

Traditional Youth Marching Bands Annual General Meeting 2008
Waseley Hills High School, Rubery
Sunday 13th April 2008

Present

Tony Crossman	Chairman
Kate McKay	Secretary
Dave Wood	Treasurer/Head of Contesting/Nationals Contest
John Saunders	Regional Contests
Bill McKay	Solos Contest
Joanna Nelson	Training/Spen Valley
Andy Downton	Public Relations
Lee Stacey	Southern Rep
Julie McKay	Northern Rep
Ernie Wright	President

Melanie Cross	Enfield Scouts
Richard Bennett	Enfield Scouts
Paul Wong	Halesowen Band & Contest
Tony Jackson	Rubery Contest
John Young	Rubery Youth Marching Band
Martin Rapley	17th Tonbridge
Sarah Rapley	17th Tonbridge
Kim Prentice	Bodicote RBL Youth Band
Simon Taylor	Alderley District Scout Band
Emma Simpson	Alderley District Scout Band
Samantha Hewitt	Kings Norton Youth Marching Band
Ade Evans	Kings Norton Youth Marching Band
Claire Stacey	Burgess Hill Marching Youth
Paul Stacey	Burgess Hill Marching Youth
Dave Gilby	South East of England Contest
Brian Cooper	South East of England Contest
Val Hendry	South East of England Contest
Kay Gilby	South East of England Contest
Nicola Matthews	Haverettes
Kerry Sweetman	Haverettes
Kylie Walsh	Haverettes
Kerry Nash	Haverettes
Danielle Worgan	Haverettes
Kim Foreman	Thurmaston
Liz Pennington	Spen Valley Scout and Guide Band
Catherine Schofield	Spen Valley Scout and Guide Band
Drew McKay	Moreton BB/GB Band
Colin Bithell	Moreton BB/GB Band

Apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Warrington (Membership Secretary/Thurmaston), Tim Smith (Chesham All Girls), Dale King (Webmaster), Martin Hissey, David Leach, Dave Boulter, Stephanie Cottrell and Jane Cotterill (Vice Chair/Rubery Youth Marching Band).

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the 2007 AGM held at Wythall Royal British Legion were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Paul Wong and seconded by Dave Gilby.

Matters arising from the minutes

None.

Chairman's Report

The last 12 months have been traumatic for the Association, particularly regarding the cancellation of the Nationals at Cannock Leisure Centre in November. The decision was not taken lightly and the

reasons, which were not solely of a financial nature, were sent to Bandmasters via my last Chairman's newsletter of 2007. Regrettably, subsequent inaccurate postings on the website prove the content of that letter was not released to many of our younger musicians as had been intended.

Opinion regarding the cancellation of the major event of the year was divided. In the final analysis, the majority of complaints were received from several of the eleven bands who had agreed to take part and who represented just 40% of the full membership. As a result of some rather derogatory and inaccurate comments on the website following the decision, it is not surprising that some bands decided not to re-register with TYMBA for 2008, resulting in a net reduction of member bands from 29 to 20. The 'knock-on' effect from this could well be fewer bands wanting to enter organised competition later in the year – one hopes this does not occur.

During the past year, the committee have spent much time and effort reviewing the TYMBA Constitution and Rules with a view to eliminating the anomalies that have plagued us since the last AGM – the result of their deliberations will be evident later in this meeting. In keeping with requests received from our membership, much work was also channelled into arranging a Concert Band competition in 2008 to mark our Silver Jubilee Year; however a lack of response meant this had to be abandoned.

I offer my sincere congratulations to all bands and individuals who competed in our competitions last year and to Bandmasters and Trainers who continue to improve the quality and musicianship in the performance of their band. I also congratulate all other member bands who, although absent from competition, continue to present the best of youth activities to a wider audience – well done indeed.

It is always a sad occasion when we say goodbye to Committee members who have submitted their resignations for personal reasons. A big thank you is extended to Richard Warrington (Membership Secretary), Bill McKay (Solos Organiser) and Stephanie Cottrell (Midlands Rep) for their commitment to TYMBA and their sterling work and great support to me. I would also like to thank the remaining members for their great effort and support over the past year when the Committee was subjected to much unnecessary criticism by a few members who *'talk the talk'* but do not *'walk the walk'*.

