

**Traditional Youth Marching Bands Association Annual General Meeting 2006**  
**Roundhills Community College**  
**Saturday 11th March 2006 – 12:30pm**

Present: Tony Crossman	Chairman
Jane Cotterill	Vice Chairman
Beryl Howells	Secretary
Dave Wood	Treasurer
Richard Warrington	Membership Secretary
Joanna Nelson	Training
Andy Downton	Public Relations
Julie McKay	Northern Representative/ MoretonBB/GB band
Stephanie Cottrell	Midlands Representative
Alan Robson	Southern Representative
Dale King	Webmaster
David Thornton	Committee Member
Carl Nelson	Spen Valley
Amanda Nelson	Halesowen
Paul Wong	Halesowen
Matthew Wong	Halesowen
Ryan Pavey	BHMY
Claire Stacey	BHMY
John Young	Rubery Youth Marching Band
Iain Peat	Barking and Dagenham
Georgia Glossop	-- -- --
Leanne Glossop	-- -- --
Stacey Robson	-- -- --
David Speller	-- -- --
Jim Vaughan	BFYMBO
Martin Rapley	17 <sup>th</sup> Tonbridge
Steve West	Thurmaston Marching Brass
Steve Wright	Burges Hill
Ernie Wright	President
Dave Boulter	Honorary Member
South East of England Contest	(proxy vote)
Solo's Contest	(proxy vote)

**Apologies.**

Apologies were received from: Jim Field, John and Mrs Saunders, Dave and Kay Gilby, Bill McKay, Lisa Talifero, Terry Crook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Davyhulme, King's Norton RBL, 1<sup>st</sup> Hook Scout and Guide Band, Christchurch Ashton and Northampton Scout Band.

**Minutes of the last meeting.**

All bands were sent copies of minutes from the 2005 AGM held at Rubery. Those minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Halesowen and seconded by Spen Valley.

**Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

**Chairman's Report.** Tony began by thanking the committee for their efforts over the last year. He has enjoyed his first year as our Chairman but was aware that much of the volunteer work seemed to be undertaken by a small core group of members. He apologized for only being able to attend 3 of the contests and particularly enjoyed the National finals. He wished to thank all of our contest organizers. He had been involved in several issues of concern, much of which could have been resolved quickly rather than being allowed to fester. He was disappointed that much of the negative comments, issues or ideas seemed to be unsupported at committee meetings or AGM. He appealed for any matters, ideas and issues to be personally presented at the AGM taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Now that Tony has learned how our Association functions, he is looking forward to becoming more active in promoting

TYMBA with BFYMBO. He is aware that the high cost of travel is an issue of concern for many bands and believes that it needs to be seriously considered in the ensuing months. He concluded by saying he looked forward to another year of fierce but fair competition, and wished all bands great success.

**Treasurer's Report.** Prepared and distributed to the meeting by Dave Wood. After a brief explanation by Dave, its acceptance was proposed by Halesowen and seconded by Moreton BB/GB Band. See attachment.

**Contest Panel Report.** See attachment. This was discussed at length, with Dave explaining that given the fact that 2006 may only consist of 5 contests, the qualification for the National Finals will be a minimum of 2 contests with priority going to those bands that do more. He explained the reasons for his 'change in subscription year proposal' are to try to help with the promotion and relegation problem and the speed at which they happen. It was suggested that bands pay in advance, use standing orders or direct debit. Joanna Nelson will investigate the cost of these methods and will report back to the Committee. **Totton** contest unfortunately will not take place this year due to not having enough people to run it, the loss of their venue and the fact that the replacement venue was unsuitable. The **Leek** contest has not been re-registered, however a meeting is due to take place on Tuesday and it is hoped that they can be encouraged to return. **Eastleigh** have not come up as yet with anything concrete. Burgess Hill suggested a central committee to run each contest, but Paul Wong could see problems with cost and also the fact that you wouldn't have local people. Dave Wood said how difficult it was to run any contest from a distance. Burgess Hill also suggested a central pool of equipment with a view to cutting costs e.g. PA systems. Ernie pointed out the fact that sometimes the cost of transporting equipment can be more than hiring locally.

**Membership Secretary's Report.** See attachment.

**Judges Liaison Officer's Report.** Reproduced in full. Jane Cotterill reported that in 2005 there had been 6 regional contests and the National Finals. All contests used judges from the approved list. Three reports were received from bands about the quality of judging, but all were looked into and no one was removed from the list. Judges for three out of the six regional contests and the National Finals were booked by the Judges Liaison Officer. Twenty eight of the forty nine judges used in 2005 were booked by the Judges Liaison Officer (57%). Two of the contests who did not use Jane to book their judges contacted her to make sure that the judges they were proposing to book were allowed. Only one contest did not ask for help or advice with the booking of their judges. 40% of judges used were new to judging for TYMBA and all have expressed an interest in being involved again. Currently an updated list from Kneller Hall is awaited in order to update the list and send a new version out to the 2006 contest organisers.

