

Minutes of the Hampshire County Youth Band Association AGM

Held on Saturday, 25th November 2017

Present : Brian Stoker, Pip Armitage, Lee Farley, Cathi McKenzie, Steve Wilding, Debbie Dennison, Claire Lavery, Joanne Gill, Mary Bithell, Pauline Andersen, Kevin Shaw, Barbie Lloyd, Stephen Toledo-Brown, Heather McLeod, Alison Elmslie, Gwen Provost, Lorna Leather, Martin Gibbs,

Brian welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies received from Yvonne Martin and the Library ladies (Tara Potter & Margaret).

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 17th November 2016 were adopted as an accurate record. Proposed by Debbie Dennison and seconded by Joanne Gill.

3. There were **no** matters arising.

4. Chairman's Annual Report. HCYBA is a registered charitable organisation (Registered Charity No 297707). Brian began by saying that Music enhances the lives of children and we see evidence of this every year as Band members move through the three bands. We are so fortunate in Hampshire to have the full support of Hampshire County Council (HCC) which funds Hampshire Music Service (HMS) which in turn gives our children the opportunity to develop and discover the musical skills in a friendly encouraging team environment. The Association continues to flourish thanks to the commitment of Jock McKenzie and his team to all three bands, not forgetting Endangered Species, a vital cog in encouraging musical development. The Association marked the retirement of Jane Bryson by offering our best wishes for a happy retirement together with a gift voucher.

Brian also thanked every member of the Association for their support and hard work. The charities objective is to advance the musical education of the member of "The Bands" by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for their music education, in addition to those provided by HMS. This entails giving financial support, logistical support, catering facilities and the support needed to ensure the well running of rehearsals and concerts. A special mention was given to Cathi McKenzie and Lee Farley for their hard work ensuring the committee meets its objectives logistically and financially. The Treasurers Report will highlight the financial support given to "The Bands" but again thank you to you the parents for the contributions given through subscriptions, especially your voluntary contributions and support through your Raffle contributions at the Band events. Brian also thanked

Alison Elmslie who is stepping down, for all her hard work with processing the gift aid forms. Alison agreed to handover to Lorna Leather who is happy to take Gift Aid on.

Highlights of the year included:

The Croatia Tour; Winchester Christmas Market; Easter Extravaganza at Perins; Fairthorne Manor Weekend; Summer Concert at St Swithuns.

Brian concluded by saying that it had been an exciting year with plenty of buzz at the main concerts with raffle draws, cakes and tea adding to the excitement of live performance by our talented Band members and the Committee look forward to a successful year in 2017/2018 with your help and support.

Acceptance of Brian's speech was proposed by Cathi McKenzie and seconded by Gwen Provost and unanimously agreed by all committee members.

5. Treasurer's report for the Year Ending 31st August 2017. Lee's financial report was outlined as follows:

Summary

Income for the year totalled £23,317 (2016 £17,988) with expenditure of £24,974 (2016 £13,447) giving a shortfall for the year of £1,657 (2016 £5,175 surplus). At the end of the year the total reserves were £22,981 (2016 £24,638). The Association previously allocated £10,000 for the purchase and maintenance of loan instruments used by Band members who do not have their own instrument. At the end of the period, £6,293 of this remained.

Income

Total income for the year was, like last year, significantly higher than previous 12 months. The generosity of the Band community remains generally consistent, but we were fortunate again to receive a large one off donation from Mike Prewer in memory of his late wife, as well as a significant refund of £2000 which was claimed through Gift Aid after great work by Alison. Matchfunding of £500 was also granted following a request from a band parent, while the Raffles (Xmas & Summer concerts) along with the Easter Extravaganza cake stall generated over £1800.

Expenditure

Similarly, expenditure was much higher than in 2015/16 but much of this was only made possible by the increased income, detailed above. The annual Fairthorne residential weekend required sectional tutors and professional players, which, together cost £3500. Almost £2000 was spent on music, instruments and repairs to existing instruments. A new PA system and 2 large "sail" banners were purchased for £2500 and a further £2000 was granted to offset the cost of the Junior Band and Training Band Tour in 2016.

Reserves

The Association started the year with reserves totalling £24,638. This decreased to £22,981 by 31st Aug 2017. A number of liabilities are already anticipated and these have been discussed by the committee. Notably, it has been agreed that the Association will make a large contribution towards this year's senior band's Tour to Croatia. A final settlement is expected on this, shortly. Notwithstanding this, the reserves remain healthy and the committee have reviewed the Reserves policy.

