

Honorary President: Glyn Bragg



Dunbartonshire Concert Band
Minutes of AGM held at 12.00 noon on 29th September 2018
Bearsden Academy

- 1. Attendance:** The meeting was quorate with 33 members attending.
Apologies: Michelle McCabe, Julian Fosh, Jan Winder, Anneli Demberg, Moyra Hawthorn, Bob Kennedy, Ruth Sinclair, Alice Herrington, David MacDonald, Jacqui McMahon, Alison Beattie, Scott Vassie. Sula O'Duffy
- 2. Approval of previous AGM Minutes 2017:** The minutes were approved and accepted by Alan Cooper and Cameron McCulloch.
- 3. Review of Accounts:**
The band's assets have been updated and now include the library which is worth approximately £28,000 if we had to replace the music, however, if we were to try to sell the music its value is minimal so is really for insurance purposes only.
- 4. Chairperson's Report:**
David opened the meeting by stating that being chair of the DCB is a real honour, to see the enjoyment of both the band members and audiences is a great honour. Thank you to everyone.
At the present time we have approx. 62/63 members and each week there are 50 plus attendees which is a great turnout.
I would like to thank the committee for their work throughout the year, there is a wide range of backgrounds and strengths within the committee members and there has been some great ideas and comments. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and the committee work very hard to ensure the smooth running of the band so many thanks for this.

There have also been some enjoyable events such as the networking event Bob and I attended recently as part of the West End Festival, making new friends and enjoying a glass of wine. However, there is one job that no-one particularly wants to get involved in or read, I refer to the band policies and I would like to thank Harriet the work putting these together for the band. Appreciation was shown by those present.

The Committee have worked very closely in following the constitution to the letter apart from one aspect, that being collecting the subs in by the end of November. We have allowed people to pay at different times and slightly later than November. Fiona Ross stated that she is happy for people to pay in instalments. Those present were in favour of this relaxation of the constitution.

I would also like to thank Robert for his enthusiasm and hard work over the last session and particularly for putting together the CD project the fruits of which we will see very soon.

Looking back the band has had a very successful last session and included the Conductor's Workshop for our members and also at the Conservatoire and thanks to everyone who participated in these events. Nigel Bodice was very complimentary of the band and there was even a candidate who had attended from Singapore to be part of the workshop.

This record breaking warm summer 2018 will be remembered by band members for the rain at MugStock Festival, Kirkintilloch Canal Festival and Mugdock Park (as part of the European Festival of Music) and, despite the thunder, rain and wind we continued to play lifting everyone's spirits when there were a few people in the audience so thank you to everyone.

This session there has been money available for the percussion section to either upgrade or increase the variety of instruments and in total there is approx. £17,000 worth of equipment including the baritone Sax, percussion and various other instruments the band owns.

There is the possibility of a trip to Valencia in July 2020 to attend their very prestigious music contest. The application has been submitted and they have confirmed receipt of this. We have submitted recordings and also some history on the band along with our platinum and gold awards.

One problem we have is which class we enter as they limit numbers from 40 – 50 and 51 -80 so we have asked if we can leave this to the last minute.

Some of you may be aware of rumours about our interest in taking on the lease of Kessington Hall. We have submitted our expression of interest and await their decision on 29th November 18. We understand there have been at least 4 other groups also interested in the hall. If we were to be successful it would solve some of the issues we have, such as cost of hiring rehearsal space, especially as Cairns have increased the cost from £40 to £60 for Saturday rehearsals, concert venues and storage of the library etc. There would be added risks as well but all this would need to be discussed and further looked into to see if it is a viable option.

All the band accounts have been completed and submitted to OSCR and I would like to thank Fiona Ross for all her hard work with the accounts and to Robert Thomson who has audited our accounts for at least the last 10 years and always takes an interest in how we are doing and the projects we spend the money on.

We had a very sad event this year with the passing of Phil Hair who played trombone with the band for many years. Thank you to all who attended Phil's funeral. This was followed by tea/coffee and playing back at Cairns which I think Phil would have been very happy with.

There is much to look forward to this coming session and we have already played two concerts. There is the SCBF competition with the regional festival in December along with our usual Christmas Concerts at Cairns, QEUH and the Winter Gardens.

