

**Traditional Marching Band Association Annual General Meeting 2007**  
**Wythall Royal British Legion**  
**Sunday 15th April 2007**

**Present**

Tony Crossman	Chairman
Jane Cotterill	Vice Chairman/Rubery Youth Marching Band
Kate McKay	Secretary
Dave Wood	Treasurer/Nationals Contest
Richard Warrington	Membership Secretary/Thurmaston
Joanna Nelson	Training/Spen Valley
Andy Downton	Public Relations
Julie McKay	Northern Rep/Moreton BB/ GB
Stephanie Cottrell	Midlands Rep
Dale King	Webmaster
Beryl Howells	Committee Member

Joss Wills	Syston S&G Band
Russell Grove	Enfield District
Max Perrin	Kings Norton
Sam Hewitt	Kings Norton
Brian Toft	Kings Norton
Mark Webb	Blazing Brass
Bill McKay	Solos Contest
Carl Nelson	Spen Valley
Liz Pennington	Spen Valley
Derek Robson	Militaire of Barking and Dagenham
Janet Robson	Militaire of Barking and Dagenham
Jim Field	Davyhulme contest/Davyhulme Band
Claire Stacey	Burgess Hill Marching Youth
Paul Stacey	Burgess Hill Marching Youth
Dave Edge	Redhill Corps of Drums
Martin Rapley	17th Tonbridge
Tony Jackson	Rubery Contest
Kim Prentice	Bodicote RBL Youth
Peter Lockwood-Goose	Bodicote RBL Youth
John Young	Rubery Youth Marching Band
Kim Foreman	
Paul Wong	Halesowen Band & Contest
Sam Knight	Northampton Scout Band
Stewart Knight	Northampton Scout Band
Dave Gilby	South-East of England Contest
Mrs Gilby	

Darwen St. James	(proxy vote)
Waterlooville	(proxy vote)

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from John and Mrs Saunders, Ernie and Steve Wright, Martin Hissey, James Simpson, Terry Crook, Paul Binder (Romford D&T Corps), John Wyndham (Brentwood RBL), Alderley District Scout Band, Darwen St. James, Waterlooville YMB, Standish St. Wilfrids and Christchurch Ashton.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the 2006 AGM held at Thurmaston were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Moreton and seconded by Spen Valley.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

Clarification was asked for concerning the ID cards voted for at the 2006 AGM. Paul Wong stated that the format has been agreed by the committee and he will contact the bands for information about members and photographs so he can produce them.

### **Chairman's Report**

On the Whole it has been a slightly disappointing twelve months since the last AGM from my perspective.

- I was disappointed that I could only attend one of the competitions during the year and was unfortunately abroad on the day of the Nationals – an apology for my non-attendance was not passed on.
- I attended the concert given by the Central Band at Rubery on the 30th April and it was an enormous shame that my former band performed to an audience of less than 50. To their credit, the musicians gave a first class concert and those who did attend had a most enjoyable time.
- It was a great disappointment that Beryl Howells felt unable to continue as our Secretary as she had been a tremendous source of knowledge and help to me since I assumed the mantle of Chairman. I did wish her well for the future but believe her work as the TYMBA Secretary should be fully acknowledged today. I was grateful that Kate McKay volunteered to act as temporary Secretary in the interim period.
- I was disappointed that the committee felt it necessary to purge some of the 'blog' on the official website at their January meeting. Some of the comments were, in my opinion, irrelevant and others should have been easily dealt with by Bandmasters. For instance, before my computer crashed, I decided I would create a regular Chairman's newsletter and emailed the first issue after the January 2007 meeting – regrettably, I had just one reply. At the time, I had hoped the newsletter would be circulated, however, it was obvious that this did not occur because several weeks later, items appeared on the website asking why the committee were not listening to the membership about general matters and why was the website being purged.
- As you are aware, the membership voted last year to hold the AGM at Cleckheaton in West Yorkshire on Saturday 10th March. I was disappointed that this decision was rescinded as it became obvious that a lack of attendance meant we would not be quorate. Many excuses were posted on the website regarding lengthy journeys etc and some even questioned how the location was chosen. It is a travesty that this matter was not raised at or immediately after last year's AGM. May I take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, all committee members who look after the interests of the Association and travel some distances to attend the regular meetings throughout the year? The committee, in turn, feel our membership should undertake just ONE journey each calendar year to attend THEIR AGM – surely that is not too much to ask?

