

Traditional Youth Marching Bands Association Annual General Meeting 2009
Thurmaston Scout HQ, Leicester
Sunday 25th January 2009

Present

Dave Wood	Chairman
John Saunders	Vice Chair/BFYMBO rep
Kate McKay	Secretary/Judges Liaison
Julie McKay	Membership Secretary/Northern rep
Kim Foreman	Treasurer
Joanna Nelson	Head of Contesting/Spen Valley S&G Band
Andy Downton	Solos contest/Events/PR
Ade Evans	Midlands rep/Kings Norton
Martin Rapley	Committee Member/17th Tonbridge S&G Band
Paul Wong	Halesowen Scout Band/Halesowen contest
Liz Pennington	Spen Valley S&G Band
Helen Smith	Moreton BB/GB Band
Jane Bailey	Grafton District
Claire Shrubbs	Grafton District
Emma Starkey	Grafton District
Sarah Rapley	17th Tonbridge S&G Band
Richard Warrington	Thurmaston
Vicky Garratt	TYMBA Nationals
Darren Green	Thurmaston
Samantha Crane	Thurmaston
Craig Hampson	Thurmaston
Steve West	Thurmaston
Simon Taylor	Alderley
Emma Simpson	Alserley
Jim Field	3rd Davyhulme

Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Gilby (South East of England contest), Tony Jackson (Rubery contest), David Leach (Honorary Member), Jeff Johnson (Individual Member), Dave Edge (Redhill Corps of Drums), Sam Hewitt (Kings Norton), Martin Hissey (Individual Member), Ernie Wright (President), Dale King (Webmaster), Teresa Walsh (Haverettes), Lee Stacey (Southern rep) and Dennis Yarwood (Davyhulme).

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 2008 AGM held at Waseley Hills High School, Rubery were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome the new members to the committee, we are already beginning to feel the benefit of the extra help, and the variety of new ideas and the fresh approach that new blood inevitably brings.

2008 has seen the return of some members to the competition field that have been absent over the last few years, 2009 is expected to see the return of some others that have not been seen for some time.

Membership is roughly on a par with last year considering that the AGM is 3 months earlier in the year than it has been previously.

During the year, we have received feedback from the members regarding various issues; we have listened to this feedback and have decided on the following;

Committee meeting dates have been set for the next 18 months (to my knowledge this has never been done before) and will be published on the website. Any member wishing to attend may do so, that being said, booking so far in advance means that there will always be the possibility of changes but generally, our aim is to stick to the dates published.

Meeting minutes will be published on the website in the bandmaster's section, with anything that is not for public consumption being removed.

Constitution & Rule book updates have been completed and a process agreed for the future updates to be published in a timely fashion, with the target being publication within 4 weeks of any change. The full update will be issued once any changes that are made today have been included.

We have also decided to implement a complaints process, 2008 has seen a couple of complaints, which have been submitted in different ways and therefore have not been dealt with in a consistent manner. The process going forward if anyone wishes to make a complaint will be to put the complaint in writing to the chairman, copying the secretary, stating the nature of the complaint with as much background as possible. The chairman will then either investigate the complaint or appoint someone else to investigate it, a report will be made to the committee, a resolution agreed, and then a reply will be made to the complainant.

2008 has seen the introduction of various extra competitions within the main competition. At some of the contests, these have taken various forms and have been supported in varying degrees. Generally speaking everyone seems to be in agreement that this has been the most positive action to come from 2008, however we have also received a lot of feedback regarding the variations and the difficulty of trying to adapt from one week to the next to a competition that is essentially the same but has different rules at each contest.

You will see later in the agenda that we have taken steps to try to address this situation and hopefully if these standard rules are accepted then that will result in more bands participating in the extra competitions.

Our focus for 2009 is quite simple.

With all the things that we have now put into place we should have our own house in order, we want to keep the website current and fresh and will be looking at ways to make it easier for things to be posted/added to try to ease the workload on the webmaster.

We can then promote the association in a positive light and drive to increase the membership.

I would like to close with a personal vote of thanks to all members of the committee for their support throughout the year, it has been difficult at times, but I think we have now come through that and can look forward to a much more positive future for the association.