**Regional Coordinators Reports,** reproduced in full.

**Northern Report.** Two of the Northern Bands attended the TYMBA Summer Camp. We all had a brilliant time. Our thanks go to Joanna Pennington for all her hard work organising and during camp. Our youngsters are still talking about it.

I feel that the Northern Bands had a good Season last year; eight of them were in the National Finals. Spen Valley won the Contest Class League and we had a 1, 2, and 3 in the Contest Class National Finals, with Christchurch Ashton winning the class. Alderley were back with us in the Championship class and they came 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Scottish friends told us they had enjoyed themselves this year and they are looking for a new uniform to compete in.

For only the second time a Northern Band won the TYMBA National Finals last year when Moreton got the shock of their lives.

Two of our Bands, Spen Valley and Moreton took part in the Birmingham International Tattoo as part of the National Youth Marching Band. The newest member of TYMBA was born in December, Eleanor-May Nelson and we congratulate Joanna and Carl on their new Drum Major.

Moreton are helping out two Sea Cadet Bands, trying to get them on their feet. We are hoping they will be two new TYMBA members in the near future.

This year's list shows that 8 of the 10 Northern Bands have renewed and I we look forward to another good year for the North. Julie McKay.

**Southern Report.** 2005 was quite a good year for the southern bands, especially for the championship class bands, taking the top three positions at this year's finals. Unfortunately though there was no southern bands present in the national finals. 2006 promises to be a very exciting year, with some of the southern national class bands competing again.

TYMBA was represented at the WMC in Holland by the Royal British Legion (Romford). Congratulations on their Gold & Silver Medals.

We also saw the first (hopefully) Annual Brentwood Borough Silent Drill Competition.

This is a new concept by the Royal British Legion Brentwood. The drill squads were made up of 8 members of 16 and under and consisted of a 90 second routine in a 30ft square arena. This will give all units of any size the chance of equal competition against the traditionally bigger bands.

There were 2 TYMBA bands in this contest, the Militaire, and the RBL Brentwood, with the RBL winning with a very smart and tight routine.

Congratulations to them and John Paul Wyndham for organising a great event.

There are 100's of small bands out in the U.K that do not join TYMBA and compete for many reasons, this may be a way of bringing them into the fold.

Hopefully we will see many more of such events popping up across the country. Alan Robson.

**Midlands Report.** Two out of six contests were held in the midlands region and all were well attended. Eight midlands region bands qualified for the Nationals and all did well. Two midland region bands took part in the Birmingham Tattoo as part of the National Youth Marching Band. All midland region bands should have received an invite to a re-launch event. This event is taking place at Waseley Hills High School on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Central Band of the Royal Air Force is providing a free concert. If you are a member of a midlands region band and haven't received details, then please let Stephanie Cottrell know. She will always pick up emails and messages on her mobile if there is something that you would like her to assist with. If there is an event that you are hosting that you would like TYMBA's help with, contact her. Her details are available on the TYMBA website or through [www.ruberyymb.co.uk](http://www.ruberyymb.co.uk). Stephanie sees this role as one of knowledge sharing and a way for bands to communicate with the Committee.

**Training Report.** Due to the vacancy of a training rep for the Association the only event held in 2005 was the TYMBA summer camp. The camp was once again held at the Read School, Drax and was attended by members from Spenn Valley, Halesowen, Moreton and Northampton, with the tutors coming from the Royal Marines School of Music, Portsmouth. The camp was attended by a lot more inexperienced and younger players, and although the practising got off to a very rocky start a brilliant concert and beat retreat was performed to end the camp. A good time was had by all who attended. Unfortunately due to extensive building work being carried out at the Read School this summer, we will be unable to use the venue for the camp; however Steph Cottrell is trying to find a venue. The Royal Marines have also invited the bands that attended the camp in 2005 to spend a week with them at the school of music in Portsmouth. What does the membership want with regards to training? TYMBA needs a training rep. Lots of people make comments about the Association and its Committee on the website, instead of just making comments and coming up with suggestions, why not get involved and put your ideas into practice! Joanna Nelson.

### **Press and Publicity.**

**Marchpast.** Andy apologised for there being no December issue of 'Marchpast', this was due to both personal reasons and questions which needed answers from the Committee. He is currently looking at changing 'Marchpast' to make it a much more professional publication. He has looked into making the magazine more like the Youth Music magazines from BFYMBO. At the moment he is working on the idea of a glossy 4-side A4 colour publication. With a print of 200 copies, the charge for this would be around £270 plus posting, a price that is easily coverable by advertising. After some discussion it was suggested that postage costs could be kept to a minimum if the 'Marchpast' could be put on the website and be downloaded from there. The Membership secretary could ask bands when they renew if they would like copies posted to them at an extra cost.

**Website.** Dale said that in the past he had had problems getting hold of information in order to update the website; he feels this could have been due to problems with emails from him getting through to some people and also various spam filters.

He suggested putting the latest TYMBA rule book on to the website to be viewed or downloaded by the Membership. He also thought we should look into the possibility of having band related advertisements on our website, this generates income for TYMBA every time someone 'clicks' on the

advertisement. Alan Robson was concerned about the control of advertisers, but Dale informed him that you can actually stipulate what kind of advertisements you do not want. Iain Peate from The Militaire of Barking and Dagenham has offered to assist Dale with the running of the website, his offer was accepted and Dale will liaise with him.

