

Honorary President: Glyn Bragg



Dunbartonshire Concert Band

AGM Minutes for meeting held at Cairns Church, Milngavie

12 noon – 1pm

Saturday 5th October 2019

1. **Attendance:** The meeting was Quorate with 29 members present this being more than one third of the membership.

Apologies: Robert Baxter, Michele McCabe, Robert Kennedy, Louise Muir, Moyra Hawthorn, Julian Fosh, David Welsh, Jordan Dosker, Scott Vassie, Alan Hunter, Alison McCree, Andrew MacDonald, Ann Dunbar, George Gourlay, Ann Faithful.

2. **Approval of Previous AGM minutes:**

Fiona Ross stated that in last year's minutes under Review of Accounts it should read excludes the library rather than includes. HF will amend.

Proposed: Alan Cooper Seconded: Fiona McLean

3. **Receive Accounts:** The accounts were published and sent with link to the band.

4. **Chairperson's Report:**

This AGM of Dunbartonshire Concert Band is the 46th year since its formation in 1973. It has been an honour to be the Chairperson of the Band for a number of years and is always a great pleasure seeing the enjoyment that band members and audiences get from our music.

We have a membership of 62 with at least 50 to 55 people attending each rehearsal every week which is a great turnout.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for all their work. Much goes on behind the scenes and the committee work hard to make things run as smoothly

as possible and because of this it is difficult to know what has been done on behalf of the band. In fact, I would like the committee to stand up so you all know who they are.

I can't remember a time when we had such a wide range of views on matters being discussed and this has been extremely valuable in making decisions.

My thanks, to Robert as Musical Director and to Michelle as Associate Conductor. Their enthusiasm is unbounded with no shortage of ideas for advancing the band.

The 2018-19 session started with sections on 10th Dec at Boclair Academy. This was followed by a concert at QEUH on 15th December.

Christmas concert at Hyndland Parish Church on 21st Dec 2018, audience numbers were up on the previous year as were takings from concert tickets and the raffle.

Winter Gardens concert could have been a disaster if it had not been for band members, friends and family rallying around to help. The heating was off, the café was closed despite confirmation from the Council that everything was in order for us to play. Thank you to everyone who helped turn this around including the Janitor who also helped us out.

Sales of our CD were very good and we covered all the cost of production. We have a handful left for sale this year for those who missed out. Thanks to Neil Harper, our Making Music Rep who facilitated in Gaudete, being selected as one of 5 Christmas tunes by amateur groups being selected and played on air by Classic FM on 19th December 2018. Our track was the only one by a concert band.

The Scottish Concert Band Festival heats were held on 2nd December at Williamwood High School subsequently followed by the finals on March 17th in Perth and resulted in a well-deserved Platinum Award.

Sectionals on 4th May 2109 should perhaps have been called an ensemble rehearsal rather than sectionals. Woodwind used 2 classrooms at Boclair Academy with brass and percussion together at Cairns. This was done to save the percussion having to transport equipment to Boclair. Those who attended enjoyed it, and it proved to be beneficial practice for our Summer Concert. If the experience is to be repeated it should be referred to as an ensemble rehearsal.

The Summer Concert on 22nd June 2019 was again part of the West End Festival at Hyndland Parish Church with a really good turnout and featured 'An American in Paris'. The improvements in organisation with tables either side and some fabulous home baking and a more streamlined raffle worked really well. Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

Feedback from our Erskine Concert on 23rd June 2019 was very positive and the band enjoys playing here. The staff and residents were delighted with the concert and our engagement with the residents. We have been invited back to play in December, the first time we will have performed a Christmas Concert there.

The Band has purchased a new Xylophone with a grant from the Weir Charitable Trust and has been paid for. At the present time it is still with the seller to prevent any risk of damp if we were to store it in the garage. This decision can be reviewed again by the new committee.

Some very positive news over the summer with our very own Douglas Scott playing principal Tuba with The National Orchestra of Great Britain at the Proms on 27th July 2019.

The new session started very quickly with two concerts. The first at Gartnavel Royal Hospital on 31st August 2019 at their 'Over the Wall' event and Fiona the organiser, could be found dancing to the classic 'Singin' in the Rain'. The concert was enjoyed by all and we have been invited back.

This was followed by our regular venue of Kirkintilloch Canal Festival on 1st September 2019.

We are looking forward to the new season and already have 8 new pieces of music handed out. We know the band enjoys having new music and sight reading is always enjoyable.