Again thank you to the band for all their hard work.

Musical Director's Report:

Thank you David. After a couple of years of big tours it can always be challenging to have projects that keep the standard of playing and enthusiasm to a high level and I think we have succeeded in keeping our playing to a very high standard of playing. The concerts we have done recently including last Christmas at QEUH, Kirkintilloch Canal Festival and MugStock has been phenomenal and it has been a real pleasure to stand in front of the band. We also had the CD recording which provided something concrete and will also bring in revenue. It was a great experience recording for the band especially for those who have never been involved in a project like this before and provided experience of repetition and microphone use.

A huge thank you to Mick MacNeil and Andrew Fleming for their hard work, time, enthusiasm and editing of the CD. It sounds fantastic and the quality of recording and playing is amazing. A huge credit to the band and something that the band can be very proud of.

We also have the potential trip to Valencia to look forward to in 2020 if we are successful with our application, but in the meantime, there is the SCBF competition. I am aware the jury is out on this which is why we only do this every second year but it ticks the boxes and allows the band a chance to work on pieces in more detail and raise the bar further. The benefit of this helps us listen, be more diligent and serves the purpose of helping to keep the band's profile up there especially when Nigel Durno posts us on the website.

Future ideas are discussed by the committee all the time and there will be other concrete ideas for the future. Recruitment is going well and I am aware that the Saxophone section is quite light at the present time. The trumpet section has settled well, we have a good lower wind section and lower brass section has also progressed and I will continue to keep an eye on things to ensure the sections are working well.

On behalf of Michelle McCabe she has enjoyed working with the band at rehearsals and concerts and looking forward to the new session. Thank you to the band for all their hard work.

To finish, I would like to reiterate that the standard of playing has been really outstanding and the consistency is 'top drawer' and it is a privilege to stand at the front of the band. Particular thanks to David for all his

hard work, especially on the Kessington Hall project, without the amount of work and understanding of such a project would have been extremely difficult. His background knowledge from his previous working life has been invaluable. If we are accepted to go forward with this project it will be a very exciting time, if not, it will still have raised the profile of the band and we will continue to move forward.

Colin Sucking stated that on behalf of the band he would like to say a special thanks to Robert, Michelle, David and Harriet for all their hard work.

Treasurer's Report:

Fiona stated that for the first time in a while she is delighted to announce the band is in credit. The main reason for this is better income from concerts and this highlights the importance of continued support from audiences. The 100 club has also had increased membership and come January perhaps we can persuade more people to join. We have also had some donations and grants and a huge thank you to Nicola McConnell who has a real skill and experience in applying for and gaining these grants which make a huge difference to the band.

There are no major expenses so far this year and we would still have been in credit without the grant money. We have pre-sold a good number of the CD's and have covered the cost of making this to date, but we still have the cost of producing the cover and actual CD and present for Mick MacNeil. If you have still not ordered or bought the CD I would urge you to do so.

Cairns Church have put up their fee by £20 this year for rehearsals which will be an increase of £800 for the year and because of this we need to increase the subs. The committee have looked at this and agreed that the subs should go up by the following:

Unwaged from £45 to £50

Retired from £55 to £65

Full from £90 to £110

This works out at approx. £2.50 per rehearsal so if we compare this to other activities it is actually quite cheap and good value for money.

In view of the increase I am happy to accept payment in instalments. The question was asked if this increase was starting from this November as some people may have already paid subs so would need top up. FR stated that as only one person had paid their subs this was not an issue but that the subs would be going up starting from now.

David stated that as Mick MacNeil would not take a fee for the work for the CD recording so the committee has decided to give him a painting of Barra, where he originates from and Robert has organised this and is now underway. David stated that as we have sold 100 copies of the CD that we would give him a mock-up gold CD in a frame to celebrate this. The cost of this has not yet been finalised.

7. Elect Members of the Committee:

David stated that a number of people are standing down from the Committee, Jane Ireland (Joint Librarian), Bob Kennedy (H & S), Andrew McCafferty (Vice Chair), Kerry Shaw (Ordinary Member & P), and David Brown (Ordinary member. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

There are 5 new nominations: Neil Harper (Making Music Rep), Anneli Demberg (Joint Librarian/Ordinary member), Fiona McLean (Joint Librarian/Ordinary member, Susan MacFarlane (Ordinary member).

