



Dunbartonshire Concert Band

**Annual General Meeting
Cairns Church, Milngavie
10th September, 2016, 12.30**

Meeting Minute

1. **Attending:** Membership attending was counted 3 times, and 41 members attended. Thus the meeting was quorate.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from a small number of band members, and read out.
3. **Minutes of previous meetings (AGM 2015):** Minutes of the AGM one year ago were approved.

4. **Chairperson's report**

Monika congratulated the band for being such a perfect example of a community band, with great spirit, lots of helpers, and of course, lots of great players. She thanked the Vice Chair for his commitment and efforts, and individually thanked committee members for their contributions to the daily running of band activities. Again, the importance of the timely submission of OSCR returns was emphasised, and both the treasurer, Fiona, and our external auditor, Mr Thomson, were thanked to make this happen.

She applauded the two MDs for working so well together, and summarised to the band the overall very positive responses from all sections regarding the MD model, collated and discussed at the committee meeting with trustees, before the beginning of the 16-17 session. At this meeting Glyn Bragg was unanimously elected to be DCB's Honorary President, and Monika emphasised that it was an honour and pleasure to have a founding MD to preside over the band, who still conducted and arranged pieces of music for DCB.

Seeing that this last session was considered a quiet year, with 'only' 9 events, Monika thanked the band for their great stamina in sometimes very frosty conditions, and reminded everyone that great concerts also included our great audience of family and friends. She then concluded her report by looking forward to the new session, with the challenge and excitement of another Austrian Tour looming.



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5. MD report

Michelle McCabe read Robert Baxter's report submitted in writing in advance of the meeting, and added that she had really appreciated the opportunities and thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsals and performances with DCB.

Robert Baxter's report is copied below.

6. 2015-2016 Accounts

See summary document circulated in advance of the meeting.

7. Treasurer report and 2016-2017 subscriptions

Fiona pointed out that, although DCB appeared to have made a profit of over £2000 on the year this was only because the band had eventually claimed and received gift aid for the last 4 years. In fact, the true situation was a loss of approximately £1000 on the 2015/16 season on its own. The majority of the loss was due to the purchase of a fair amount of percussion and, in a break with tradition, to the decision not to ask for contributions towards the two sectional rehearsals. Despite this loss no changes to the 16-17 subscriptions were proposed because the bank account was still quite healthy. However, Fiona warned that the Cairns garage was no longer fit to house all the percussion without risking significant damage and that the band would be expected to contribute a significant sum towards making the necessary repairs in the coming year.

The other expense in 2016/17 would be the tour to Landeck and Fiona would be acting as treasurer for both that and the main account. She requested that as many payments as possible be made by bank transfer but asked members to be very careful to pay subs into the main account and tour payments into the Austria account. Members agreed that bank transfer was a suitable payment method for most.

8. Election of the Committee

No current vacancies existed, and thus the committee stood as detailed below for the 16-17 session.

	2015-16	2016-17
Monika Mihm-Carmichael (chair)	2 years	3 years
Andrew McCafferty (vice-chair)	1 year	2 years
Fiona Ross (treasurer)	1 year	2 years
Janice Winder (secretary)	1 year	2 years
Jane Ireland (librarian)	1 year	2 years
Harriet Fishley (librarian)	1 year	2 years
Bob Kennedy	1 year	2 years
Cameron McCulloch	1 year	2 years
Kerry Shaw	1 year	2 years
George Gourlay	1 year	2 years

Robert Baxter (MD ex officio)



9. Election of the Honorary Independent Financial Examiner

The proposed external auditor, Mr Robert Thomson, was unanimously elected for the next session.

10. Resolutions:

No resolutions were submitted for this year's meeting.

11. Changes to the new constitution

See document showing the OSCR request of the replacement of our charitable objective. The change in charitable objective was approved.

12. AOCB

Anneli highlighted a proposed visit of Frydenlund Seniorkorps, Norway, planned for the end of August 2017, to perhaps include a joint rehearsal or lunch.

No other business was raised and the meeting concluded at 13:05.

MD Report for DCB AGM 10 Sept 2016

Please accept my apologies for missing my first ever DCB AGM, it is the first week of term at RCS and I had no choice but to meet my new students today.

Traditionally I give a report on last season's work and what to expect for the coming season and this read out report I hope will continue to do this this year.

From past experiences with the band I have found that the year after a tour is always a difficult one in the sense that the success of and the lead up to the tour can easily give way to a lack of a focus and an aim for the future. I have to say though that this past year has been, in my opinion a great success. Not only have we performed to huge numbers of audiences across our different concert venues but we have used the year to completely refresh our repertoire too.

We will all recall the incredible last concert at Kelvingrove and the addition of our friends from the Sarah Peachey Dance class and the sense of spectacle that they brought. New Kelvingrove bandstand contacts I am sure will develop over the next year for a repeat performance and continued good relationships with West End Festival will allow us to perform under that banner again too.