On the positive side – good and fierce competition has taken place over the past year and I would like to congratulate all Bandmasters' and their respective bands on the high standard that has once again been attained. Grateful thanks are also extended to the Contest Organisers who work extremely hard to ensure the success of their events.

Can I assume that each band has received a recent package from Jim Vaughan at the Federation (BFYMBO) with details that July 2007 is 'Marching Youth Music Month' along with a Guide booklet to the Level 2 Accreditation in Youth Marching Band Leadership?

I hope this meeting will be interesting and that you will carefully consider the proposals on the agenda before casting your vote. I trust that you, and your bands, will enjoy a successful year – please extend my good wishes to everyone. Tony Crossman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Prepared and distributed to the meeting by Dave Wood. A question was raised as to whether the contest that hosts the solo heats could be paid for hosting it. The answer was no because the solos already runs at a loss. The acceptance of the 2006 accounts was proposed by Hales Owen and seconded by Redhill Corps of Drums.

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

- 2006 in line with proposal c) voted on and carried unanimously at the 2006 AGM, the TYMBA Membership Year ended on 31st October 2006. This gave 2006 year-end membership figures of 38 bands, 13 individuals and 6 Contests. In comparison to 2005 these figures represent a very small decline in membership from 39 bands and 15 individuals. A total of 6 bands rejoined TYMBA during 2006.
- 2007 Membership renewals for this year commenced from 1st November 2006 as per Proposal c) voted in at the 2006 AGM. A relatively swift response to renewals was forthcoming although a few member bands weren't aware of the change in membership dates. Renewing in November gave the advantage that contests and bands could begin to plan earlier for this season's contests. By the start of December 2006 TYMBA actually had 4 confirmed contests registered, something which hasn't happened in TYMBA for some time. At the time of this report each TYMBA member will have been issued, either by post or email, a copy of the Association Membership lists as at 11th April 2007. As of 13th TYMBA has 30 member bands, 9 individuals and contests registered. A date had yet to be given for the TYMBA 2007 Finals. The Rushmoor Youth Band, Aldershot Contest is not yet confirmed.
- Future once again there are a number of absentee bands that have yet to renew. All bands which have not renewed during the past two years, have, or will be, contacted with a view to hopefully getting them back into the Association. A number of bands contacted have indicated either a decline in membership or that they do not wish to compete and therefore are not renewing their membership.
- Request Any bands who have not yet issued me with a contact email address, please could you do so as it allows me to keep members up to date quicker with any membership changes. Richard Warrington.

At the end of this report Jane Cotterill stated that she had been told that the Aldershot Contest would not be going ahead this year.

Paul Wong supported Richard in confirming correct email addresses because this is a primary source of information for contest organisers.

### **Contest Panel Report**

2006 was a fairly average year on the contesting front, all contests report average attendance, all obviously hope for more entries this year however the ever increasing costs of travel seem to prevent most bands from doing more contests than they are doing already.

The National solo contest a gain saw an increased number of entries that can only help the musical development of our players.

2007 looks as though it will consist of 4 or 5 contests, we still await official clarification of whether Aldershot will run. With this in mind the qualification requirements for the 2007 Nationals will be a minimum of 2 contests entered with priority going to those that enter more. The 2006 Nationals have not yet been confirmed but are expected to take place at Cannock during November.

