

Honorary President: Glyn Bragg



Dunbartonshire Concert Band

Minutes of AGM 2022

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 12.15pm – 1.00pm

Kessington Hall, 58 Milngavie Road, Glasgow G61 2DP

**1. Attendance and apologies**

The meeting was quorate, with 42 band members in attendance, which exceeded one third of the current membership.

The band's honorary president, Glyn Bragg, was also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Heather Brown, Angela Caldwell, Carrie Dixon, Margaret Isaacs, Bob Kennedy, Margaret Kidd, Andrew Kwan, Andrew MacDonald, Alison McCree, Jacqui McMahan, Monika Mihm Carmichael, Steven Millar, Megan Monkhouse, Michele Muir, Charlotte Neilson and Jonathan Smithers.

**2. Approval of previous AGM minutes**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were proposed by John Carswell and seconded by Fiona McLean.

**3. Receive financial accounts**

The accounts were published and sent to the band via email prior to the AGM. The accounts were proposed by Alan Cooper and seconded by Adam Wilson.

**4. Chairperson's report – Harriet Fishley**

Welcome to the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM of Dunbartonshire Concert Band. At the present time we have 63 members with a minimum of between 50 - 55 attending rehearsals on a regular basis.

I am also delighted to welcome our Honorary President Glyn Bragg to our AGM.

I would like to start by thanking Robert and Michelle for all their hard work and time they give to the band. It is not just putting the programmes together for concerts but all the background work that goes into choosing music for us to play, that suits all of us, so that it is both challenging and playable. Not to mention trying to get us to play it on a Saturday morning and make it sound amazing!

I would also like to say an enormous thank you to the committee for their hard work and support. The last three years have been a challenge for all of us, both in our personal lives and for the band. Keeping the band running relies on people working together, and the team, and it is a team, have been amazing, so thank you all.

Thank you to Glyn who is in the wings as our Honorary President and always willing to step in and help take the occasional rehearsal for us, giving us his own unique brand of insights and tips! Over the years, Glyn has arranged a variety of music for us, and the last year or so has been no exception, arranging some 14 or so pieces for us, so thank you Glyn.

Thanks also to Robert, David and Alan for all their incredible work to make the hall such a success in its first year. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for such a great venue for the band to rehearse. It has also encouraged the opportunity for groups to grow, such as the clarinet choir and percussion group. So much work goes on in the background and a lot of time (and probably blood, sweat and a few tears) has been given so thank you all.

So, following on from last year's AGM we moved towards the festive period with some uncertainty as to what we would be able to do in terms of any kind of concert activity.

We entered another carol into the Classic FM carol competition and were shortlisted for a third time, which is an achievement in itself. Unfortunately, we did not make it to the final draw. We have now run out of carols to submit, so it's time for a new 'Christmas in March' CD.

Although still unable to give any in-person concerts, Ruth was plotting with Robert for an alternative Christmas event. The plan was to release one festive piece each day for the 12 days in the run up to Christmas. Very kindly, Neil (Susan's partner) came to film, record and work his magic for us to put these on YouTube. It was a great success and may even become a regular feature! Thank you to all involved in this project.

Other Christmas events:

Louise and Michele did a fabulous job with the Christmas tree, making handmade baubles for each section – a great idea and we loved them!

Whilst the band was not able to play a concert, some of the brass got together to play outside Morrisons in Anniesland and with some hardy volunteers to shake a few buckets on an extremely cold afternoon they raised an amazing £245 for DCB.

Louise also set to work and made face masks as gifts and stocking fillers for a small donation, raising a fabulous £130.

We have also raised some extra funds via easyfundraising and Amazon Smile. The total stands at £189.40 and we have approximately 19 members. Imagine what we could raise if everyone, including family and friends, used it!

At the end of January, Glyn and a few volunteers had fun on a wet and rather cold Sunday afternoon numbering and sticking his music together. Again, thanks to Glyn for all the new music and thanks to everyone who came along to help.

Next, we entered another Making Music and Classic FM collaboration and submitted a recording of 'Aurora Borealis' for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee competition. We had a fabulous rehearsal and recording session and once again, thank you to Neil for giving both his time and expertise to record this for us. I think you will all agree it sounded amazing. However, even after all that, we were not lucky enough to be chosen but it is always a good experience and focuses our playing!

Towards the end of June, we were finally able to look forward to our first 'in-person' concert in two years, and in one of our favourite venues, Mugdock Bandstand. The weather stayed dry for us and although the sun didn't exactly shine and it was a little chilly, it was a great concert with a good number of people staying to listen to us play. Thanks to everyone who helped with setting this up and to Michelle for conducting.

