

# **Dunbartonshire Concert Band**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at Cairns Church, Milngavie

Chairperson: Vicky Evans  
Minutes taken by: Alison McCree

### **1. Apologies**

Joan Gemmell, Alison Beattie, Brian Lees.

### **2. Acceptance of 2006 AGM Minutes**

The minutes of the 2006 AGM had been available to members on the band website.

No questions or issues were raised, and the minutes were adopted by Archie McIlvain and seconded by Colette Waller.

### **3. Chairperson's Report**

Vicky Evans began her report by announcing that she is stepping down as Chairperson having been in the post for the last 3 years.

She took the opportunity to look back at some highlights over this time.

The move to Cairns Church is one of the biggest achievements. It is great that we have a place where we can call our home and the facilities here mean we are very comfortable. The garage development work is about to begin and this will allow us to have secure storage for the band library.

#### Key concerns that Vicky highlighted include:

The Royal Highland Show that we are invited to attend every 2 years, which we get £400 for, and which is a very enjoyable day.

The Summer Concerts that have become an annual highlight.

The move towards having our own Christmas concert at Cairns (the first one being this December) which gives us the opportunity to show off at our own concert.

The Fintry Fling - another fun afternoon for us.

#### Up coming concerts that are new for us this year are:

Kelvingrove Art Gallery on 1<sup>st</sup> December and  
Christmas Concert at Cairns on 13<sup>th</sup> December

The St Andrew's Weekend is another new event introduced during Vicky's time as Chair. It has been very well received each time and the feedback has been very positive each time. Vicky is keen to keep this as an annual event, and although the accommodation at St Andrews is ideal, this is not to say we can't in future move around different venues.

#### Thank You's from Vicky's time as Chairperson:

Peter McKinnon - for all the work he has done towards organising the garage work and for the ongoing liasing he does with Cairns on our behalf, plus for running the DCB 100 Club which is a key fundraiser for the band.

David Broad - for his role as treasurer. The band has been constantly in credit for the last 3 years and it is credit to his good budgeting that we are in such a stable financial situation.

Other committee members (past and present) and the people who willingly do extra work for the band (eg Colette Waller, Andrew McCafferty, Alan Cooper...)

Section Reps - for willingly taking on this role as it has improved communication within the band and the organisation of the music, ensuring parts are widely available.

Robert Baxter - as Musical Director, people probably do not realise how much time and effort goes into choosing music for us over the summer and through the year and also in arranging substitute conductors when he is unable to take a concert or

rehearsal.

Vicky finished her report by encouraging people to get more involved if they are interested, and wishing David Broad well as he takes over as Chairperson for the next 3 years.

No questions were raised at the end of this report.

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

Alison McCree reported that the band membership is currently 56, which is more than last year. Membership tends to fluctuate year on year, but we are bigger than in recent years, which is encouraging.

Alison asked that people keep their details up to date, so the address list stays current.

A new address list will be issued at the start of November.

Finally, copies of the current engagements list is still available from Alison.

No questions were raised at the end of this report.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

David Broad handed out copies of the current financial statement before beginning his report.

Overall, our bank accounts are very healthy and in good order.

One of David's main aims during his time as treasurer has been to always finish the financial year with £1000 in the bank account, so we are able to pay our hall lets and Robert Baxter at the start of the new session before the subs are collected after the AGM.

##### DCB 100 Club

David spoke about the DCB 100 Club run by Peter McKinnon, and outlined why it is a key fundraiser for the band, putting the proceeds directly back into band funds and allows us to purchase new music every year. Over the last year, £650 has been spent on new music, at Christmas 2006 and over the summer 2007.

##### Garage / Library

We have been granted £1000 from East Dunbartonshire Council to use towards refurbishing the church garage to use as our band Library. The estimated total cost is £1200-1500, so we need to raise the remaining amount to cover the difference. The final agreement is almost in place with Cairns church to start the work. David noted that an offer of a loan to cover the difference in the cost of the work had been made by a band member, but did not anticipate having to accept this offer.

##### Financial Statement

This was circulated and presented in a new format, to comply with the new OSCAR regulations. This format allows us to easily compare the differences from year to year.

Points to note from the statement are that we are still waiting for £400 from the Royal Highland Show. A donation of £280 from a potential sponsor has been applied for.

Tea Money, continues to be a good earner!

Band assets were listed and estimated to amount to £25,000 for insurance purposes, although it is very difficult to value to library and estimate how much it would cost to replace if lost.

The final point to note from the financial statement is that OSCAR regulations state we have to use a chartered accountant for audit. Suzanne Cuthill currently does this for us for free. She has previously audited the accounts for us unofficially.

##### Thoughts for the New Committee

David finished his report by suggesting a few points for the new committee and new treasurer to consider.

Our hall let fee increases from £20 to £30 per week this year., which is a £400 increase for 40 sessions, and equal to roughly

£10 per head.

The 100 Club should continue to run and new membership should be encouraged.