Treasurer's Report

From a Financial point of view it has not been a good year, whilst the number of members has shown a slight decline, we have some bands that did not renew by the year-end closure so their renewal has not shown in this years accounts.

General running costs have risen slightly as was expected.

The website operating costs have not been offset by the Google ads; in fact we have not received any income from Google this year. This income is obviously directly linked to the users of the website browsing the ads, as most of the users are usually the same people then it seems unlikely that we will earn too much more income from this source.

We have had a number of one off expenses this year, Nationals trophy replacements and an inflated cost for last years AGM (due to the solos finals) to name a couple.

Both National competitions have returned losses this year, the solos as always is expected to make a loss, however we suffered a larger than expected loss on the Nationals, this was due entirely to the reduced number of playing members in the competing bands. With the same number of bands

competing as in the previous Nationals, we had almost 150 less playing members and therefore a negative effect on audience numbers. However, with the introduction of the new competitions on a permanent basis hopefully we may attract more participants in future years.

Therefore, the challenge for this year is to increase the membership numbers. In general, many of our costs are fixed regardless of the number of members so any amount of new members will have a positive effect on our finances, if each member band could find one new band to join the association then this time next year the position would look very much healthier.

With that, I would like to take this opportunity, unless there are any questions, to propose that this meeting endorse the 2008 accounts as presented.

Kim Foreman (Treasurer)

Please see attached sheets for Financial statements.

The accounts were accepted as presented.

Membership Secretary's Report

At the time of renewal in October 2008 we had 24 Bands registered with TYMBA, four individual members and five contests. Most of these members renewed quickly with only a few stragglers. Five of the Bands have not renewed, two because they forgot, two because they do not wish to and one has not replied, despite a reminder last week. I am waiting to hear whether Manchester are renewing their contest for this year.

Up to today we have 20 Bands registered, four individual members and four contests. Not too bad for at the beginning of the year. We also have a new band registered with TYMBA, the Grafton District Scout Band. We wish them good luck for the future within TYMBA.

I am in contact with three Bands at present, trying to encourage them to join us. I have had a communication from Joe Pointon at Leek asking; "If he were able to run their contest how many bands would be interested?". He is looking at running it in May, to start the season. If you would be interested in this Contest please Email me so I can let him know the response.

This year I would like to try and contact Bands around the Country who do not belong to TYMBA to try and recruit some members. Please if you know of any Bands in your area give me their names and I will try to contact them. I will also try to contact as many Scout & Guide, BB/GB, ATC and Sea Cadet Bands that I can. Even if we only get a couple that would be good.

Julie McHenry

TYMBA Membership Secretary.

Contest Panel Report

This year has seen quite a few issues around the contesting circuit. Hornchurch had to change venue at the last minute, Rubery had to cope with adverse weather conditions & Davyhulme didn't have a full set of judges a week before its date. However all coped with their situations & ran their contests.

Some contests included extra bits for bands to take part in, all went down well & were enjoyed by everyone who participated. This is the reason for putting forward a standard set of rules to cover a Set piece contest, Drill contest, Parade contest and Concert contest so bands can rehearse for these events & each contest follows the same set of rules.

Going forward Andy is looking to change the set up of the solo contest to include all instruments & Halesowen contest will be moving venues to Himley Hall to coincide with their Veterans Day Celebrations.

If anyone has any other ideas about contests then please let me know.

Regional Reports

South

Lee did not send a report as he only found out last minute that he could not attend. In his absence his report from the Committee Meeting on 11th January 2009 was read out:

My Position on Committee

Although my band Burgess Hill Marching Youth has not renewed TYMBA membership this year, I see no reason why I should not continue to support TYMBA as Southern Region Representative. I would like to thank members of the committee and all of the bands in my region for helping me coming to this decision and supporting me in my role.

Nationals

Well done to all bands that participated in the TYMBA Nationals. Once again bands from the south had a strong presence and continue to raise the bar with respect to the standards expected from traditional marching bands.

Particular praise should go to Chesham All Girls. Who, even though competing in a class on their own delivered a stunning performance well worthy of every caption trophy.