Budget and Treasurer's report adopted. Proposed by Gwen Provost and seconded by Pip Armitage.

6. Musical Director's Report.

Jock McKenzie began his report by reminding the Association of the context in which the HCYB's operate:

The HCYBs are part of the provision of HMS. It is through funds provided by HMS that staffing costs and rehearsal costs are provided for the three bands. Staffing is defined as the conductors of the three bands plus Mark Streather (percussion tutor). Additionally HMS provides administrative support (Emma Davis) and senior management support. Beyond this the costs of all band activities and resources as well as our Endangered Species Project (next phase starting Jan 2018) have to be met by money 'raised' from band activities and of course from the generous and regular input from HCYBA. Typical examples of this expenditure are concert venue hire, transport of equipment, music purchases, instrumental purchase and repair, tour support, residential course subsidy, extended room hire cost for 10tet and Percussion Ensemble rehearsals, professional artist fees etc.

The academic year that ended in July 2017 was successful on numerous fronts:

- Good & often excellent performance standards
- A very successful HCYB Tour
- Opportunity to maintain a high profile before those of influence (Councillors etc)
- Enhancing & replacement of instrumental stock/music resources
- Sustaining effective student numbers (& quality) despite smaller numbers of young brass players across Hampshire. HCJB membership is particularly encouraging this academic year.
- A very productive residential course

This year it is the turn of HCTB to enjoy the benefits of an overseas tour. It is a known fact that tours are a real highlight of band membership. Even so, in planning tours for the band one is constantly keeping an eye on price & how this equates to opportunity; particularly as "Brexit" uncertainties continue to have a negative impact on tour quotes etc.

The current HCJB outlook is particularly encouraging – increased numbers, a good spread of instrumentation and two new and inspirational co-conductors (Jo Payne & Matt Watling). The average age of HCJB is currently at its youngest and this factor was particularly influential (alongside others) in taking the decision for HCJB not to tour this year. The staff team will endeavour to seek new ventures as an alternative to a tour – ideas please! A very significant reason for the success of this year’s HCJB is the integration of the last phase of our Endangered Species Project. I am hoping to start a new phase of recruitment for January 2018 (currently waiting on new HMS brass teacher recruitment drive). Our Endangered Species project exists solely as a result of the provision made by HCYBA.

Outlook

It is becoming increasingly apparent of the financial strain that many of us feel. This brings with it the challenge of recouping certain expenditures (e.g. Fairthorne Manor Course fees/HMS ensemble membership charge). I am mindful to keep the costs to our members as low as possible whilst still seeking to put together a meaningful & beneficial programme of annual activities for the bands. Ultimately membership of the HCYBs is about the music and the opportunity to enjoy/benefit from rehearsing and performing music to the best standard achievable. As a direct result of HCYBA support, I am proud to say that ANY young person (with the necessary musical skills) can access all that the HCYBs offer and we offer a lot – we are not short of instruments, music, opportunities to perform etc.

Thank you

Jock finished by thanking the following:

- HCYBA and especially the committee for all their hard work and support; financial & ‘manpower’. Thank you too to the team of adults who work regularly for the good of the bands – our library & refreshment teams. Thank you to the many adults who have helped at concerts, van driving/loading/coordination, residential visits, tours etc.
- My staff team – Jon Cranston, Jo Payne, Matt Watling & Mark Streater
- Jane Brydon – after many years conducting HCJB. Jane retired at the end of the last academic year (July 2017)
- To the staff at HMS – Emma Davis for her administrative support and help, Helen Walton (Assistant Head of HMS) and Jill Larner (Head of HMS)

Accepted – proposed by Brian Stoker and seconded by Pip Armitage

7. Election of Officers

There were **no** changes to existing or any new officers. Chairperson – Brian Stokes. Vice Chairperson – Lorna Leather. Treasurer – Lee Farley. Secretary – Cathi McKenzie.

8. Election of Committee Members.

Debbie Dennison & Tammy Jo-Johnson – Refreshments,

Heather McLeod – Grants,

Pip Armitage – Website and Safeguarding,

Lorna Leather – Gift Aid,

Claire Lavery – Minutes,

Pauline Andersen – Friends of the Band,

Joanne Gill – Fundraising co-ordinator

Gwen Provost - Fundraising co-ordinator

Yvonne Martin – Uniform. (Yvonne was absent from meeting but had not informed Committee that she wished to relinquish the responsibility of uniform).

Proposed by Mary Bithell and seconded by Steve Wilding.

9. A.O.B.

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on Saturday 13th January 2018