As you are all no doubt aware, I have also tendered my resignation and will hand on the responsibility of Chairman at the appropriate stage during this Meeting. I deem it a great privilege and honour to have served as TYMBA Chairman but the responsibility for all the shortcomings over the past year must ultimately stop with me. I sincerely hope that you give my successor the support that such a responsibility deserves and I hope that the Association can move on and flourish in the months and years ahead. I will watch, from afar, with great interest.

Tony Crossman
Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared and distributed to the meeting by Dave Wood. A few questions were raised:

- 1) Why is the insurance so high at £455? – This is because it is insurance for 12 months which covers TYMBA for everything.
- 2) It was thought that the solos paid for itself. – No it doesn't but the deficit is lower than it has been for the past few years.
- 3) Is an operating loss of £722.30 usual? – It varies from year to year. There are certain costs that are fixed and cannot be altered and if bands renew late then the year looks worse. It was not a good year this year. We need to do fundraising to cover what we spend. We could also look for more bands or put the subscriptions up for each band.

The acceptance of the 2007 accounts was proposed by Joanna Nelson and seconded by Dave Gilby. They were accepted unanimously.

Membership Secretary's Report

Mr Chairman, Committee members and TYMBA Membership, please accept my apologies for not being in attendance at this year's AGM.

2007:-

The TYMBA Membership Year ended on 31st October 2007.

This gave 2007-year end membership figures of 31 bands, 9 individuals and 5 Contests.

In comparison to 2006, these figures represent a decline in membership from 38 bands and 13 individuals and 6 contests.

2008:-

Membership renewals for this year commenced from 1st November 2007.

A relatively swift response to renewals was forthcoming although a few member bands still weren't aware of the change in Membership dates, which was voted in the previous year.

Renewing in November gave the advantage that contests and bands could begin to plan earlier for this seasons contests.

At the time of this report each TYMBA member will have been issued, either by post or email, a copy of the Associations Membership list as at 8th April 2008.

As of 8th April, TYMBA has 20 member bands, 5 individuals and 4 contests registered.

Membership is down by 10 bands and 4 individuals in comparison to this time last year.

A date has yet to be given for the TYMBA 2008 National Finals thus no date is shown in the Membership List.

Future:-

Once again TYMBA has a number of absentee bands that have yet to renew.

A number of bands have indicated either a decline in band membership, which has lead to one band folding, or bands do not wish to compete and therefore are not renewing their membership.

A number of issues within TYMBA and some concerns over the Committee may have also lead to bands not renewing.

However, the Association Committee has new ideas and is open to listen to all constructive criticisms, suggestions and ideas from the membership and will act upon the membership's majority wishes.

I have held the post of Membership Secretary for a number of years and seen Membership remain both steady and, sadly of late, decline.

It is up to us all to work together in getting the Association on an even track.

And to give youngsters the opportunity to work together, compete in a friendly manner and for the adults to develop the Association further to constantly improve the environment for any band, or individual.

25 years of TYMBA has to be celebrated by us all pulling in the same direction, to increase membership, keep the traditional styles of what we do flourishing, and ultimately give everyone the enjoyment of being in a band.

I am a Bandmaster myself, as most of you are aware, and I, as do you, know the hard work that is required to maintain a band, keep membership up and keep a band running!

It cannot be done by one person alone. We each have a number of key people making up our band officers and doing what is believed to be the right thing to maintain a band!

Not all the kids agree with the bandmaster's decision of course!

TYMBA is no different. It cannot be run by one person, therefore a committee is elected and it has to make decisions for what it believes are the right reasons, even if some TYMBA Members disagree.

Each TYMBA Committee member has to be dedicated to their task in order to do it well.

If they cannot dedicate sufficient time, in order to do the job well, then the Association could be let down.

With this in mind the time has now come such that I cannot dedicate the necessary time to continue as Membership Secretary.

Therefore I have decided to step down.

Being on the Committee has been an honor and a privilege.

I know other committee members have reviewed their respective positions and given serious thought to their future and that of the Association and I wish each of them well and thank them for their dedication, perseverance and time whilst serving TYMBA.

I'd like to finish by thanking everyone for their support throughout my time in office and wish each and every one of you success in banding at whatever level you achieve.

I'm not disappearing from view as I still run a band and hope to see most of you at these years' contests.

Richard Warrington
TYMBA Membership Secretary.

Contest Panel Report

Dave Wood said 'contests that have happened, have happened' with quite a low turnout. The Nationals decision was made and is gone, we should draw a line under it and move on.

