



SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM

Held at 7pm on Sunday 24th April 2022

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Executive Committee:

Ray Kingdon	Chairman
John Woods	Vice-Chairman
Gill Rogers	Secretary – representing Weston Brass
Kevin Gibbons	Treasurer
Fran Calver	Trophy Officer – representing Bodmin Band
Keith Edwards	Executive Member – representing Appledore Band
Tracey Phillips	Executive Member – representing Lanner & District Band
Gil Taylor	Executive Member – representing South Molton Band
Robin Teague	Executive Member

Other Bands Represented:

Sidmouth – Graham Pollard
Bugle – David Jane
St Dennis – Darren Hawken
Honiton – Vernon Whitlock
Bideford – Becky Frisby
Soundhouse – Alan Gears
Mount Charles – Megan Alexander and Jeremy Taylor

Also present:

Dawn Toms – South Molton Band
Sue Oldfield – WEBBA Secretary

Welcome

Chairman, Ray Kingdon, welcomed everybody to the meeting and commented that to save people travelling, it was probably still best way to meet on Zoom.

1 Apologies for Absence Hartland Band

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 19th April 2021 Accepted as a true record by all present.

3 Report for Year ending 31st December 2021

Prepared by SWBBA Secretary, Gill Rogers, and sent by email to all member bands before the meeting. Adopted by all present.

4 Account for Year Ending 31st December 2021

Prepared by SWBBA Treasurer, Kevin Gibbons, and sent by email to all members before the meeting. The treasurer explained that it had been a quiet year with only one workshop which had resulted in a low income. Consequently, expenses were also low, but things were returning to normal now. The accounts will be independently inspected before forwarding to Companies House for filing. The accounts were adopted – proposed by John Woods and seconded by Fran Calver. All in favour.

5 Honorariums to Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

It was proposed by Alan Gears and seconded by Gil Taylor that the honorariums stay the same at:

Chairman - £140

Treasurer - £400

Secretary - £375

£100 each to SWBBA event organisers (Annual Championships, Exmouth Festival of Brass, Mid-winter Workshop and Sectional Workshop).

All in favour.

6 Annual Subscriptions

The secretary confirmed that we now have 35 paid-up member bands for 2022. John Woods proposed to keep the annual subscription at £60 for now, recognising that we need support from our member bands to attend events. Seconded by Graham Pollard. To review in 2023.

Gil Taylor suggested further chasing lapsed member bands to find out if there was a reason for not renewing.

All in favour.

7 Election of Officers and Executive Committee

The following were nominated:

President – Sue Richards

Chairman – Ray Kingdon

Vice-Chairman – John Woods

Secretary – Gill Rogers

Treasurer – Kevin Gibbons

Trophy Officer – Fran Calver

Minute Secretary – vacant.

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

Sue Oldfield was nominated at the meeting as Minute Secretary by Ray Kingdon. Sue accepted the position.

There being no vote required, all were elected en bloc. Proposed by Graham Pollard, seconded by Becky Frisby. All in favour.

8 Council Of West of England Brass Band Associations

The Executive Committee recommended that the following continue as delegates to the Council: Ray Kingdon, John Woods and Gilbert Taylor, plus any other delegate appointed by the Executive Committee as substitute. Proposed by Alan Gears, seconded by Keith Edwards. All in favour.

9 The Arthur Bedwell Memorial Trust

The Executive Committee recommended that the elected Trustees be Ray Kingdon, Gilbert Taylor, Gill Rogers and Kevin Gibbons. Proposed by Fran Calver, seconded by Tracey Phillips. All in favour.

10 Events for 2022

- a. Exmouth Festival of Brass – Saturday 3rd September 2022. Robin Teague (organiser) reported that plans were going ahead to stage this event, the first Festival of Brass since 2019. The Pavilion had been booked and also the Adjudicator, Sam Fisher. The Schedule and invitations should be going out soon. Suggestions for the panel of garden concert adjudicators was required. Robin announced that it was no longer viable to run a shuttle bus service between the Pavilion and the car/coach park – band will need to unload outside. Alan Gears asked if percussion was going to be provided. Robin replied that quotes were being obtained from Ev-entz. Jeremy Taylor offered the use of percussion belonging to his band, Mount Charles. It was explained that there wouldn't be enough stewards to monitor or check it during the day and that it would be easier to have Ev-entz or similar (percussion hire company) to look after their own instruments. Percussion will only be provided for the formal inside contest, not the garden concerts.
- b. Annual Championships – Saturday 5th November 2022
With the recent increases in venue hire and associated expenses, the Chairman stated that we would need at least 20 entries to make the contest viable. Graham Pollard pointed out that that it is important to keep the contest going if at all possible. It was vital to gauge support from bands and John Woods suggested opening the contest again to non-SWBBA member bands. Fran Calver commented that a lot of bands were financially poorer since the pandemic had curtailed the chance of earning money by performing for the best part of two years – this could be a valid reason for not entering contests. Alan Gears commented that, nationally, contests do appear to be coming back and well supported. Tracey Phillips said it would be helpful to know why bands may choose to not enter, and that perhaps it would be helpful to relax the registration rules to allow more deps. Alan Gears suggested phoning around all member bands to gather support for the contest. The Chairman recommended we continue to plan the event. All in favour.
- c. Percussion Workshop – suggested to take place at end of November 2022
It was decided to try to gauge interest in the workshop at the same time as finding out if bands were interested in entering the annual Championships before a decision to go ahead with planning. All in favour.
- d. Possible Solo & Ensemble Contest
Whilst this was thought to be a good idea, Tracey Phillips said that we cover a huge area, and that individuals may not want to travel for a few hours to play for a few minutes. Graham Pollard suggested perhaps holding rounds in each of the four counties that make up SWBBA, culminating in a 'Finals' competition somewhere central. Becky Frisby reported that the Bideford Solo and Quartet Contest was going ahead this year on 18th June. The Executive Committee will discuss this further at their next meeting.

11 Any Other Business

- a. John Woods extended congratulations to SWBBA Chairman, Ray Kingdon on his recent well-deserved award for 'Citizen of the Year' by the Rotary Club of South Molton.
- b. John Woods reported the passing of Richard Evans, legendary player, Conductor and Adjudicator, just two days ago aged 87. Richard was a regular visitor to the South West and will be sorely missed by the whole brass band community at home and abroad. SWBBA extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends.
- c. Alan Gears enquired as to when the new gradings were effective. Sue Oldfield advised that it is always the 1st of January and that the official Grading Tables should be sent out in the next few days.
- d. Gilbert Taylor informed that the Mid-Winter Workshop for 2023 should go ahead in February.
- e. The Chairman congratulated all bands who attended the recent Regional Area Championships in Cheltenham, especially Bodmin Band and Bideford Band, (SWBBA member bands) who won their relative sections. Graham Pollard thanked WEBBA for putting on such a well-run contest.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 19.52h.

Ray Kingdon
Chairman