Our next concert was in King George V Park, Bearsden, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event. The weather stayed fine with some sunshine but it was somewhat windy and keeping music on our stands was challenging, as was keeping the music stand, standing! At times it was rather like sitting in a wind tunnel but as usual DCB got on with it and our thanks to Michelle for conducting this for us.

There was a fabulous turnout at the afternoon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and a great community spirit. We had some lovely comments from both organisers and attendees. Even better we raised an amazing £408 from the DCB buckets and a total of £3,118 was raised for the DEC Ukraine appeal, an amazing result.

We had hoped to finish the session with our first summer concert in our new home in Kessington Hall, but due to circumstances beyond our control it was not to be, and we had to cancel the concert.

Also, in the lead up to the summer break a lot of work was done in the library, so thanks to Fiona McLean and everyone who took music home to sort. I am sure you will agree that the library is looking great.

Our new session commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> August. We had hoped to have a concert at Gartnavel Royal on the 28<sup>th</sup> August but with Covid still around this was not possible.

We were invited to play at 'The Big Weekend' at Kelvingrove Bandstand on 4<sup>th</sup> September. I can't say I didn't have a few sleepless nights over this one, mainly because of chair numbers, but thankfully, on the day this was resolved. Then, there was the question, what if it rained like the last time we were there? Sunday morning came and it was absolutely tipping it down

but the forecast said it was to clear up mid-afternoon. I need not have worried, the sun came out and it was a brilliant concert, great music, and the band sounded fantastic. We even got a standing ovation and an invite to next year's event! What more could we ask for?

So, we now approach the Christmas season again!

It is likely that a Christmas concert at Gartnavel Royal will not be possible. This is mainly due to Covid and the risk of having a large number of people blowing wind instruments in a relatively small area, indoors. Hopefully next year!

Now for some news I hope you are going to like - I am delighted to say that over the last few weeks I have managed to secure a booking for a Christmas concert at Kelvingrove Museum, yes, you heard me correctly! The date and final arrangements will be sent out as soon as possible.

To finish the session, hopefully a Christmas concert at Kessington Hall and who knows, there might be room to squeeze another one in.

We had some very sad news a couple of weeks ago that our 'number one fan' Josie Anderson had passed away. Some of you may not know who she was, but Josie attended most of our concerts and was, as she put it, devoted to the band. She had a wealth of musical knowledge and we will miss her.

Next year is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I know there are lots of ideas already being discussed. I am certainly looking forward to events to celebrate this fantastic achievement.

So, when I look back at just how much we managed to do to keep the band together through Covid and beyond, I can't deny it has been a lot of work. The band will continue to move forward and evolve. Whilst I am standing down, I know the band will be in very capable hands and would like to wish my successor my very best wishes, good luck and if you need anything, just ask.

And finally, I would like to thank you all for your support to me and your commitment to the band over the last three years.

Colin Suckling then proposed a vote of thanks to Harriet for steering the band through such a challenging time.

## **5. Musical Director's report – Robert Baxter, read by Michelle McCabe**

Morning everyone and my apologies for missing the AGM today.

I would like to begin by giving a brief outline of your musical achievements last season. When we met in August 2021 it was the first full indoor rehearsal we had had for 18 months and the first in our new home here at Kessington. We quickly began learning new repertoire and started to enjoy playing as a band together again. Although we did not have a chance to perform in concerts as much as we would normally, we did manage to introduce a good

number of new pieces throughout the season which I hoped gave you a variety of styles and some good challenges too. Rhythm with a Smile, Carousel, By George, Aurora Borealis, Bats in the Belfry, Teddy Bears Picnic, Marigold, Snowflakes, Bearsden Bears, West Side Story are just some of these new works, but we also had a huge compliment of works from Glyn Bragg. These included solo items, section features and a plethora of Elgar arrangements!

I was really pleased that we emerged from our lockdown rehearsals with such a huge number of players still with the band and I am even happier to see that the band is still attracting new players as we move forward in this season – this is something that is SO important for the band's future. One example of this is that we have two tuba players on the books for the first time in quite a while, and although that deserves a special mention, everyone who has joined over the past year is most welcome in the DCB musical family.

As some members of the committee and our chair step down can I take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks for running the band over what has been the most challenging time in its history. Even last year when we were back in person and in this wonderful new home, it was difficult not being able to arrange concerts due to Covid restrictions and uncertainty of venues. However, the energy, time and care that the committee demonstrated through the year has kept the band's ethos and spirit alive. I am exceptionally grateful and will mention this briefly again at next week's rehearsal.

