

**Dunbartonshire Concert Band**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at Cairns Church, Milngavie

Chairperson: David Broad

Minutes: Alison McCree

**1. Apologies**

George Gourlay, Laura Hunter, Arthur Main, Ian (trombone), Emily (sax), Peter Longworth, Ken Howkins.

There were 38 band members in attendance at the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2007 AGM had been available for members to look at on the band website for some time before the meeting. They were accepted without any changes.

Proposer: Bill McLelland

Seconder: Sally Thomson

**3. Chairperson's Report**

David Broad began his report by thanking everyone for their support over the last year of his chairmanship. He commented that it is an honour to be a chair of the band.

He carried on by thanking the committee for their work through the year, pointing out that for several members it was their first year in post.

He reminded the band members present who the trustees of the band are – Alan Cooper, Julian Fosh, John Waller, Arthur Main and Lindsay Davidson – and assured the band that they are kept in touch with band business and oversee the running of the band.

David passed on his thanks to other members of the band who regularly do things for the band without recognition. These include:

Alan Cooper – webmaster

Anneli Demberg - BASBWE representative

John Gourlay & Richard Phelps – unofficial auditors

Peter Longworth – composing music for us

Glynn Bragg – for arranging music for us and for standing in to conduct us

Hannah Newall – Bebo webpage

The Section Reps who help the committee to filter information to all band members, particularly those who miss rehearsals or who are not linked by email.

... and finally to the people who regularly arrive early and help set up the chairs.

Over the last year a number of people have left the band and David picked out 3 in particular. Vicky Evans, former chairperson left before the summer and is about to emigrate to Arizona, USA. Derek Galloway, former committee member is also emigrating shortly, to Sydney, Australia and Richard Phelps has resigned from the band and is stepping down as Auditor. Richard has also been a committee member, librarian and engagements secretary over the years and is now going to concentrate on other things.

David made special mention on Peter McKinnon who is stepping down from his position on the committee. Peter works tirelessly for the band, and has been instrumental in developing the good relationships we enjoy with Cairns Church. He will continue to be our liaison with the church. Peter also runs the DCB 100 club which generates a significant amount of extra income for the band every year. Peter has also almost finished refurbishing the garage at the back of the church which will become our Library and storage space for large instruments.

Highlights from the last year include the Christmas Concert at Kelvingrove Gallery which was a first for us. The concert at Clydebank Playdrome was also a first and one that was enjoyed by most.

David also noted that various band members had been willing to rotate within their section to allow others to play 1<sup>st</sup> parts, and thanked those people for giving other people the chance to step up a desk.

The musical highlight of the last session picked by David was the Shostakovich Jazz Suite number 2, which he believed was enjoyed by almost everyone in the band and appreciated by our audiences.

David reminded the band that the committee made the decision a few years ago to allocate a set amount of money to Robert Baxter (MD) for buying new music over the summer, and that this is working well. David praised Robert's skill in choosing music for us that had something for everyone and suits all abilities - a skill that we should not underestimate.

David concluded his report by confirming that as a registered charity, we are complying with the OSCR regulations and the band constitution.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Monika Mihm handed out copies of the latest financial statement and made some comments on this.

The bank balance has been maintained at over £3,000 for the last year, and is in a healthy position.

Monika reminded everyone what the financial objectives that were set for the past year and assured everyone that they had all been met.

Monika also reminded everyone that we should not underestimate the value of the 100 club as a fundraiser and she thanked Peter McKinnon for continuing to run this for us.

Robert Kennedy was also thanked on behalf of Vodafone who have supported the band with a grant again this year.

Other comments from Monika were that the work on the garage is almost complete and is on budget. The trip abroad is not taking place, but members were reminded that this is not funded by the band.

The audited accounts for 2006-07 were submitted on time and accepted. The accounts for 2007-08 are almost ready for submission.

Monika finished her report by outlining some objectives for the 2008-09 session.

These are:

Recouping the monies already spent on producing the CD

Taking into account the predicted rise in the hall let (although this won't mean a necessary increase in subscriptions as accounts are healthy at present)

Make grant applications to generate extra income.

Encourage people to join the 100 Club and increase the funds raised by this.

Finally, Monika announced that in line with OSCAR regulations we have to be audited by a qualified accountant and we have appointed Robert Thomson to do our accounts.

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Alison McCree has been covering for Sally Thomson for much of the last year and gave a very brief secretarial report, stating only that the band address list will be being updated shortly and apologising for not managing to generate one last year.

## **6. Musical Director's Report**

Robert Baxter began by thanking the band for asking him to stay on as Musical Director for the next year, adding that he enjoys conducting us.

One of Robert's goals for the last year was to increase the standard at which the band plays. He explained the grading system used to rate most wind band music, which goes from 1 (very easy) to 6 (very difficult). Last year, we were playing at grade 3-4, and now we have worked up to grade 4-5 standard and we are coping well with it.