**Nominations for Office.** No nominations for office had been received and the current Officers of the Committee were willing to serve for a further year.

**Nominations for Committee.** Jim Field has decided to not seek re-election to the Committee and no nominations had been received. The present Committee with the exception of Jim Field was willing to serve for a further year. The present Committee was proposed by Rubery and seconded by Tonbridge.

**Proposals.**

- a) Subscriptions to be increased by £5 for bands and contests, and individual membership to be £10. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Julie McKay.  
This proposal was carried unanimously, (16 votes)
  
- b) That professional musicians are prohibited from competing in contests. The definition of a professional musician is someone playing an instrument that is in the same family group as the instrument of their primary source of income. Proposed by Rubery, seconded by Moreton.  
After much discussion, this proposal was carried unanimously, (16 votes)
  
- c) Subscription year will run from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October. This proposal will take immediate effect. Proposed by Rubery, seconded by The Militaire of Barking and Dagenham.  
This proposal was carried unanimously, (16 votes)
  
- d) Alteration to Rule 2, Section 2. The size of the arena for all contests **must** be 100' wide and 100' deep, unless this is not possible. Then as Rule 2 Section 2. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Rubery.  
This proposal brought about much discussion and it was thought that as several of the larger bands do not seem to have a problem with the size of the arena at the National Finals, nor have had in the past with The Albert Hall it was not necessary to make the arena any larger than 100' by 100' square and so the proposal was carried, 14 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention. A proposal to implement this rule change with immediate effect was carried by 13 votes for 1 against and 2 abstentions.
  
- e) That the current band membership of the Association be split into two categories. Contest Membership, for those bands who wish to compete in the forthcoming season, and Social Membership for those bands who wish to join the Association, not to compete but to join in with all other TYMBA events. This would be at a reduced cost. Proposed by Spen Valley, seconded by Dave Wood.  
This proposal was discussed at length with the President feeling that we have become a contesting organisation. He felt that not much went on and that there was very little in the way of training. Jane felt that it was important that we become more 'social' in order to promote the Association. One suggestion made was to offer new bands their first year's membership free.  
This proposal was rejected, 6 votes for, 6 votes against and 4 abstentions.
  
- f) The introduction of I.D. cards for all TYMBA members, the format to be decided by the main committee following the A.G.M. Proposed by Paul Wong, seconded by Dave Wood.

Paul Wong explained that he was aware of both positive and negative sides to this proposal, but nevertheless felt that it was still a proposal worth considering. He felt it would give the member a sense of 'belonging', they could perhaps receive a birthday card from TYMBA, or recognition for things achieved. The initial cost for the first year may be expensive but he thought that the ongoing costs would be minimal. It was suggested that perhaps the band masters could be responsible for the photographs and for perhaps getting the information back to TYMBA; this could all be done electronically. Ernie queried the possible cost and was informed by Jane that it would probably be around £50 for 1000 if each individual supplied their own photograph. Concern was expressed about members losing them and not being able to produce them at contests; it was thought that perhaps the bandmasters should take control of them. It was agreed by all that the card should not contain the child's name, just the photograph and either the name of the band and/or a serial number.

This proposal was carried, 14 votes for with 2 votes against.

The format for these cards will be agreed at the next Committee meeting.

During the course of the meeting an informative presentation was given by Jim Vaughan from BFYMBO. Details of this presentation will be circulated to bands by Tony Crossman.

**A.O.B.** President's Award. The President's award was not given out last year as Ernie had not received any nominations. He would like everyone to think about this for the coming year and if anyone thinks they may know someone who they feel has done something towards furthering the aims of the Association, and then he wants to hear from them. You do not have to be a member to nominate somebody.

Jane suggested the idea of a President's page on the website. This would mean that the membership could have contact with Ernie.

**Attendance Trophies.** A complaint had been received from a band who felt that attendance trophies should have been presented at the National Finals. Dave Wood felt that it would have added extra time on to the already tight schedule, but he was happy to canvas opinion on what people thought about it. Carl Nelson felt it just added unnecessary cost to the contest organisers. Some bands give it to one of their members on the way home from the contests, but many bands just put them in a cupboard out of sight. David Thornton offered to sponsor the attendance trophies if it was just a matter of cost. Dale King will set up a poll to gauge people's opinion on this.

**TYMBA Stall.** David Thornton is unable to continue running the TYMBA stall, so we are looking for someone to take over from him. It is not a very difficult task and David has said that he is willing to assist anyone willing to take it over. If you think you are able to help in this way, please contact David Thornton directly or any Committee member.

**Members with Disabilities.** Julie McKay wanted to know who to tell if a playing member had a disability that was not obvious. Jane informed her that all that was needed was to inform the Contest Organiser who will then pass on the necessary information at the Judge's briefing.

**2007 A.G.M.** An offer to host the 2007 A.G.M. was received from Spenn Valley, date and time to be arranged.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and wished all a safe journey home.