Although this is the band's AGM and not the hall's, I do think that it would be acceptable to mention the progress of the hall as it directly involves and importantly influences all of us on a Saturday morning.

We were only able to meet since last August because we had use of Kessington, and the improvements over the past 12 months have been huge. Here is a short list of some of the activities that many of the band's members and, of course, David and Alan, have made to our surroundings. A beautifully laid out garden, front railings painted, new ground covering on steps and ramp outside, varnished front doors, new digital locking system on front door, push plates and handles on main hall doors, tank room cleared, Christmas tree bought, new kitchen sink, kitchen roller blind, plug sockets fixed, stunning new music library for DCB and DWE, new rear fire doors, new sinks in bathrooms, flooring in dance studio, pictures hanging, carpet laid and window on door of piano room, new furniture in library, DCB instrument store – and of course a BUG hotel – apparently they have to book a year in advance to get a room! There will be so many things I have not listed like monthly reports which are copied to East Dunbartonshire Council and lots of legal and financial affairs. Thank you to the trustees for all their work.

What to look forward to this coming season?

It is our intention to record another Christmas session. I think to rehearse and record 12 pieces will be impossible as we just do not have enough Christmas pieces but I think we could do three pieces that we can release over the three days to Christmas. We have a date for our Christmas concert which I hope will recreate the atmosphere and 'feel' of the Christmas at Cairns that we used to do. There are other concert venues that are already in discussion and we will continue to develop these and report back to you all. The band as you know will also

turn 50 next year and I am very keen to try to develop a big concert to mark this event and will be working with the new committee to plan for this.

To finish, can I say how much I enjoyed performing at Kelvingrove Bandstand with you – it felt like the band got its buzz back and it reminded me of the hundreds of outdoor concerts we have performed together. I hope that you all enjoyed it and will spur us all on to explore concert opportunities in the future.

Michelle McCabe then emphasised her enjoyment of conducting band rehearsals and concerts throughout the session.

## **6. Treasurer's report – Fiona Ross**

Fiona began by explaining that the band is currently in a very healthy financial position. The band aims to use reliable income (from membership subscriptions and Gift Aid) to cover expenses, something which is not normally achieved. However, the aim was achieved during the past year, due to:

- a. a number of band members, particularly retired members, choosing to pay the full subscription amount rather than the lower amount for retired members
- b. a small expenditure on new music, far less than the budget for new music
- c. Glyn Bragg's generosity in arranging a significant number of pieces for the band and charging only £90 to cover printing costs, and not charging the band for the rehearsals he conducts

Fiona thanked Colin Suckling for his generosity in paying for the printing of his piece, *The Bearsden Bears*. Fiona also explained that donations for tea and coffee at rehearsal breaks had helped to boost income, and no section of the band had claimed for expenses for restocking tea and coffee supplies when required.

No PRS fees were paid during the year, which reduced the amount needing to be paid to Making Music. However, the band did make a donation of £100 to Making Music.

Fiona emphasised that going forward, the band will not continue to make as large a profit as has been made recently. There will be costs incurred in holding charity concerts, and costs associated with the band's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2023.

## **7. Subscriptions**

Fiona explained that subscription amounts will remain at their current level - £110 (full), £65 (retired), £50 (non-tax payer). Fiona emphasised that subscriptions can be paid in any frequency (monthly, quarterly etc.), and asked band members to speak to her in confidence if they are struggling to pay the required subscription amount.

*Bank details for subscription payments can be found on the DCB website:*

[Subscriptions – Dunbartonshire Concert Band](#)

#### **8. Elect committee members**

Harriet explained that she would be standing down as chair, and a number of other committee members were also standing down – Neil Harper, Cameron McCulloch and Fiona McLean. Harriet thanked Neil, Cameron and Fiona for their efforts during their time on the committee.

Ruth Sinclair was elected as chair, proposed by Harriet Fishley and seconded by Susan Macfarlane.

Three new committee members were elected:

Anna Baker – proposed by Fiona Ross, seconded by Neil Harper

John Carswell – proposed by Alan Cooper, seconded by Fiona McLean

Anne Dunbar - proposed by David Broad, seconded by Ann Fairfull

There were no objections to the new chair and new committee members being elected.

Harriet handed over to Ruth Sinclair to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Fiona Ross explained that she would appreciate a volunteer from the band who would be willing to shadow her role as treasurer, with a view to taking over as treasurer in the future. Fiona mentioned that the volunteer need not be a member of the current committee.

