



Sherborne Town Band AGM 2013

26th July 2013

Present: Stuart Hunter, John Gilham, Richard Frost, Helen Coombs, Mark Coombs, Joe Miles, Les Derrick, Alan Frost, Keith Long, Ian Miles, Alan Derrick, Dian Bartlett, Andrea Beechey, Sean Beechey, Natalie White, Kirsty Blencoe, John Derrick, Colin Howell

Apologies: Paul Slator, John Woods, Bill Broadbent, Jim Bennett, Steve Rogers, Tracey Colohan, Paul Cosh

Matters Arising:

The minutes of last year's AGM were confirmed as a true record by Stuart Hunter and Alan Derrick.

The band's thoughts go out to the family of Pete Wade who passed away recently.

Presidents Report: See attached

Musical Directors Report: See attached

Youth Band Directors Report: See Attached

Chairman's Report: See Attached

Treasurers Report: See Attached

Election of Offices:

Tracey Colohan has renounced her position as committee member.

The position of Contest Secretary remains open, this was offered to members of the band but which no person accepted the position, the committee will later decide on who takes this responsibility.

The vacant committee member slots were offered to all members present at the meeting, but no person put themselves forward to stand.

All other offices positions were voted to remain the same as is current.

Other Business:

Youth Band:

Kirsty Blencoe will be having a meeting with the local school's music departments, she is keen to pass on details of the Youth band and to potentially ask Jim to visit some local schools to help recruit new members into the Youth band. Kirsty will let us know the date of the meeting in due course.

An open day for the Youth band needs to be arranged for recruitment of new youth members.

It was stressed to the band members that the Youth band need more support from senior members, to help Jim cope with the number of children and to give them more one to one attention during practice.

New Musical Director:

As we know, Professor Cosh will be stepping down as the bands full time conductor, therefore a vacancy has arisen. The position has been advertised in the brass band community, the band

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currently have two potential applicants. The issues surrounding the fee the band can afford, how band members will be involved in choosing the conductor and what level of expertise we would expect were explored. Some band members were concerned that accepting a low fee may mean the quality of the band will reduce, therefore lowering our Championship section status. Others pointed out that attendance being very poor may discourage a high quality conductor to remain with the band. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting before a new conductor is appointed.

Events:

Some band members were concerned that there appeared to be no events in August for the band, and historically this was always a busy time. It was pointed out that; not many events have come to us, there were many events in the Spring and are many in the Autumn, summer is difficult due to band members holidays, most summer events cannot afford the bands fee and there is a fear of exhausting guest players.

Next Meeting will be arranged after the accounts have been audited.

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Musical Directors Report

Please make my apologies for absence from the AGM. My report on the year would be fairly brief.

We remain a championship band which in itself is a terrific achievement. The Jubilee CD, of which we can be very proud, has sold very well and is showing a good profit. Our concerts have received wide acclaim and are the bedrock of our banding. We have welcomed some new players and welcomed back players who have returned to us.

As everyone knows I have decided to step down as full time musical director. This is due to my reaching retirement age and wishing to spend some time travelling and more time walking in the mountains while I have the energy. I am willing to remain as an advisor through the transition period and beyond if required.

I would like to thank the management team for their help and support over these past years and of course the whole band for making my time such a pleasure. I am sure that the organisation is in good health and will continue to flourish whilst still adhering to the values we cherish; putting people first, musical integrity, honesty, commitment, and maintaining a sense of fun.

All best wishes,

Paul

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Youth Band Progress Report

The Youth band has had a great year, culminating in a brilliant concert last night, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. They have had a very successful run of summer engagements, including the Pageant Gardens concerts with the main band, which gave the band a chance to hear the Town Band. I think this really inspired the group and, I hope you'll agree, the overall sound of the band is incredible for a 'youth' band. I have tried to challenge every section of the band with the music I have written and arranged, giving each player a sense of responsibility for the end product that I find most published music for young players fails to provide. I feel this has kept each and every member focused and keen to improve whether they are sat on the first chair or hidden away on the back row.

Looking to next year, I think a more thorough recruitment drive is needed, as the 'starter brass' session at the beginning of our Thursday night rehearsals has turned into more of a structured warm up and an introduction to the less common key signatures. Although flyers have been sent out, I think it might be an idea to set up some taster sessions at local primary and even secondary schools as early as possible in the autumn term. I would also like to tackle the common problem with bands such as ours that it is very top heavy. I have already had one cornet player express an interest in moving to tenor horn but I feel I need to do more to encourage this, whether it be existing members moving or recruiting new players straight on to the lower instruments.

I would like to try and set up more performances for the band, especially in the lead up to Christmas. As this last term has shown, the band thrive on having something to aim for, so any help or ideas with this would be much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the Town Band for all its support this year, both helping out in the band and with organising the various gigs that have come through you.

I look forward to working with the band next year.

Many thanks,

Jim Bennett

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Treasurer's Report

Financially the band remains in good health.

Largest expenditures as usual are the rent & insurance. The other large expense

Expenditure last year was the production of the CDs which are selling well.

EBB made a small loss which would have been greater if we had not had legacy money from last year. Of course to be economically viable next year we need to look to get more sponsorship and public awareness.

As the band is entering a transition period and we look to engage a new conductor I would urge the committee to seriously consider the fees which they would require.

I would like to say a thank you to Paul, the committee and the band for their support over the last year.