We have taken a little criticism regarding the classification of bands and promotions/relegations and the speed at which it happens. This is a very difficult task when you are trying to balance the classes, without knowing who is going to compete, who is going to renew, or who has lost a lot of members etc. The changing of the Subscription year has helped us to see who will be members for the coming year. We have also proposed in the Agenda today, to move the notification deadline so that we have a much better chance of achieving it; the current date of 31st December was proving unworkable. That is about as much as we can do. However we do require some commitment from all bandmasters to reply in good time either accepting their new classification or giving the reasons that they think the new classification is incorrect. Also if any band wishes to be re-classified (whether it be up or down) voluntarily for whatever reason, then they need, if at all possible, to make this request before we make our decisions. So assuming that the new deadline date is agreed later in the meeting, the deadline would be 31st December for voluntary class changes.

John Saunders will again be your contest observer for all of the contests this season.

As always should anyone have any comments/suggestions regarding contests then please do not hesitate to let me know. Dave Wood.

### **Judges Liaison Report**

All contests in 2006 used judges off the Official list with the exception of 1 who used a judge at short notice who was not on the list.

Since the introduction of Official list, judging standards have risen – judges want to get more involved. I will not be standing for re-election this year but wish my successor the best of luck. Any help required, please get in touch. Jane Cotterill.

### **Regional Representative Reports**

#### **Midlands**

Shortly after the last AGM the Midlands Region hosted a visit and performance by the Royal Air Force. All Midlands bands were initially invited and then the invitation was extended to all TYMBA bands. It was supported by Kings Norton, Havering, Rubery and Moreton and thanks goes to all who attended and to Jane who helped secure and organise the visit. It was a shame it wasn't supported more but for those who did attend, the RAF encouraged the band members to get up and have a go, they visit organisations like ours and schools so that if members/pupils are interested in joining a forces band they are able to ask questions and speak to members of the band.

Throughout the season, there have been three contests in the Midlands Region. Halesowen, Rubery and the Nationals in Cannock were all well attended and allowed for both Rubery and Halesowen to hold their contests this year.

Other successes for bands within the region this year were:

- Kings Norton; winning the 2006 Novice Class League and overall winners of the Novice Class at the Nationals in what turned out to be a tightly fought contest.
- Rubery and Halesowen took part in a charity concert for a young lady called Charlotte Dargie who is raising money to take part in the 2012 Para Olympic equestrian team. The bands were part of the National Youth Marching Band who raised a healthy sum towards Charlotte's fund and were able to record a CD in the process.
- Kings Norton performed at the Birmingham International Tattoo – warming up the crowds over a busy weekend at the NIA and joined in the muster.
- Rubery Youth Marching Band and Halesowen were invited to play as part of the National Youth Marching Band to open the Birmingham International Tattoo which is becoming quite a prestigious event in the calendar.
- It is also worth mentioning that Kings Norton were winners in the silent foot drill competition held at Brentwood earlier this year.

There are currently 6 Midlands bands within the TYMBA Membership:

1. Thurmaston
2. Halesowen
3. Kings Norton
4. Staffordshire Moorlands District Scout & Guide Band
5. Syston
6. Rubery

Going forward it would be interesting to know what the membership want from their regional reps as I feel that it is currently quite a stale role that could be developed more.

Ideas please! Stephanie Cottrell.

#### **North**

As it has been closed season there is not much to report. There are nine Northern Bands registered this year, a drop of two from last year. I think all the Northern Bands competed last year and we were well represented at the Nationals. Davyhulme won the Contest Class League and National Finals so

congratulations to them.

This year marks the 100th of Scouting and a massed band is going to perform at Windsor Castle next weekend. Spen Valley are to be part of this band along with Hale sown, Northampton, Syston and Alderley. It should be a sight to see. I hope everything goes well for you all.

I would like to say thank you to Sam and Claire for their help trying to get the AGM sorted and for answering some of the repeated questions while we were offline. Thanks both of you.

I have nothing else to report. Julie McKay.

### **South**

2006 was another great contesting year for the Southern Region. Romford Royal British Legion won the National Class League and Nationals, and the Haverettes winning the Championships Class at the Nationals with Burgess Hill a close second. There would be a better round up of this years contest results, but as I was writing this, they were taken off the TYMBA site and my memory is not quite that good to remember who won what. (Sorry).