The discussion that followed was opened by Paul Wong who asked what we had learned from this year:

- It is hard to get contest organisers together.
- Things usually go in cycles – as there is a recession bands should get stronger.
- We all need to pull together.

There was a lot of confusion and mixed messages about what was happening were being passed around, this is what was most damaging. Even though the information given by Dave at the time was clear it is felt we need to improve communication. However, we can not stop people making spurious allegations.

The same thing could happen this year at the Nationals as there are fewer bands in the Association so what contingencies can be put in place?

- We can plan earlier because we know the venue is available.
- Lack of members has financial implications so could the bands who want to compete absorb the cost?

It was a very busy year for Scout bands with the Centenary which one reason why some bands did not compete.

A date has not been set for the Nationals this year but is intended to go ahead.

It is also intended that at least two contest panel meetings will take place this year at a time and place decided by the contest organisers.

Regional Representative Reports

South

Competitively, the southern contest was good despite the lack of numbers. Throughout the season Southern bands maintained their standards.

Congratulations to 17th Tonbridge who won the National Class League.

As there was no nationals this year it was felt that it was not a good end to the year.

On a negative point, Waterlooville have disbanded and three southern bands have also had members (either past or present) pass away.

- Kirk Redpath of Romford Royal British Legion was killed in Iraq.
- Matthew Hobbs was tragically killed in an accident.
- Arthur Show the former bandmaster of Colchester Corps of Drums has passed away and condolences have been passed on.

North

Last year there were 10 Northern Bands in TYMBA, all competing and doing quite well.

Our Scout Bands, Alderley, Davyhulme and Spen Valley took part in the Centenary Celebrations of the Scout Movement both at Windsor Castle for the St. George's Day Parade and at the huge International Camp at Kent. On Community Television at 6:30 a.m. we saw some of the young people we know from TYMBA Bands. I believe they made a few friends from around the world and are still talking to them via the internet now. Moreton took the plunge and made their first CD to sell and raise funds.

Unfortunately five of the Bands from the North have not re-registered, four of them were Church Lads' and Girls' Brigade Bands; some of these bands have been with TYMBA for many years. Our Chairman did contact them directly but none have returned. This is a great shame as these bands used to compete and helped keep the three contests "up this way" going. They will be a great loss.

Some better news. Spen Valley Scout and Guide Band have a very new member. George was born to Joanna and Carl Nelson in February. Congratulations to you all.

On a final note there are five Northern Bands left in TYMBA and I hope they will all compete and have a really good year.

Julie McKay
Northern Rep.

Formal Election of Officers

- 1) Chairman – Dave Wood was proposed by Moreton BB/GB Band and seconded by Jane Cotterill. There were 15 for and 4 abstentions so Dave was duly elected.
- 2) Vice Chairman – Jane Cotterill decided to withdraw her resignation and also John Saunders was proposed by Dave Gilby and seconded by Nicola Matthews. There were 6 votes for Jane, 7 votes for John and 6 abstentions so John was elected.
- 3) Treasurer – Kim Foreman was proposed by Rubery Youth Marching Band and seconded by Moreton BB/GB Band. There were 18 votes for and 1 abstention so Kim was elected.
- 4) Membership Secretary – Julie McKay was proposed by Kate McKay and seconded by Andy Downton. The vote was carried unanimously.
- 5) Head of Contesting – Joanna Nelson was proposed by Moreton BB/GB Band and seconded by Rubery Youth Marching Band. There were 16 votes for and 3 abstentions so Joanna was duly elected.
- 6) Midlands Rep – Ade Evans volunteered to be Midlands Rep and was unanimously voted in.
- 7) Drew McKay and Andy Downton volunteered to take over the running of the Solos Contest from Bill McKay.

Election of Committee Members

- 1) Ade Evans volunteered to be Midlands Rep and was unanimously voted in.
- 2) Martin Rapley volunteered to be a Committee Member.

Appointment of President and Vice President

Ernie Wright was willing to stand again.

Dave Gilby asked to put forward a proposal that Dick Bouchard could be made 'Honourary life President' in recognition of his work for TYMBA but as proposals must be with the secretary 28 days before the meeting the proposal was withdrawn because of the Rules. It was asked by the members on the floor if the Association would, at the earliest possibility, give appropriate recognition to Dick Bouchard.

Ernie was voted in as President unanimously.