Bands

It was nice to see the return of Dolphin this year. As always delivering an entertaining repertoire to the contesting arena. Long may it continue!

I would also like to thank Redhill Corps Of Drums for providing a great evening's entertainment in the form of their annual inspection and show evening. It was nice to see some of the things the band does outside of the contesting arena including concert pieces, ensembles and marching displays. My Wife and I enjoyed the displays and are looking forward to attending this event again.

Finally, I would like to wish all bands, members and patrons of TYMBA a Happy New Year!

Lee Stacey

TYMBA - Southern Region Representative

Midlands

The Midlands season started with the annual Sticks and Tones show performed by Syston Scout and Guide Band on Sat 2nd Feb 2008. It's the second time that myself and members of my band have travelled to Leicestershire to watch Syston's highly entertaining show and we're looking forward to the 7th Feb for this years performance.

Then came the beautiful, British summer and the bands in the Midlands region were out getting generally soaked whilst performing in the many carnivals, fetes, street parades and other diverse events which they take part in throughout the Midlands during the season.

As regards competitions hosted by bands in the Midlands region, Halesowen Marching Band Contest ran on the fourth Sunday in June and was supported by TYMBA bands from all over the UK, Halesowen Scout Band, have asked me to thank those bands for their support and look forward to welcoming all TYMBA bands to the 2009 Halesowen Marching Band Contest which will be held on Sunday June 28th at a new venue, Himley Hall, the ancestral home of the Earls of Dudley.

Rubery's competition took place on the 06 July. 13 Bands in total took part. 4 bands in each class with the exception of Novice class having just one. The Solo's contest (southern heat) took place same day. Typical, for last year's summer, there was plenty of rain for the bands and spectators' to endure. This years contest is planned for Sunday July 5th, and I've been assured by Tony that more rain water is to be expected!!

Kings Norton Band has held an outdoor activity camp for a number of years now. This year's camp was held on the weekend of the 26-27 July and we extended an invitation to both Burgess Hill Marching Youth and Syston Scout and Guide Band to come along and join us. Needless to say it was a hectic, but very enjoyable weekend at which the children, young adults and leaders made new friends and bonded very well in the team activities. This years dates have yet to be set, but we've already had an interest from an additional band in joining us for 2009.

There have also been a number of Massed Band's organized during 2008 in which TYMBA Midlands Bands have taken part.

Halesowen Scout Band appeared with a number of other scout or scout & guide bands at the Lord Mayors of London's parade where they formed the National Scout & Guide Band at this event.

Kings Norton has performed in Bedworth as part of the newly formed National Massed Bugle Band along with members from Burgess Hill, Blazing Brass, Tonbridge Scout & Guide, Syston Scout & Guide and Bodicote RBL. Halesowen have appeared together with Rubery Youth Marching Band at a number of events and have played with the National Youth Marching Band at the Birmingham International Tattoo.

As regards new membership of bands, I can only report on my own band and Halesowen. Membership of Kings Norton has increased slightly and Halesowen Scout Band has been busy recruiting and following the efforts made has managed to gain 22 new members.

North

By the time of the Competitions in June, most of the Bands had renewed and I am really pleased that the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade Bands came back to compete.

All the Northern Bands took part in the contests and we are really proud that one of our Bands, Alderley District Scout Band won the National Finals in November.

The highlights of the year, I would say were Manchester Contest where there was a Concert Band Contest and a Marching Contest as well as the main Contest and the Set Piece Contest and Drill Squad at the Nationals. Everyone I have spoken to really enjoyed the challenges these brought and thoroughly enjoyed the days. Thanks go to Dennis Yarwood and Dave Wood and their teams for their hard work.

Formal Election of Officers

No nominations and everyone was willing to stand.

Election of Committee Members

No volunteers

Appointment/election of President and Vice President

No-one opposed to Ernie Wright being re-elected.

Motions to propose changes to Constitution and rules

Proposal 1 – A proposal to change the AGM from '10 weeks after the TYMBA Nationals are held' to 'the last weekend in January wherever possible'. Proposed by the Committee (Kim Foreman, seconded by Kate McKay).

