



## **SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 7.00pm on Zoom**

#### **Attendees:**

Ray Kingdon, Chairman (RK)  
John Woods, Vice-Chairman (JW)  
Gill Rogers, Secretary (GR)  
Gil Taylor, (GT)  
Robin Teague, RT)  
Sue Oldfield, Minute Secretary (SO)

#### **Band representatives:**

Ben Tucker (BT) & Julie Tucker (JT) - Soundhouse Brass  
Chris H (CH) - Ottery Silver Band

#### **Opening Address Ray Kingdon SWBBA Chairman:**

RK welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. He said he was sorry that in the last 12 months two very good friends of the association, Keith Gibbs and more recently Viv Willcocks had passed away - both will be sadly missed. As people are aware, Sue Richards retired from the role of president last year and we welcomed Leonard Adams to the team as our president and he has already shown how committed he is to the organisation.

We were pleased the November contest worked well and hope that through this year we can carry on doing the same and everything will go ahead as planned.

RK said that he has enjoyed being chairman for last 12 months. He added that he has been chairman for the SWBBA for 28 years now and as long as he remains fit and well, he is happy to carry on.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Keith Edwards, Diane Williams, Leonard Adams, Tracey Phillips, Robert Julian & Kevin Gibbons

Apologies from bands for Absence:

Bodmin, Honiton, St Austell & Bideford

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023:**

All happy minutes are a true record of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

#### **3. Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:**

RK thanked GR for sharing her report and asked her if there was anything further she wished to add.

GR responded to say she had nothing to add and had received no feedback at all from any member bands.

4. **Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:**

Unfortunately Kevin Gibbons our treasurer was unable to join the meeting owing to problems with his internet connection so JW kindly stepped in to discuss the treasurers report.

JW said the last few years had been difficult in banding and all events were struggling in terms of recovering from the effects of the Covid pandemic. However, November was good for the SWBBA and noted the position after the March West of England Regional Championships in March was also encouraging and the numbers attending were returning to pre-covid levels and they managed to make a small profit.

The primary income for the Association is the annual subscriptions. The number of member bands stands at 39. However, pre-covid the number of member bands was at 60 so still some work to be done.

The February workshop helps generate revenue and bottom line profits.

The November Annual Championships – venue, adjudicator, costs covered and managed to make a very small profit.

The Association does have reserves, £16,740 for the year ended December 2023.

JT asked if the 'Rate Reward' account is a Barclays Bank account.

JW confirmed that it is.

JT said she was only asking as Barclays had closed her own band's account down even though they had been in the process of completing the necessary paperwork.

5. **Honorariums to Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer:**

RK asked if everyone is happy with the amounts as they are and what did people think?

RT queried what are they now. Reference made to last year's minutes when the honorariums were increased.

RT proposed they remain the same for the next year.

JW seconded.

All in favour.

6. **Election of Officers and Executive Committee:**

President – Leonard Adams

Chairman - Ray Kingdon

Vice Chairman - John Woods

Secretary - Gill Rogers

Treasurer – Kevin Gibbons

Trophy Officer – Di Williams

Minutes Secretary – Sue Oldfield

Executive Committee – Keith Edwards, Tracey Phillips, Gilbert Taylor, Robin Teague.

RK asked if everyone is happy to stand for another year.

GR confirmed everyone had agreed to stand for another year.

RK asked if all at the meeting were happy to propose the re-election of officers and Executive committee members in a block.

BT, JT and CH agreed.

All in favour.

RK informed the meeting there were potentially two new members to the committee

but as they were not here this evening he queried how best to move that forward – should we should invite them along to the next meeting.

JW said we should invite them to come along and see what we do as we are always looking for new people with new ideas.

RT asked if we need permission to co-opt people.

JW responded to say we do need permission to create a space for them until next year if they like what they see.

RK asked if all in favour of this approach. All agreed.

7. **Council of West of England Brass Band Associations:**

To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee:

Delegates to The Council – Ray Kingdon, John Woods and Gilbert Taylor.

Substitute Delegate to The Council – any member of the Executive Committee

RK asked if everyone is happy to approve the delegates as above.

All in favour.

8. **Arthur Bedwell Memorial Trust:**

To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee:

The Elected Trustees – Ray Kingdon, Gilbert Taylor, Gill Rogers, Kevin Gibbons

GR informed the meeting that she has not received any applications. Nil expenditure during 2023.

JT asked what the Trust is for.

RK responded to say it is available to provide a small amount of financial assistance if youth players apply to this Trust e.g. if they are invited to participate in a Young Persons or National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain or attend approved courses.

Average grant is £200 to £250

RT said there are further details under resources on our SWBBA web page.

GR added that it can't be used to buy an instrument and applications need to be from a member band.

JW said that until about a year ago, the performance of the M&G asset was ok but in other years it has been better. JW added we need to try and preserve the overall asset position and hopes it may get better.

RK said there is funding available to give out grants if applications received.

JW agreed and said it should be available for all – needs to be spread around.

GR informed the meeting that two of the previous recipients have since gone on to do very well – one is now a principal cornet player.

JW said there are some success stories.

9. **Any other business:**

JW informed the meeting the WEBBA Regional Championships were successful and they were able to make the numbers work financially which is encouraging. 75 bands had entered and 73 actually played over the weekend.

We all understand the challenges bands face in terms of finances and also membership.

JW said we should ask bands attending to fly the flag for the November Championships.

RK agreed and added that we will need 25 bands to entry.

RT said we will need an entry of more than 25 bands so the more commitment we can get from bands in advance the better.

Meeting closed.