Motions to propose changes to the Constitution and Rules

Proposal 1 – Amend 2.2.6 to read, Communicate to the membership via agreed media. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposal 2 – Amend 5.1, change date to 1st day of November. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposal 3 – Add a new section 7. A few amendments were made on the day and section 7 now reads: A notice of motion to be included in a meeting agenda must be submitted by original copy and be received by the Secretary on or before the day of the meeting having been signed by the proposer (who must be a full member) and the seconder.

Exceptionally the Chairman and/or the Committee may allow the late submission of a motion providing they are satisfied it could not have been submitted earlier and that it is a matter of significance to the Association, such that it fulfils the criteria for urgent business.

The proposer and the seconder must be at the meeting otherwise the motion will not be moved.

If the motion is required to be implemented with immediate effect then this must be stated within the motion otherwise it will be deemed to come into effect the following year. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposal 4 – Amend 15.1. Replace the have with hold. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposal 5 – Amend 15.3. Amend to read “Except where otherwise stated in this constitution, voting will be restricted to members (or their appointed nominees) present at the meeting and decided by a simple majority. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposal 6 – Meeting Procedure rules. Proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Jane Cotterill.

There was an addition to 4 – Notification and Agenda for the AGM will be sent out by post. This was carried with 17 votes for and 2 abstentions.

There was an amendment made to 9.2 to read

1. Omit &/or Insert words or change.

This was carried unanimously.

The Meeting Procedure Rules in their entirety were carried unanimously.

As a result of this motion the word ‘postal’ should be added to 19.2 in the Constitution.

Proposal 7 – Move the date of the AGM. This was originally proposed by Richard Bennett and seconded by Lee Stacey. It was amended to read:

Move the date of the AGM from April of each year to a date that is no more than 10 weeks after the TYMBA Nationals are held. The amendment was proposed by Richard Bennett and seconded by Dave Wood.

This proposal was carried unanimously.

Motions relating to general changes to contests

Proposal 8 – After much discussion this proposal was withdrawn as Tony felt it was not what the membership wanted. Rubery contest will run following the standard TYMBA rules and may have a concert band contest running alongside.

TYMBA Nationals 2008 – This was closely linked with proposal 8 and it was proposed by Julie McKay that section 3 should run following standard TYMBA rules with the option of entering sections 1 and 2 (these 2 sections can also be entered by non-TYMBA Bands). If a band pays to enter section 3 then entry to 1 and 2 is free. Entrants to sections 1 and 2 only will also have to pay a fee. Turnout will be judged prior to whichever section you perform in first. The final paragraph should be removed. This could be piloted at the Nationals. This was seconded by Richard Bennett.

This was voted on by the membership that was present and carried by 16 votes for and 2 abstentions.

AOB

- 1) Competition entry forms – can these be made generic and available for download on the website? Most people thought this was a good idea and would be very useful. Sam Hewitt is to speak to Joanna Nelson who is Head of Contesting.
Claire Stacey also had an idea for a competition entry form which would state which competitions a band intends to enter throughout the year as this would assist contest organisers by letting them know who intended to play at their contest. Entrance fee for each competition would be sent off with the form. People were undecided whether this was a good idea or not as some bands felt they would not like to pay for competitions if they were not sure they would enter and some bands can not afford to pay for them all at once.
- 2) Bandmasters/Youth Forums – Would anyone be interested in trying this so that Bandmasters and Bands can have more chance for discussion? It was thought that this should be started at a regional level to see if there is sufficient interest.
- 3) Solos – the solos finals held in the morning of the AGM was a brilliant contest and thanks must go to Bill McKay for today and his hard work in the past. Thanks also to Andy Downton for securing sponsorship prizes.
It was asked whether the solos will be running this year and where. The solos will be running but the venues are at present unknown.
It was also asked whether the Association could give a donation to the contest hosting the regional heats but it has not been decided whether the solos will run at contests or be run on a separate day.
- 4) Banbury 2009 – Are the membership interested in a band contest held in Banbury on June 14th 2009? This is a big show run by the Round Table and Rotary Club of Banbury and could be an ongoing thing. It would be run with Bodicote RBL’s help.
Most people said they were interested.

- 5) Website – Dave Gilby was appalled at some of the postings on the website and asked if it could be amended and used just for notifications. Lee and Dale are working on a redesign for the website so Dave's comments were noted.

Next Year's AGM

An offer was made by Thurmaston Marching Brass to host next year's AGM, the date dependent on the date of the Nationals finals. This was voted on and with 13 votes for and 3 abstentions the offer was accepted.

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