Ruth thanked the three committee members standing down – Neil for his work as Making Music representative, Cameron for his work as vice chair, and Fiona for her work as librarian.

#### **9. Elect an honorary independent financial examiner**

Ruth explained that Robert Thomson is happy to continue as independent auditor of the financial accounts. This was proposed by Cameron McCulloch and seconded by David Broad.

#### **10. Consider resolutions of which due notice has been given**

No resolutions were raised prior to the AGM.

#### **11. Elect/re-elect band trustees**

Ruth explained that all current trustees are happy to continue in the role. Ruth reminded those present of the current trustees – Jill Bolling, Alan Cooper, Moyra Hawthorn, Jonathan Smithers and Colin Suckling.

## 12. Kessington Hall update – Alan Cooper

Alan reminded those present that Kessington Hall is managed by a charitable organisation (DCB Kessington SCIO) with three trustees (Robert Baxter, David Broad and Alan Cooper). Although legally and financially separate, DCB (the band) is the parent organisation. It is therefore appropriate that a brief update on Kessington Hall is given at the DCB AGM.

DCB Kessington took over Kessington Hall from East Dunbartonshire Council in September 2021, on a 25-year lease. Since then, in addition to routine maintenance, a number of improvements and enhancements have been made to the hall, including:

- a. installation of a smart lock system on the main entrance door
- b. building of shelving for the DCB/DWE library and instrument storage room (thank you to David McLean for building and installing the shelving)
- c. removal of the old tank from the 'tank room'
- d. purchase of 100 new chairs
- e. purchase of a scaffold tower
- f. installation of acoustic panels in studio 2 and in the music room
- g. installation of mirrors and flooring in studios 1 and 2 (with the Stellar musical theatre group)
- h. assorted minor works including plumbing and electrical work
- i. work on the garden, with special thanks to Jan Wallace, Lorraine Sherry and local volunteers

The hall is proving very popular for lets. In addition to DCB, a number of groups now call the hall their home:

- a. Westerton Male Voice Choir (Monday plus other days)
- b. Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble (Tuesday)
- c. Stellar musical theatre group (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday)
- d. ballroom and tango dancing (Thursday, Friday)
- e. SING aLOUD choir (Thursday)
- f. piano tuition (Thursday)
- g. various other groups, including art classes, yoga classes, ballet classes, children's groups

This means that DCB Kessington is fulfilling its commitment to act as a community music and arts facility, while also providing a reliable income stream.

The financial position of DCB Kessington is healthy. Despite the anticipated (and budgeted) number of one-off expenses when the hall was initially being set up, DCB Kessington has remained in credit since taking over the hall. Utility bills have been manageable so far, with a framework agreement in place. Detailed accounts will be publicly available on the OSCR website. Despite the financial outgoings, a profit has been made over the past year, with the bank balance increasing from c. £11,000 in September 2021 to c. £15,000 currently.



The DCB Kessington trustees feel very privileged to be able to run the hall. There will be challenges ahead, such as the uncertainty of utility bill costs, however these are manageable at the moment.

The next planned major investment will be the purchase of staging for events taking place in the main hall. This has already begun with the purchase of two conductor platforms, one of which is already being used by DCB during Saturday morning rehearsals.

The hall is also used by other subgroups of DCB – the clarinet ensemble, the percussion ensemble and the summer winds group.

### 13. **AOCB**

Monika Mihm Carmichael was unable to attend the AGM, but expressed her thanks, via email, to Harriet for her leadership, incredible organisational effort, energy and diplomacy invested and given to the chair position over the past three years, including during the Covid pandemic.

Andrew McCafferty asked for clarity of the committee members and their roles. Ruth confirmed the names of the committee members, and stated that roles would be determined at a committee meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Anneli Demberg mentioned that she had recently reached her 20-year anniversary of joining the band, and thanked the band members who were in the band when she joined and are still members today.

Alan Hunter asked if there were any plans to cordon off the percussion equipment in the corner of the main hall in Kessington. Alan Cooper explained that this had been considered, however, to allow greater flexibility to move the equipment, there were currently no plans to cordon off the equipment. Alan Hunter confirmed that there had been no issues with the current method of storing the percussion equipment behind a row of chairs, other than the volume control on the speaker had once been turned up.

Alan Cooper explained that the installation of WiFi in Kessington Hall had been considered. However, with the availability of mobile hotspots, it was felt that installing WiFi and paying a monthly fee of £50 could not be justified. Other hall user groups were successfully using mobile hotspots to connect with group members unable to travel to the hall in person.

There were no further questions. Ruth thanked all present for attending, and closed the meeting.

### **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>