The reasoning behind this was that with the Nationals being held earlier in the year all proposals would have to be with the Secretary during the Christmas/New Year holidays which is not practical. This proposal would give us a few extra weeks and would be more stable with everyone knowing which weekend the AGM would be.

The South East of England contest proposed an amendment to move the AGM back to April which was seconded by Rubery contest. This amendment was not carried with 2 votes for and 17 against.

An amendment was proposed by Kim that if the proposal was voted in it would be with immediate effect. This amendment was carried with 17 votes for and 2 abstentions.

The proposal including the amendment was carried with 17 votes for and 2 against.

Proposal 2 – That Turnout placings are no longer counted towards overall place points (proposed by Martin Rapley and seconded by Joanna Nelson). An amendment was made to this proposal by Martin Rapley that if the motion was carried it would be with immediate effect. The amendment was carried with 13 votes for, 2 votes against and 4 abstentions.

After much discussion the vote was taken and the proposal including the amendment was carried with 12 votes for, 5 against and 2 abstentions.

Proposal 3 – To adopt the suggested rules for extra sections of competitions with immediate effect (proposed by Dave Wood, seconded by Joanna Nelson). This was because the bands wanted consistency so that they could enter 'add ons' at more than one contest without having to change their routine. A few amendments were made by the contest organisers present (see attached sheets – amendments in red italics).

This proposal including the amendments were carried with 15 votes for, 3 against and 1 abstention.

AOB

- 1) Richard Warrington raised the point that at contests his band is getting comments from judges about tuning. He asked if the contest organisers could find somewhere after inspection for 10 minutes where bands can tune up. It was suggested that the inspection area could be the easiest place to do this. The 3 minutes at the back of the arena before the bands compete is not long enough because it is used for a warm up and to get into position. It was also suggested

that in the judges briefing the judges could be informed that the bands do not have the time/space to tune up as a professional outfit so they should make their comments accordingly. This issue is to be taken to the contest organisers who will endeavour to do something.

- 2) The solos has changed to a stand alone day (20th September 2009) as the heats were a nightmare to organise and ran at a loss. More sections would be added for other instruments so it would be open to every musician. It is hoped that with more people entering it would be more cost effective. The idea is that there would probably be 6 sections with the winner of each section playing against each other at the TYMBA Nationals for musician of the year. The solos organiser Andy Downton will send out more information to the bands soon.
- 3) One of Andy Downton's roles on the Committee is PR however, he is not being used. He has access to EVERY local and National media outlet in the UK and could help publicise events etc.
- 4) Sam Hewitt from Kings Norton asked for clarification on when judging commences. Are all disciplines and classes judged from when the band commences its performance as this did not happen in 2008, the drill was being judged from when the band entered the arena (as does Drum Major) because you make an impression as soon as you enter the arena. However it was felt that since the judges are asked whether they are ready just before the band commences its performance, they should not be judging before this point. Therefore, under section 6 (Urgent Business) of the Meeting Procedure Rules, the Chairman allowed a proposal to be put forward by Simon Taylor and seconded by Martin Rapley. This matter was considered urgent business because it affects the judging of all bands and was felt that it was wrong for judges to be judging for different lengths of time. It needed to be dealt with well in advance of the first contest so that everyone knows where they stand. The proposal was that there was an amendment to Section Two (red section), Category B, rule 6. The words 'and judging' would be added so that the rule would read:
Timing and judging shall start from the First Note or Drum Beat sounded and shall terminate with the salute made by the Drum Major or Senior Bands person. If the performance has not started within 15 seconds then the Timekeepers will start timing.
This proposal was carried with 14 votes for, 2 against and 3 abstentions.
- 5) A question was raised as to whether any exceptions are made for people with disabilities and who do you inform. Exceptions are made for people with disabilities and the contest organiser needs to be informed who will make the judges aware if necessary.
- 6) Davyhulme contest in Manchester will be held on 10th and 11th September 2009.

Date and venue of next year's AGM

The next AGM will be on the 30th or 31st January 2010 and will be hosted by the South East of England Contest. The venue is to be confirmed.

Dave declared the meeting closed and wished everyone a safe journey home.