



## 2018 Forum 2

10.30am Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Colwell Arts Centre, Derby Road, Gloucester GL1 4AD

### 1. Present

#### *Committee:*

Mike James (Chair & Flowers); Robert Morgan (Vice Chair, & Lydbrook); Karin Lythell (Secretary & Flowers); Kevin Ford (Contest Secretary & Lydney Town); Sharon Stratford (Treasurer & Parkend Silver); Ian Ford (Trophy Officer); Mark Lythaby (Webmaster & Lydbrook); Roger Stratford (Exec & Forest of Dean Brass).

#### *Other Band Representatives:*

Kerry Ford (Lydney); Samantha Ford (Lydney Training); Adrian Bodenham (Thornbury); Sally Carpenter (Cheltenham Silver); Louise Moore (Forest Brass Training Band); Kristyann Symonds (Forest of Dean Brass Training); Sally Joyce (Frampton on Severn Silver); Andrea Reid & Sue Mills (Gloucester Excelsior & Training); Debbie McDougall (Nailsworth Silver); Peter Dillon (Nailsworth Silver); Helen Walters (Tewkesbury Town); Simon Oliver (Wotton Silver & Training); Bruce Davies (Wotton Silver & Cotswold Edge).

#### *Other Attendees:*

Thomas Dunne (Filton Concert Brass); Lyn Ford (Refreshments); Dave Hayward (Independent Chair: Forum)

### 2. Apologies

#### *Bands:*

A W Drybrook; Bream Silver; Bendix & Kingswood; Chalford & Chalford Youth; Cirencester & Training; Gloucestershire Music; Phoenix Brass; Phoenix Brass Training; Stourport-on-Severn; Swindon Pegasus.

#### *Individuals:*

Paul McLaughlin (Lydbrook); Jon Elliot (Frampton).

### 3. No Reply

#### *Bands:*

Cinderford & Academy; City of Bristol; Gloucester Brass; Monmouth Town; Nailsworth Silver Training; Pillowell Silver; Ross-on-Wye Town; Ross-on-Wye Town Improvers; Winchcombe Concert Brass.

#### 4. Welcome by Dave Hayward

- Forum 2 intended to review plans and make actions to see GBBA is 'fit for purpose in the 20<sup>th</sup> century'
- Brass Band World: need for band management, committees, multiple group involvement, can take example from Lithuanian brass band infancy – appreciative audience, pride, and youth development
- Brass Herald: Local contest (solo & quartets) are key for evolution of brass bands (Swiss)

#### 5. Task 1: Workshop, Training, & Events

##### Kerry Ford addresses Forum

- Met 29<sup>th</sup> October to discuss ideas about: festival events, band days, training band possibilities, sharing best practice, weekend event with workshops, training band and massed bands
- Actions:
  - Kerry - Costings for pro group to run day event for GBBA
    - Flowers – replied next day, Paul Richards: cost depending on what do you want?, need another meeting to discuss this; utilise contacts to run as lower key event (Bold Brass, Cotswold group)
    - A4 Brass Quartet - £1000+
    - RWCMD – no response despite follow up in Jan 2018
    - LEAP ensemble – no response despite follow up in Jan 2018
    - Prince of Wales corps (yet to contact)
    - Cost: £1000-2000
    - Findings sent on to group
  - Paul – appropriate venues
    - Not present
    - Has 'some venues and prices' but these have not been forwarded to group
  - All – format of event:
    - Paul - Cotswold Edge Festival (piggy back their event?)
    - Karin
      - Already have plenty of youth opportunities
      - Blast Off
      - Cory Band
      - Lydney Workshop
      - Bailey Lane End
      - Out of This World
      - NOT SO MUCH FOR ADULTS – need to address this gap
    - Kerry
      - Need to think about what the bands want
      - Start on smaller project e.g. more specific workshop then grow from success

- Future Meeting:
  - Decide on selection of ideas and propose to band members to decide which to do first (prioritise)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> April meeting with Gloucestershire Music (Steve Legge not present) = collaboration between GBBA, Glos Music, and Cotswold Edge Festival to run a two-day event in late 2018, including Philip Harper MD, Tom Hutchinson, with £500 from Glos Music to be matched by GBBA and Cotswold Edge Festival. The workshops would include conducting and tutoring workshops for band leaders and tutors and workshops on playing available to players Grade 5 and above from youth to 21 yrs, which would result in a recording for Music For Youth Festival.