As well as increasing the standards, Robert has done this whilst at the same time managing to introduce 18 new pieces of music (totalling 36 in 2 years). He proposes to keep looking for new music and the variety as this is what most people enjoy. Already this session, we have had 6 new pieces including Dances at Threave, Mamma Mia, Tijuana Brass in Concert, The Summer Knows and April in Paris, which are being enjoyed by most.

Looking back at some of the concerts we have played over the last year, Robert picked the concert at Kelvingrove as a successful afternoon and was good for raising our profile in the west end of town. He also enjoyed the community day when we played at the Playdrome and our very first 'own' Christmas concert here at Cairns.

Robert spoke briefly about various sections of the band, highlighting the need for more French horn players. Elizabeth Rideout is about to return home to Canada and Neil will move to 1<sup>st</sup> horn and Doug will switch from trumpet to horn, but we could definitely do with more horns.

Goals for the coming year are to get a couple of more Christmas pieces soon and at least 6 more in 2009. He also reminded us that he still wants to do Rimsky Korsakov's Clarinet Concerto at the Summer Concert in June. BBC SSO Clarinettist Barry Deacon has agreed to play this with us.

To summarise, Robert thanked the committee, promised new music and looks forward to the year ahead.

Finally, Robert read a letter from Peter Longworth thanking the band for the support have given him as a person and as a composer during his time in the band.

## 7. Election of New Committee

The current committee was reviewed by David and the proposed changes highlighted. A form showing these had been issued 2 weeks previously.

These were as follows:

	<u>Currently</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Chairperson	David Broad	same
Vice Chairperson	Vacancy	Andrew McCafferty
Treasurer	Monika Mihm	same
Secretary	Sally Thomson	Alison McCree
Engagements	Laura Watt	same
Librarian	Alison McCree	Moyra Hawthorn.
Ordinary Member	Peter McKinnon	Sally Thomson
Ordinary Member	Vacancy	Alison Beattie

A vote was taken for the new committee which was accepted.

Proposer: Phil Hair

Seconder: Peter McKinnon

## 8. Musical Directors Fees

Robert was thanked for his contribution so far, and was asked to step out of the room while we discuss his fees for the coming year.

David announced that Robert had been asked if he wanted to make comment on his fees and his response was that we give it our 'usual consideration'.

The committee proposed increasing Robert's fees from £80 to £85 per rehearsal and to keep the current fee of £85 per concert – in effect paying him a flat rate of £85.

A vote was taken to increase his fees to £85.

There were no objections or abstentions and everyone present (36 people) voted in favour of this increase.

## 9. Subscriptions

The committee proposed keeping the subs the same for the next year while increasing the MD fees. Currently these are £80 per year full subs and £40 per year reduced rate.

Some discussion followed and is summarised below.

Peter McKinnon: the lower rate should be increased slightly and believes that most people paying this rate could afford to pay more while keeping the full fee the same.

(Collette Waller & Phil Hair agreed with this while Alan Donnelly disagreed).

Liz Rideout: How much increase was being suggested? £5 or £10 per person isn't much to ask.

Peter McKinnon: Overall, the increase in band income from increasing the lower rate by £5 or £10 would only be about £30 or £40.

Sally Thomson asked how many people currently paid the lower rate, but Monika didn't have the exact numbers with her.

Anneli Demberg: Can we not increase everyone's fees by £10? (No answers)

A proposal was put forward of £85 and £45.

Before a vote was taken, Monika reminded everyone that we do not need to increase fees and we can afford to keep them as they are at present.

Peter McKinnon also pointed out that if anyone can not afford the fees for whatever reason, not being able to afford the subs should not be a reason not to attend the band. He urges anyone in this position to talk to someone on the committee.

The fees of £85 and £45 – proposer: Anneli Demberg, seconder: Alan Cooper.

A vote was taken on the new subs.

There were 26 votes for, 6 against and 4 abstentions.

(2 people had left early and did not vote)

## 10. AOCB

10.1

Monika Mihm announced that we have been contacted (very recently) by an Italian wind band who are very keen to set up some sort of exchange with us. They would intend to come here in Spring and stay with band members and we would return the following year. This would give flexibility as we would not necessarily need to travel as a full band.

10.2

Anneli Demberg asked if we had a new making music representative as Vicky Evans has left. Sally Thomson has taken over from Vicky as Making Music stipulates the rep must be on the band committee. Anneli has recently been invited onto a committee of Making Music and will be more involved with them in the future.

10.3

Peter McKinnon asked whether we needed to take a vote on the appointment of Robert Thomson as our Auditor, and it was agreed that we should.

The proposer was Peter McKinnon and seconder Sally Thomson

The vote was unanimous (36 for and no abstentions).

10.4

David noted to the band that Hannah Newall has taken over from Monika as Attendance Monitor and reminded everyone to let her know if they were unable to attend any rehearsal or concerts.

10.5

A question was asked about the wind band festival where we are playing the gala concert on 1<sup>st</sup> November. David answered that all the information we have about the event has already been given at band and in emails. If people wanted to know more or join in, he encouraged them to do this individually.

*There was no more business and the meeting was closed at 13:15.*