I have also immensely enjoyed working with Michelle McCabe over the past year and although we hardly ever see each other we have had very regular contact by email, text and phone calls about the band and which direction we are all going in. For me, her input and support has been invaluable and I am in no doubt at all that the coming season will be a strong team effort from us to continue to develop and push the standard of the band. The areas that we wanted to focus on in the band have really developed well and just in case people are not hearing that improvement..... it's the upper woodwind tuning and blend of sounds!!!!

Thank you to all in those sections for their hard work.



REPERTOIRE : As the season looked like there were a few long gaps between concerts it was a good year to try to learn as much new rep as possible.

We took in nearly all the music from our trip to Austria and began developing a new folder of works.

The following have been worked on last season:

Lake of the Moon, October, Gallimaufry, Mountain Thyme, Edith Piaf, Hustle, Mazel Tov, Ready Steady Brass, Der Enstaller, Candide, Syffertitz March, Souvenir of Schladming, Tiroler Adler, La Bamba, USA Beauties, Lehar Ballet music, Frozen Highlights, Bond selection. We also padded out the folders with a couple of favourites from the previous season in the form of Brave and Powerhouse.

So far this year we have begun working on Goddess of Fire, Majestic Prelude and Pacifica with Peter Graham's "Harrison's Dream" having been ordered and coming soon! There will also be plenty of new "lighter" pieces arriving shortly so we can continue to have suitable music selections for Mugdock's, canal concerts, Killlearn's and the like!

As ever all new music chosen will be of at least a level 3 standard with most of it being substantially higher than that. There will also be works where a challenge will be set to push the band further. Harrison's Dream for example is level 5 and my plan for a work like that would be to aim for a summer concert performance in 2017 but also have it around the next season or after that for a possible competition.

SEATING: I was very pleased also with the changes of seating that we made last year. Laura moved from her Eb seat in the second row to her new front row Eb seat. This had the desired effect of allowing her and the oboes and 1st clarinets to work better together with intonation and ensemble but also made it easier for Karen (piccolo) and Laura to hear and see each other on the top sounds of the band.

Cameron moved from the 1st clarinets to the bass clarinet and this really beefed up the lower wind section. It is incredible to have two bassoons, two bass clarinets, an alto clarinet and baritone sax now! Rennie also joined to cover a space in the 2nd clarinets but now has sadly had to leave due to taking up a place at Junior Conservatoire, which I am sure we are all very pleased for him about. Euan Scott has also decided to study there and again, I'm sure we are pleased for him with his latest success in his trumpet playing.

Seating changes this year are also in the clarinet area..... Jane, who last season expressed an interest in playing clarinet again (which she did for another band) has moved to fill the space created by Rennie and although the 1st clarinets did a superb job last season I said last year that I would review only having three players on 1st and so have decided to move Monika back to 1st where she used to play a number of years ago .It now means that if there are a couple of players missing in the 1st clarinets on a rehearsal we still have 2 remaining which is very important I think. I am also delighted that Rosie has now joined and filling the space in the 3rd clarinets left by Monika.

I am equally pleased that we have expanded the trumpet section recently with Greg and Nicola and the trombones with Robert and Neave and there is a new member joining the euphonium department shortly called Jordan. Nearly all the remaining sections of the band have stayed the same but very pleased that Murdoch joined during last season into the French horn section, especially as Ella has moved away now to university in Edinburgh.

PERCUSSION: We now have a percussion section where many of the players have the skills to move from tuned to auxillary to timps and even kit. This has allowed me and Michelle to explore some repertoire that we perhaps might not have done in previous years and it is important for me to at least attempt to try to keep the players busy in that section. The main difficulty sometimes is not having the huge array of percussion equipment that is required but I am really pleased that the band now owns its own drum kit which was purchased very reasonably from Peter McKinnon and just last week we now have a set of power toms and an extra side drum on loan to the band while the timpani and bass drum are still on a long term loan from DWE.



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FUTURE: We clearly have a busy and exciting season ahead with concerts, competitions and of course our short invited visit to Landeck, Austria. This will no doubt be the bulk of focus as far as Michelle and I are concerned with choosing future repertoire and planning programmes. I particularly enjoyed listening to endless Christmas arrangements on and off through August! Although I chatted with some of the trustees last year about possible or potential future projects these clearly will have to be developed after our latest venture abroad. I would though like to have some soloists play with the band at some point again and also to run a project with a singer. These and other ideas can be discussed again in the future and with the committee.

This is a unique band and a great band and a place where players can come and contribute to something I think that is very special.

I would for the minutes also like to express my thanks as ever to everyone for their great playing and commitment over the past year and also say thank you to Monika and all the members of the committee.

End of MD Report for DCB AGM 10 Sept 2016

