

DUNBARTONSHIRE CONCERT BAND

MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON SATURDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2003 IN WESTERTON HALL

1. Apologies

Julian Fosh, John Gourlay, Moyra Hawthorn, Brian Lees, Nelson Liddle, Lynne McGhee, Richard Phelps

2. Acceptance of previous Minutes

Previous Minutes had been available to view at the beginning of the session. One correction – Harriet’s name should read as **Fishley**.

Adopted – Hugh McLafferty; seconded – Noreen Thompson.

3. Chairperson’s Report

AMcC reported that last year’s new committee had put together a comprehensive list of priorities to be tackled in session 2002-3: a variety of concerts; raising of musical standards; improvement in social life; improvement management; increase musicianship; identify alternative funding sources. These priorities had been met as follows: concerts had ranged from Mugdock Country Park to Cottiers Theatre; 2 workshops at Boclair Academy; Christmas lunch (Sharon Singer) and jazz night (Collette Waller & John Gourlay). The committee had held regular meetings which had been harmonious with good input, and well attended (something to do with the excellent standard of catering at Douglas Park Golf Club?!). DCB almost up to full contingent due to the website, workshops and word of mouth.

Funding – MMS. DCB had unfortunately lost the financial support of East Dunbartonshire Council due to policy changes. A grant of £5,000 had been awarded from “Awards for All” (Sharon Singer), with which 2 instruments would be purchased. AMcC concluded that the committee had therefore successfully addressed the main priorities.

AMcC extended thanks to committee members for their efforts (for which many had not claimed expenses); to the Musical Director for achieving a very effective use of rehearsal time, and continuing to make rehearsals enjoyable and productive; to AMAG as Vice-Chairman/Secretary for ‘press officer’ efforts during 30th anniversary year, and standing in at end of year as Chairman; to Sharon Singer for work on grant applications, as register keeper, librarian, Christmas lunch and Webb Ivory!; to Peter Mackinnon for organising a very successful closing concert in June at Cottiers Theatre.

AMcC concluded by looking ahead. DCB in a very strong position- there is very much a ‘feel-good’ atmosphere; DCB is now without doubt one of the best bands within the area and has gained credibility within the local community. This session need to improve on commitment and time keeping in order to achieve that “something extra”.

4. Secretary's report

AMAG drew attention to new profile form (for publicity and grants purposes) and the important of utilising events lists to inform appropriate committee members **as soon as possible** vis-à-vis unavailability for concerts.

5. Treasurer's report

Halifax account – used for fundraising – CDs & tours. £537.37 profit (taking out grant). Income from concerts and subscriptions had risen (more concerts and increased membership). £3,526.06 from concerts, thus moving in the right direction. £1,145.35 – special projects account (e.g. tour). As the financial year had only closed on 31 August 2003 (and up to date bank statements received by CD this morning), **ACTION POINT:** the accounts will be audited in the next few weeks, following which an EGM will be called to approve them.

6. Musical Director's report

RB informed the meeting that he had formally accepted the post of Musical Director for the session 2003-4. As well as undertaking rehearsals, RB spent much time choosing music not only from the point of view of expense, ensemble and ability, but also to ensure a varied enough programme at concerts. Much had improved over the last year, culminating in the very successful concert at Cottiers Theatre. At the last committee meeting, there had been discussion re whether or not to continue the present level of expansion, as eventually this would change the musical emphasis of DCB. Presently there is a membership of approximately 55. Thus the committee has agreed that there needs to be a limit on expansion; the website thus indicates that there are vacancies **in certain sections**, in order to keep a musical balance. This also limited the difficulties involved with venue sizes.

There had been a marked improvement in DCB's ability to read quickly and play more challenging music, and DCB is doing more music as a result.

RB encouraged the pursuit of small ensembles, whilst stressing that this had to take place outwith normal Saturday morning rehearsal time. RB has systematically been looking at the library of older music, much of which has parts missing and is thus unplayable (either too expensive or out of print).

7. Management Team Structure

AMcC explained that this was a move away from the traditional 'pyramid' structure (and associated 'log jam' at the top end). Team structure involved a central committee who co-ordinate the various roles/tasks, some of which had not been able to be filled by the AGM, but which the next committee would pursue.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Chair – A McCafferty; Vice-Chair/Secretary – A Girvan; Treasurer – C Donald; Librarian – R Phelps; Committee members – R Baxter (brass), V Evans, D Galloway, Moyra Hawthorn, C Waller

Proposed: A Cooper; Seconded: Phil Hair

9. **Appointment of Auditors and Trustees**

AMAG advised the meeting that she had spoken with all of the Trustees, who were happy to continue this year, as follows: A Cooper, C Ellen, J Fosh, B French, A Main

Proposed: L Fellows; Seconded: P Mackinnon

Auditors – J Davies and P MacKinnon.

10. **Subscriptions and Musical Director's Honorarium**

AMcC advised that as the financial year had only just closed, and thus the books still to be audited, that these matters should be sorted out at an EGM in approximately 4 weeks. It was decided that whilst subscription levels still to be agreed, they were unlikely to fall and were technically due now, so CD now happy to start taking subscriptions.

11. **Band Trip**

RB (brass) advised that best responses for help had been from Austrian Tourist Board (venues, accommodation, practice halls). July 2004 or 2005; costing to be advised at earliest opportunity. Festival of Symphonic Wind Ensembles 13-18 July 2004, so hoping to dovetail with this. Questionnaire feedback had indicated the following: ideal length of trip 7-10 days; hotel accommodation; staying in one place; some free time. **Action point:** RB to issue a further questionnaire in a few weeks time based on firmer information.

12. **Any other competent business**

P MacKinnon expressed concern re new members payment of fees – i.e. nothing specific in the constitution. There was an unwritten rule of 3 weeks 'taste and try' before either signing up, or moving out (this was quite separate from hardship cases). AMAG advised that one task that last year's committee had run out of time with was the idea of a 'welcome pack' – i.e. membership list, constitution, and spelling out obligations re subscriptions. **Action point:** it was agreed that the committee would look at this over the coming 12 months. AMcC reminded the meeting of the 'value for money' side of subscriptions – tuition, music, stands, hall lets

N Thompson addressed the question of the tea rota which she had drawn up specifically to address the question of shared responsibility in this area. **ACTION POINT:** AMAG to copy and issue to all.

Holiday weekend rehearsal (27 September) – **Killermont Parish Church.**

The meeting closed at 12.32 pm