The Valencia Tour July 2020:

We have a team set up to co-ordinate the tour headed by Andrew McCafferty along with Susan, Anneli and Emma. (See below)

Kessington Hall:

Progress has been much slower than we thought. You may have seen the scaffolding up for the roof and then new ceiling tiles will be fitted. Access within the building is still being discussed with the Council. We have had numerous enquiries but have had to put them off for the time being. If we get the go ahead DCB has the first option to move in. An update to the band on Kessington is overdue mainly because of the slow progress on refurbishment but one will be arranged soon.

Finally, I can confirm that we are fulfilling our obligations as a Charity in accordance with the OSCR rules (Office of the Scottish Charities Registration). Our accounts were audited and submitted well in advance of the final submission date. My thanks to our Treasurer, Fiona Ross and to our auditor Robert Thomson.

Thank you.

5. **Musical Director's Report:** (read by Fiona McLean)

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their continued support towards the band and its activities.

Last year was another successful season for the band with obvious highlights of concert performances and top awards at the SCBF. This was a musically rewarding session and I felt, at times, that the repertoire played stretched the band but there was also enough manageable music for all to play confidently. As ever, a great performance at the Christmas Concert was appreciated by the audience and along with the SCBF either side of Christmas allowed a real focus to what we were all trying to achieve in constantly raising the standard as far as we can as a group of musicians.

In particular, I would like to mention 'An American in Paris' that we performed in Hyndland as part of the West End Festival and of course, doubling as our summer concert. I was pleased we performed such a difficult work and by the commitment made by so many in learning their parts.

I wanted to address the numbers in the trumpets and trombones sections. Numbers have been low and this led to reduced sections at rehearsals. I am delighted we have recruited some new players into these sections. I am also thrilled that DCB now has 3 Euphoniums for the first time and 5 bassoons (unbelievable!). All other sections are fairly consistent and some seat changes with Jane playing tenor sax again and Fiona Wright being promoted to 2nd clarinet has helped to maintain the balance within these sections. I would still like to recruit new players for 2nd tuba and possibly another percussion player. It would be ideal to have enough numbers to cover those that miss rehearsals or concerts. The larger the band then the higher the number of absences but for musical reasons it would be the constant progress sought by Michelle and me and have all parts covered, where possible, each week.

I am looking forward to 2019/20 season and of course culminating in the tour to Valencia.

More new music will be played this year but I am happy that we have 8 new pieces and a couple from the past in the folders.

Last year there was much activity for David, myself and others regarding Kessington Town Hall. There are still issues to be resolved but I remain optimistic that these will be sorted out.

I was recently invited to address the Allander Rotary and talk about the vision for the hall and it was a perfect opportunity to give background information on DCB in a 20-minute slot which was not easy given all the band's achievements. There is a lot of support for DCB and the Kessington project which is encouraging and means the band's activities do not go unnoticed.

To finish, I would like to express my thanks to David, all of the committee, trustees and the band membership and of course Michelle McCabe. Thank you.

6. Treasurer's Report:

There is good news to report this year as we made a profit of nearly £2,500. There was a £630 grant for the European Championships Concert reported at last year's AGM but after discussion have included it into this year's accounts for OSCR because the concert was in the 2018/19 season.

Once again, a huge thank you to Nicola McConnell for all her efforts in applying for grants for us. This year she gained us nearly £1,800 making up a large proportion of our profit. Two of these grants were for specific concerts so appear under income for those concerts rather than under donations and grants.

We have also done very well with donations this year, all of which were from grants and band members overpaying their subscriptions so thank very much to those people, you all know who you are.

In addition to these grants and donations the main reason for making such a good profit this year was the increase in subscriptions that came in last year to cover the increase in hall hire costs. We have also had better concert profits, an overall profit of £425.51 from CD sales and a reduction in music and stationary purchases.

Band subscriptions rates at present for the 2018/19 as per the Committees recommendations are as follows:

Standard membership fee £110

Retired Person membership fee £65

Unwaged membership fee from £55

Some of you may feel the increase in subscriptions was not justified given the profit we made, but all other musical organisations I have been involved in have worked on the principle that the subscriptions should cover the routine rehearsal expenses.

Total subscriptions were nearly £5,000 over £600 more than predicted but due to

many of our retired members paying the full subscription for which we are very grateful. Rehearsal MD costs, excluding sectionals came to £4,450 and hall hire, excluding extra rooms for sectionals was just over £2,300 leaving a shortfall of just over £2,000 from subs. The other point to make is that Robert hasn't had a pay rise since 2010 so we are very lucky in that. We have held off from discussing Robert's remuneration until we know what the situation is with Kessington Hall.

