concluding slightly ahead of schedule. Brass Band Players Registration was used with once again, no problems being encountered. The adjudicators, Graham Jones and Steve Pritchard-Jones both commented positively on the warm welcome afforded them, the quality of music and their general enjoyment of the day. The Association wishes to record its appreciation to Georgia Parker and her team for their assistance and cooperation both in the run-up to and during the event.

The **18<sup>th</sup> Exmouth Festival of Brass** was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September and was again a great success with bands (no withdrawals) competing. Thankfully the weather was on our side and all bands performed a fringe concert in the Pavilion Gardens. Appreciation is extended to Exmouth Town Council and Trevada Music for their generous financial support, the Teague Family for their particular hard work in staging the event, and all the staff at the Pavilion.

The Associations **48<sup>th</sup> Weston-Super-Mare Own Choice Contest 2017** did not take place as since the change in primary purpose is no longer suitable to stage a contest. John Woods, the Contest Administrator, despite exploring various venues has been unable to find a suitable location to stage the contest in 2018. However, due to his dedication it is believed that a suitable venue has been found to stage the contest in 2019.

80 musicians representing both member and non-member bands participated in the **Mid-Winter Workshop**, held at West Buckland School, North Devon over the weekend of 11/12 February 17. For the 9<sup>th</sup> year running the facilities and welcome extended by the West Buckland School were a major contributing factor to the success of the weekend. The musicians were put through their paces by the tutors Brett Baker, Leonard Adams and David Childs culminating in a concert on the Sunday of music generously donated by Studio Music, Wright & Round, Pennine Music, R Smith & Co, Kirklees Music and De Haske Muziekultgave BV. Thanks go to Gwen Kingdon and her own 'band' of merry helpers for providing the much-needed refreshment, and staff of West Buckland School but of particular note the caretaker who was on hand throughout the day. The workshop was once again supported by co-sponsors Taw & Torridge Coaches and Westacott & Son Co-operative Funeral Care.

## **Looking Forward**

The above are just the highlights, what is not commented upon is the continual dedication given by your Officers and Executive Committee members. These are the people who give freely of their time for the benefits of the member bands, representing the Association at meetings, concerts, contests and spreading the brass band word to a wider audience. You will be aware that replacements for both Brian Elliott and Keith Gibbs were found/coerced but the recruitment cannot stop there. To ensure a secure future for the Association we need to recruit younger blood onto the Executive Committee. There is a great deal of experience and knowledge just waiting to be passed on, all it needs are a few willing volunteers.

Sincere thanks to the President, Chairman, Officers and Executive Committee for their dedication and support in all matters concerning the work of the Association. In particular those who have recently retired, Brian Elliott and Keith Gibbs who I know have been, whether they know it or not, a guiding light to their successors. Finally, sincere gratitude also to the member bands for their continued support and co-operation.

Simon James  
General Secretary  
On behalf of the Executive Committee