This takes the committee to the maximum number including the existing members.

A majority vote was taken, electing the above new committee members.

8. Election of Honorary Independent Financial Examiner:

Re-election of Robert Thomson as Auditor. He does not take a fee for this service and has been a friend of the band and very interested in our endeavours. He is a very valued part of the band and we would like to thank him for all his support and hard work.

There was a majority vote to retain Robert Thomson as Auditor.

9. Resolutions:

No resolutions submitted.

11. Elect/re-elect Band Trustees:

No change in elected DCB Trustees: Alan Cooper, Colin Suckling, John Waller, Jill Bolling and David Welsh.

Thanks to the trustees some of whom were involved in sharing comments and proof reading of the new policies.

There was a majority vote to retain current trustees.

11. AOCB:

David put forward Anneli's suggestion for a rota to put out chairs and percussion at the beginning and end of rehearsal to save it always being the same people.

Andrew McCafferty suggested that this would be too regimented if we turn it into something like the tea rota and people are not always available, live too far away or not able to do this and this should be taken into consideration. An awareness to help maybe enough to help with this problem.

Alan Cooper seconded this but requested that if people want to stand and chat after the rehearsal could they please just move away from chairs to aid those tidying up.

Lorraine stated that she always helps to put out percussion and is always early to do this, if everyone does their bit there should not be a need to a rota.

David Broad stated that the issue may be solved just by raising the Issue and making people aware.

Alan Hunter stated that having a rota is a good idea, the committee should consider this proposal. People tend to volunteer for a while and overtime just stop.

Andrew McCafferty stated that as his time as Chair people help if they are asked to without any problems.

Karen Clayton stated that she felt the same as Andrew and that some people car share making it much more difficult.

Michele Muir also stated that having a rota would not be a good idea and always helps to put the chairs back.

David stated that the committee would take these comments on board discuss as soon as possible and get back to everyone.

Sharon MacDonald asked if there were any plans for money to be spent on any other sections of the band, and if so on what.

David Broad stated that it has mainly been percussion and the purchase of music. The biggest item is a new xylophone. We are attempting to get a grant to help with this purchase. Fiona Ross stated that if people feel there are other things required to let the committee know.

Sharon also asked if there are any plans for another charity concert.

David Broad stated that there is the Children's Concert at the QEUH in December and Robert is working on a programme for this but there are no other plans for this at present.

Fiona McLean asked if was possible to know what music we are rehearsing in advance of each week to aid practice.

David Broad stated that Robert puts a programme together and the 3 main pieces to work on in more detail and at the present time these are Lake of the Moon, The Seal Lullaby and New York for the SCBF.

Andrew McCafferty thanked the brass section, some of them play at the Watchnight Service at Cairns and also at the Armistice Day Service in Milngavie which again raises the profile of the band and is appreciated by the community. Fiona Ross said that the band benefited from not having to pay for the hire of Cairns Church for our rehearsals during January as a result of this.

Monika stated that the Kessington Hall project sounds like an amazing project but requested that proposals are put before the whole band and trustees so they can look at business plans and scrutinise everything before making any decisions.

David stated that there would need to be an EGM and make clear both opportunity and risks that it may pose to the band. We had to put in a expression of interest and a lot of work has been done in order to do this but the committee is very aware of the need to put the proposal to the whole band. If we did move forward with the project then it would also benefit DWE, Monday Swing and we would need to look at the potential to rent out space to bring funds in.

Michele Muir asked if there are any plans for more sectionals.

David stated that sectionals are booked for November 10th 2018.

The meeting was concluded.

Notes:

- a) Minutes of previous AGM meetings are available on the website at:

<http://dunbartonshireconcertband.co.uk/minutes>

- b) The DCB constitution, as adopted in June 2015, and with the required OSCR charitable objectives amendment can be viewed at:

<http://dunbartonshireconcertband.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/DCB-constitution-2016-2017-OSCR-objectives.pdf>