Overall profit from our concerts was increased essentially due to the grant for the European Championships and the success of the summer concert with home baking. Comparison figures for the various concert emphasises the chancy business of relying on concert income.

There was not much new music last year for various reasons but Robert is making up for that this year. We have already increased the stationery spending this year to help improve our music storage and thanks again to all those who helped with this. I am anticipating these items will use up their full share of the budget this year.

Without grants things would be tight. If Kessington goes well it could make the band secure for some years to come. If the move does not go ahead the committee will need to look at things again.

I would also just like to say that I am happy for subs to be paid in instalments.

Fiona McLean stated that we also have the 50p for tea and coffee and a number of people give more for this and often people do not claim for re-imburement of expenses.

Monika asked what the point of any profit was. As we are a non-profit making organisation, should we be planning to spend this on a big event of some kind etc.

Fiona Ross stated that there is still new music to buy and potentially replace and repair band instruments. The aim is to keep a cushion rather than profit. A lot of concerts make a loss and I was delightful to get £100 from Gartnavel Royal Hospital which the treasure had not expected. We would also like to be in a position to subsidise tours.

There was a suggestion to target things now, for example, instruments, commissions etc rather than waiting for Kessington. Fiona Ross stated that Robert has various projects he is working on in the background.

Jacqui McMahon stated she was concerned that if we change our venue from Hyndland where there is good people flow, audience numbers may fall for

Kessington. Fiona Ross stated that it is likely people will get to know the venue and it is on major bus and rail links.

Louise Muir stated before the AGM she had noticed that the unwaged subs were less than half of the full subscription. Fiona Ross stated that we are not re-considering this at present but considers this a fair point.

David MacDonald asked if there were any underlying concerns if there are no grants and MD costs increase. David Broad stated that the band overall is in a healthy position. Fiona Ross stated that when she took over as treasurer the band was surviving on a grant from the BBC.

David thanked Fiona.

7. Elect Members of the Committee:

Nominations closed a week ago. There are some people standing down and sincere thanks to all of them for their hard work.

David also thanked Nicola McConnell for a massive contribution securing grants worth £1,780 for the band. Also, all the committee members for their assistance and help.

David is also standing down after 8 years as chair, and before that as librarian and treasurer to concentrate on Kessington as it would be a conflict of interest.

New Members proposed:

Harriet to take over as Chair
Cameron to take up Vice Chair
Susan to take over as Secretary
Ruth Sinclair as Ordinary Member

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

8. Election of Honorary Independent Financial Examiner:

All present agreed to re-elect Robert Thomson as auditor of the band accounts.

9. Consider resolutions of which due notices has been given:

Harriet explained that there was only one resolution to discuss, namely the band tour to Valencia next year. Harriet handed over to Andrew McCafferty to provide an update.

Andrew began by wishing Harriet well in her new role as chair.

Andrew encouraged the band to speak to the Valencia tour committee (Andrew, Anneli, Emma, Robert and Susan) to discuss any suggestions or ideas relating to the tour to Valencia next year.

Andrew reminded those present of the 2002 tour to Malta and Gozo, and said that band tours are always great events, both musically and socially.

57 players have already expressed an interest in attending the Valencia tour, which is a higher number compared to previous tours. There is a good spread of players from across all sections of the band, so it is unlikely that we would need to recruit additional players from elsewhere.

Dates are being discussed, with the current proposal being to leave Glasgow on 12th/13th July (depending on flight availability) and stay in Valencia for one week. Our performance in the contest would take place on 16th July (to be confirmed) and we would ideally perform in two concerts either side of this (one on 15th July and the other on 17th July).

Cost is expected to be around £700, similar to the cost of the Schladming tour. Andrew emphasised that July is an expensive time of year to travel, so band members may need to treat the Valencia tour as their main summer holiday. Band members will be able to extend their stay if they wish, or join for only part of the week.

A refundable deposit will be required before Christmas, which will remain refundable for as long as possible. Two further payments will then be required next year.

Additional rehearsals will be planned before the tour to allow practise of the contest pieces.

Andrew finished by highlighting that more information on the tour would be communicated to band members later this month.

Anneli suggested that band members may wish to consider sharing a hotel room (e.g. a quadruple room) to cut costs. It will be helpful to know who wishes to do this when making provisional hotel bookings.

10. Elect/re-elect band trustees

All present were happy to re-elect the existing trustees (Jill Bolling, Alan Cooper, Colin Suckling, John Waller and David Welsh).

That concluded the meeting of the AGM 2018/19

Notes:

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

<https://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:

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