### **Task 2: Follow-up Discussion - meeting of Task 1 group to be re-set**

- Need to promote youth groups and advertise more
- **Proposed action:** use the GBBA website, Facebook, and newly created Twitter account to promote events
- Research provision for adults
- There is lots of youth music in Gloucestershire and Cheltenham but some struggle to get these places. Therefore, we need places in Forest & Stroud/Cotswold areas too
- **Proposed action:** Provision map for Gloucestershire and GBBA perhaps fill gap
- Need to train the tutors
- Need focus for one or two *successful* events
- Cotswold Edge Festival may be better attended if event held in January or October
- Push for keeping GYBB as regular ensemble

## **6. Task 2: International Links**

- Robert Morgan addressed Forum
- Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland. The brass band movement is spreading worldwide and we can learn from European banding!
- Switzerland
  - Movement about 50 years old, driven in its early years by Marcus Bach and assisted by Roy Newsome to develop into a National Championships consisting of over 80 bands
  - Value quality = music colleges attached to small towns, each school have brass bands (same as in Norway), with many solo competitions running regularly
- Lithuania
  - Local authority support (match fund)
  - Lydbrook Band present instruments and £2000 10 yrs ago
  - Smaller ensembles join together for larger ensembles
  - Teaching music in schools as important social activity
- Norway
  - 40 employees manage music activities in country including brass bands, orchestras, jazz groups, etc.
  - National Government funding
  - £400 membership per person to band subs for Eikanger
  - Peripatetic teaching partially funded by Norwegian Music Federation

- UK
  - Cuts in music teaching and funding means we (as bands) have to fund ourselves and apply for grants from local councils
  - Brass Bands England to organise seminar in partnership with GBBA and Eikanger for our members to attend; BBE will fund
  - BBE £100 annual membership; GBBA member bands encouraged to join BBE also
  - Many bands from Europe and USA responded to Tom Henderson's request for opportunities to twin; contact Tom Henderson if interested in twinning.

### **Task 2: Follow-up Discussion**

- Funding from Arts Council England comes from government
  - Need to claim using form with idea planned out
  - Form is hard work, but worth it and Lydbrook have claimed already
- Limited music opportunities in some schools
  - Member bands should forge local links with schools in own areas to run workshops with school children 2-3 times annually
  - Can use plastic instruments to attract new players from schools
- Possible to ask BBE to send a rep showing how to fill in the grant request forms?

## **7. Task 3: Communication**

- Bands need to ensure their contact details are correct
- GBBA website: thanks to Mark for keeping it updated, with WEBBA reps; receiving good traffic but can utilise the local contests and Areas to increase further attention
- Lack of communication from bands individually to GBBA and to each other; this needs to be improved if we are to help each other
- Need bands to make recommendation for Area Adjudicator
- Newsletter x 2 issues are useful to advertise contests, explain what GBBA do, articles about GBBA bands, but we have had very little feedback on its effectiveness and reception with member bands
- More information required about band jobs to put on website and Facebook events; please can member bands send them in to GBBA

### **Task 3: Follow-up Discussion**

- Need personal conversation in addition to email and social media and calls
- Please continue with newsletters; member bands like them and read them!
- Some band members that get emails from GBBA are not the ones that have the information (bands need to internally manage information and reply to GBBA)
- Keep GBBA website updated with WEBBA reps

## **8. Future Directions**

### **Communications**

- GBBA can support bands by providing information on child protection, data protection, funding forms on their website; member bands need more guidance on these issues. Perhaps these could also be run as training seminars to inform band managers and tutors on how to write and edit their own policies, funding applications, and best practice

- Muzodo & Teamer are applications that can be used for effective internal band communications – they are free or £35 annual for additional features
- Newsletter:
  - Distribute quarterly via social media, email, and paper copies
  - Populate by pulling content off social media accounts of member bands
  - Encourage member bands to submit a quarterly summary of their jobs and activities to GBBA to help with writing content for newsletter
  - Events from bands on website
- GBBA Reps should make personal appearances at member bands' rehearsals to talk directly with the band and their members to gain feedback and actions to take forward to meetings. This also shows that the GBBA are proactive in their roles!
- Regular Forum meetings needed, perhaps with a theme and invited guest speaker to increase discussions on specific topics and attract more members to attend.

### **BBE & Seminar**

- Norwegian collaboration is a 'go' and will be funded via BBE Agreed

### **Workshops & Band Development**

- Have workshops, training sessions, and masterclasses running alongside GBBA contests to attract larger audiences
- Bands to discuss own Training Needs in Band environment and collaborate about training techniques
- Run a solo/quartet contest to develop performance skills at all levels

Thanks given to Dave Hayward for chairing the Forum 2 meeting.

The next Forum will take place in September 2018 (proposed), to be organised by Chair in absence of Secretary.

Forum 2 closed at 12pm.