Away from TYMBA contests the Romford Drum & Trumpet Corps entered the European Championships and achieved a massive 4 gold medals.

This will be my last report as Southern rep as I am standing down from the committee. The main reason for this is that I cannot devote the time necessary to the post due to work commitments. I wish the person taking this role all the best and if they need any information on anything, please feel free to contact me.

Just one last appeal to the bands of the South; please give the new rep all the support you can and any information on your bands activities would be a bonus, just to keep them trawling through websites for scraps of information to report on.

I would also just like to thank all the committee for their support and guidance over the past few years. Alan Robson.

### **Training Report**

There was no report as the position of Training Officer is vacant.

The only training that took place last year was summer camp which was open only to the four bands invited by the Royal Marines, Portsmouth. Joanna will try to find out how much it would cost per person if the Marines would open summer camp to the rest of the Association.

### **Nominations for Office/Committee**

**Secretary** – Kate McKay was proposed by Bill McKay and seconded by Joanna Nelson. This proposal was carried unanimously.

There were no other nominations so the present committee with the exception of Jane Cotterill as Judges Liaison Officer and Alan Robson as Southern Rep were willing to serve for another year. The positions of Judges Liaison Officer, Training Officer and Southern Rep remain vacant.

### **Proposals**

- 1) Section 5, Rule 5 “Notification date to be changed from the last day of December to the last day of January”. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by the Committee.  
This proposal was carried unanimously and with immediate effect.
- 2) That we change the existing rule regarding the number of players over 25 from 3 to 4. Proposed by Kings Norton, seconded by Tony Jackson.  
This proposal was carried by 20 votes for and 4 votes against and with immediate effect.
- 3) That Spen Valley host the AGM for 2008. Proposed by Spen Valley Scout & Guide Band, seconded by Moreton.  
This proposal was carried unanimously.
- 6) Dress and Turnout should be a main discipline, counting towards final placings at TYMBA contests. Wear and tear of uniforms and instruments should not be marked down. Proposed by

Claire Stacey (BHMY), seconded by Kings Norton.

This proposal was carried by 13 votes for, 11 against and 1 abstention and with immediate effect.

- 4) In the Rule book, Section 2 is classed as Category B rules and are for 'guidance only'. Some need reclassification to be category A rules which 'must be obeyed'. Proposed by Tony Jackson, seconded by the Contest Panel.  
This proposal was carried unanimously however Rule 7 is to be reworded to take into account what was voted for in proposal 6.
- 5) Add the following guidelines [see Agenda] into the TYMBA Rule book, potentially under section 4 but they apply to Bands and Contests not just Contest Organisers. Proposed by Sam Hewitt (Kings Norton), seconded by Claire Stacey (BHMY).  
This proposal was carried unanimously.

#### **Any Other Business**

- TYMBA Stall**      Someone is still needed to take over the TYMBA stall. There were no volunteers so Bandmasters were asked to try and find a volunteer from the rest of the membership.
- Solos**              It was suggested that the solos could be split into 3 classes instead of 2. The solos Organiser will look at this idea closely to see if it is feasible.
- Drum Major**      The Novice Class Drum Major Trophy has not been received by the winner as it has been lost so needs to be replaced.
- Certificates**      It was suggested that certificates could be given out instead of trophies as they are sometimes not returned. Alternatively, people who do not return trophies could be penalised for not doing so. The committee are to discuss ways of doing this.
- League**              Clarification was asked for regarding the Drum Major League as on the website it states that 2 competitions are taken into account but it should be 3. It was clarified that the results are correct on the website and that the number of competitions should have said 3 instead of 2.
- Chairman's letter**      The Chairman wants to continue to send out a Chairman's letter to all bands when his computer is back online.
- Statement by Dave Wood;**      Dave said he was not happy with the way business had been conducted today and he gave the meeting 3 months notice of his resignation as Treasurer, Contest Panel Chairman and Nationals Contest Organiser.

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