New music should continue to be budgeted for.

Musical Director fees should be reviewed.

If a foreign trip is considered, discuss how to save for this.

As outgoing treasurer, David proposed an increase in the subs from £70 to £75 full rate and from £35 to £40 reduced rate. (These had been discussed by the committee prior to the AGM.)

No questions were raised at the end of this report.

## **6. Musical Directors Report**

Robert began by looking back at a very enjoyable season of concerts over the last year, notably the concert at Tron Church and New Kilpatrick Church where we were able to help raise lots of money for charity.

He also spoke about the very positive feedback he received from Nigel Boddice following the summer concert in June. Nigel conducted the concert at short notice and felt that the band played the best he has ever heard in the 7 years he has been involved on and off with us.

### Repertoire

Robert Baxter began his report telling the band that this year we have added more pieces to the repertoire than usual over the last year.

Since August 2006 to now, we have added 16 new pieces and performed 13 of them in concerts. Normally, we would add 10-12 pieces. We are still to perform Wilten Festival Overture, ET and John Williams Evening at Pops but Robert hopes to work more on these after Christmas.

The 5 new Christmas pieces introduced last year and our other Christmas music will be used again this year at our pre Christmas concerts.

We are fortunate to be able to borrow music from Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble as it allows us to extend our repertoire without any extra expense. This year we have borrowed 7 pieces from them.

Robert thanked David Broad for allowing him money to buy new music and hopes that he has chosen music that has something for everyone.

After Christmas, Robert wants to start working on 2 new pieces. The Shostakovic Jazz Suite (7 short pieces) Robert hopes to buy for the band and Rimsky-Korsakov's Clarinet Concerto he hopes to be able to borrow. Barry Deakin, a clarinettist in the BBC SSO has agreed to play this with us.

### Concerts

Robert promised that he would be announcing the programmes for the concerts coming up in the next week.

He also reminded everyone of the programme for the National Concert Band Festival, which is Carolina Seasons, Cent Mille Chansons and a short piece called Ovation that will be issued at the next rehearsal.

Robert spoke about trying to avoid arranging concerts in September and October and January and February as this allows us to have time to learn and rehearse new music. This allows us to be able to refresh the music pad annually.

### The Future!

Robert is looking forward to the concerts we have planned and also to the possibility of a trip abroad next summer.

He encourages us all to consider to take either a short course of instrumental lessons, or start regular lessons because this would improve us as individuals and collectively as a band. The importance of lessons cannot be underestimated. There are always things to be learnt from lessons.

We are good at the moment, but Robert doesn't want us to become stuck in a rut of being a 'middle grade' band.

Overall, the band is playing very well. He especially praised the saxophones and lower wind sections and the clarinets. He also thinks we could do with a couple more trumpet players.

Finally, Robert thanked Vicky, as outgoing chairperson, for her support over the last 3 years.

No questions were raised at the end of this report.

## **7. Election and Re-Election of Committee**

Vicky explained that while last year we were able to re-elect the committee as a whole group as no-one was standing down and no-one was joining the committee, this would not be the case this year as changes were being made.

The election of the committee took place as follows:

Chairperson: David Broad  
Proposed by: Alan Cooper      Seconded by: Harriet Fishley

Vice Chairperson  
& Ordinary Member: Vicky Evans  
Proposed by: Ian Angus      Seconded by: Laura Watt

Secretary: Sally Thomson  
Proposed by: Derek Galloway      Seconded by: Julian Fosh

Treasurer  
& Trip 2008: Monika Mihm  
Proposed by: Julian Fosh      Seconded by: Phil Hair

Librarian: Alison McCree  
Proposed by: Candy Rankin      Seconded by: Sally Thomson

Engagements: Laura Watt  
Proposed by: Hannah Newall      Seconded by: Monika Mihm

Ordinary Member: Peter McKinnon  
Proposed by: Monika Mihm      Seconded by: Bob Coates

Following the Election of David Broad as Chairperson, Vicky handed over to him and David chaired the rest of the meeting.

## **8. Subscriptions**

In his treasurers report, David proposed an increase of £5 on each of the subscriptions from £70 to £75 full rate and from £35 to £40 reduced rate.

Questions were invited from the band regarding this.

Anneli Demberg: Can we not increase it to £80, given the increase in costs shown in the treasurer's report?  
Response: We can vote on this after the discussion.

Monika Mihm: What about a compromise and increase £10 on full rate and £5 on reduced rate?  
Response: Not really feasible, as a high proportion of the band currently pay the reduced rate.

Peter McKinnon: Commented that it has always and still is the position of the band to make arrangements for anyone who cannot afford the subscription.

Megan Bernacca: Asked if it was possible to pay the subs in instalments rather than a lump sum?  
Response: Yes, definitely.

Alan Cooper: Supported the increase to £80 and also commented that subs have always been a 'minimum' so there is the opportunity to pay more if desired.

There were no further questions, so voting took place as follows:

Vote for Increase to £80 full rate and £40 reduced rate:  
For: all present except those against (majority vote)  
Against: 5  
No abstentions.

Vote for Increase Proposed by Committee:  
For: see note below  
Against: 4  
No abstentions.

Note: This vote was difficult to measure as people had already voted for the higher increase previously, and were unsure how to vote.

It was decided after voting that the new subscription for this year will now be carried forward at £80 full rate and £40 reduced rate.

Anneli Demberg added a final comment on the subject, mentioning that some other bands in this area pay £20 every month and rehearse in a less comfortable venue so we are really lucky with what we have at Cairns!

There were no further questions or comment regarding subscriptions.

## **9. Musical Director's Fees**

*Robert Baxter left the room at this point to allow discussion to take place regarding his fees.*

David Broad explained that Robert currently receives £70 for a rehearsal and £80 for a concert. It is proposed by the committee that we should increase the rehearsal fee to £80 and keep the concert fee the same at £80. (These fees are still less than recommended by Making Music Scotland)

Deputy conductors will still receive £60, which we propose to keep the same.

Questions were invited from the band regarding this.

Andrew McCafferty: Is Robert happy with the fees he receives at the moment?

Response: We think he would like a little bit more, and the cost of finding a replacement for him would outweigh the increase we are suggesting.

Vicky Evans: She has spoken to Robert about the new fees and he is happy with this. Because the rehearsal fee is increasing the overall increase for him is greater than if we were to only change the concert fee. Overall, this is about a £400 increase.

Bill McLelland: Can the band afford this increase?

Response: Yes.

There were no further questions, so voting took place as follows:

Votes for an increase to £80 per rehearsal:  
Yes: all present except those who did not vote (majority vote)  
No:0  
Abstentions: 13

It was decided after voting that the Musical Directors fee for 2007-2008 will increase to £80 rehearsal and £80 concert.

There were no further questions or comment regarding MD Fees.

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

### 1. Dress at Concerts (raised by Anneli Demberg)

Is there any way we could consider keeping our blue and white dress for informal concerts, but allow the ladies to wear all black for our formal concerts when the men wear their formal dress? This might look smarter and give a better image.

Vicky Evans explained that a lot of people in the band would agree and that this has been spoken about at committee meetings. Robert is not keen for us to do this as all the other bands and orchestras in the area already have this 'uniform' and we are different when we wear black and white.

Andrew McCafferty suggested that maybe instead of black tops, the ladies could wear another colour instead.

This will be raised again with the committee and Robert.

### 2. Trip Abroad (raised by David Broad)

The band is keen to make another trip abroad in the next year. A committee will be formed and led by Monika Mihm.

The committee members from the 2004 trip who were present (Andrew McCafferty, Anneli Demberg, Alison McCree) all encouraged people to start work on this as soon as possible as there was a huge amount of work to do for it.

Alan Cooper commented that the only change he would like to see would be better accommodation - most people present agreed!

### 3. St Andrews Weekend (raised by Vicky Culshaw)

Vicky Culshaw (new horn player) asked if there was any way the weekend away to St Andrews could be moved back a couple of weeks from its current last weekend in August date. As someone who was just joining the band at the start of term, she felt that there was no point in coming to the first rehearsal (before the weekend away) if she wasn't able to go to the weekend away. She felt that if there were a couple more rehearsal at the start of term and then the weekend away, she (and any other new people) would have had the chance to get to know some band members before going away for a whole weekend.

David Broad explained that the weekend happened the last weekend in August as it is right at the start of the new session and gives us the chance to have fairly intensive look at new music. He also suggested that it is inevitable that some new people may not hear about the weekend before it happens.

Vicky Evans also noted that the accommodation at St Andrews would not be available in September as the term starts again and also that Robert and the instrumental tutors also would not be able to give up the whole day / weekend outwith the summer break.

Andrew McCafferty also pointed out that the St Andrews weekend is still evolving and that there are other opportunities to get to know people in the band without having to go away for the weekend.

Peter McKinnon pointed out that the weekend away was publicised before the summer break.

Anneli then added that everyone who joined in the first week of the new session missed out because the weekend was the following week.

#### Cost of Weekend

Still relating to the weekend away, Colette Waller commented that the lower brass sections felt as though they were losing out by not being able to attend the weekend and asked whether band funds were invested in the weekend to subsidise it at all.

David Broad responded by assuring the band that the weekend is only subsidised with band funds for the musical director's fees and sectional tutors fees otherwise it is covered by the amount people pay. He noted that the Financial Statement that

was issued in the treasurers report does not reflect this due to the timing of bank statements and payments relating to the weekend.

Peter Wood drew discussion about St Andrews to a close by congratulating Vicky and everyone else involved in organising it for such a successful and enjoyable weekend. The response from the band to this comment confirmed this.

*There was no further business to discuss and Vicky closed the meeting at 13.35.*

"....