



**SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
**7.00pm on Zoom**

**Attendees:**

Ray Kingdon, Chairman (RK)  
John Woods, Vice-Chairman (JW)  
Kevin Gibbons, Secretary (KG)  
Gill Rogers, Secretary (GR)  
Sue Oldfield, Minute Secretary (SO)  
Keith Edwards (KE)  
Bob Julian (BJ)  
Mark Phillips (MP)  
Robin Teague (RT)  
Gil Taylor (GT)  
Paul Field, Weston Brass  
Becky Frisby, Bideford Town Band

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Tracey Phillips, Bugle Town Band

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

All agreed minutes are a true record of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024. RK signed.

**3. Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

RK thanked GR for her annual report and thanked her for her excellent work throughout the year.

**4. Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

KG informed the meeting the Micro accounts have been sent to Companies House and have been accepted. Subscriptions are up compared to 2023 and the donations increased specifically around the mid-winter workshop. KG thanked RK for his efforts in obtaining the donations. There has been an increase in cost of insurance and venue hire costs. However, we are showing a £2,022 surplus which is a good sign as we have been running with a small surplus now for the last 2 years. The accounts in the bank are showing a balance of £20,883 but this included the money held for the entry fees for the mid-winter workshop. KG thanked everyone for their support for SWBBA. If any query, please do not hesitate to contact KG directly.

RK thanked KG for everything he has done as treasurer over the last year and commented that it is very positive we are in a reasonable financial position.

**5. Honorariums to Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer**

RK asked if we the honorarium amounts should remain the same or be increased.

RT responded to say he believed they were actually increased last year.

KG checked his records and confirmed they were increased. The total amount is £1,271 following the increase last year.

RK recommended we keep them as they are for this year.

All in favour for the honorariums to stay at the same rate.

## 6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

RK informed the meeting JW has indicated he would like to stand down from the role of vice chair. RK thanked JW for everything he has done for his work for SWBBA in this role. His input has been invaluable. GR seconded this as JW has provided her with lots of support.

A general discussion took place as to if anyone was willing to put themselves forward to stand as Vice-Chairman.

RK proposed RT for the role, which GT seconded. However, RT said he would politely decline to accept the nomination. RT added he is very willing to work behind the scenes for the Association but would rather not be in the forefront.

KG suggested everyone should go away and think about it.

JW agreed that will be fine as long as it gets sorted at the next meeting. Bands can easily be notified. Clearly demonstrates how important it is for more people to get involved to understand what is involved particularly around the responsibilities of Directors for example.

RK asked if everyone was happy to vote the remaining positions 'en bloc'. All happy to proceed in this way.

Nominations:

President – Leonard Adams  
Chairman - Ray Kingdon  
Vice Chairman – John Woods (*now retracted*)  
Secretary - Gill Rogers  
Treasurer – Kevin Gibbons  
Trophy Officer – Bob Julian  
Minutes Secretary – Sue Oldfield  
Executive Committee – Keith Edwards, Mark Phillips, Tracey Phillips,  
Gilbert Taylor, Robin Teague.

Paul Field proposed the Executive Committee as above (apart from Vice Chairman post)

Becky Frisby seconded.

All in favour.

KG asked if the new executive committee members would be happy to become directors for the Association.

RT said keeping in mind the SWBBA is in place to run events for the West of England with only 2 band representatives external to the Committee attending it is very demoralising. If we were to say the committee is no more, what would happen. Nobody new is stepping forward. We have been lucky with both Mark and Bob joining the team in recent months.

GR added that only one band had sent a formal apology. She emailed everyone to remind them of the AGM and suggested perhaps we should ring around as well. Membership of SWBBA is down a couple of bands from last year. Band numbers are going down generally. GR said she had recently found a leaflet that the SWBBA produced in 1996 celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which listed over 70 bands as members.

BJ said this is not a problem unique to us. General thing we really need to do is to try to get people to realise they need to do something. BJ has a lot of friends in bands in Devon & Cornwall and feels the only way forward is a personal approach and talking to people. We do desperately need to do something.

RK said the Association has actively offered to attend more local events to show support but really not much take up.

BJ suggested perhaps we should just turn up at rehearsals.

JW said he didn't disagree with what was being said but bands generally don't invite us.

BJ added that in 10 years' time we won't be able to do this. He added that he is happy to take it on as a project.

RT stated that if no longer the 4 local associations (CBBA, GBBA, SWBBA & Wessex BBA) WEBBA will not exist.

BJ said we need to get some more people in added that he will take on role of Vice-Chairman to do this as a formal representative.

RT added that somehow we need to encourage younger members.

BJ agreed and said we need to encourage people to come. A similar situation happened with the WEBF Bugle committee recently, there was bit of a shakeup, which made people realise what they were losing.

KE said the key issue is that most bands are struggling to get volunteers to run their own bands. He had been at the Plymouth Methodist hall earlier that day and was surprised at the amount of support. It was not what he would have expected to see at a Cory Band concert – wasn't a huge amount of people. He also went to see the Royal Marines band recently and their MD actually said he hoped to see a bigger audience next time. JW had talked about succession planning 3 years ago.

BJ added that without wives and/or family we would not be able to run our event in November. LA had spoken to Bob directly to ask him to get involved. Possibly bands don't always get to hear the messages if not read out in the bandroom.

JW said that may well be the case, but he has given out the same message from the stage at every contest for the last 5 years. Very similar situation in CBBA, Wessex BBA and GBBA. Also a plea has been in the event programmes for last 10 years.

RT proposed BJ as Vice-Chairman.  
Paul Field seconded.  
All in favour.

## **7. Council of West of England Brass Band Associations**

To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee:

Delegates to The Council – Ray Kingdon, John Woods and Gilbert Taylor.

RK asked if everyone was happy for the delegates to remain the same.

All in favour.

Substitute Delegate to The Council – any member of the Executive Committee – only 3 meetings per year.

## **8. Arthur Bedwell Memorial Trust**

To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee:

The Elected Trustees – Ray Kingdon, Gilbert Taylor, Gill Rogers, Kevin Gibbons

All in favour.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **November Championships**

SO confirmed the RIC is booked for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November.  
Adjudicator confirmed as Chris Binns.

JW said we need to push ahead and plan for it and should again bring the closing date forward. Fortunately there does seem to be an appetite. If we can get 26 or 27 bands the financial side of things will look a bit healthier. In previous years we have subsidised this event from workshop and membership fees.

### **July Entertainment Festival of Brass 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

RT explained the concept of the event. Only 2 entries received to date with the closing date in 2 weeks' time. Without a minimum of 8 to 10 bands the event won't go ahead. This was the type of event bands asked us to organise but no response. It is very disheartening.

Paul Field informed the meeting that unfortunately Weston Brass were not able to take up the offer of this event as the band is actually away for the weekend. He suggested perhaps the Association could specifically invite bands instead of waiting for them to join.

RT clarified that all bands receive a direct email invite from SWBBA secretary and it is an invite for everyone to attend.

JW agreed with RT that it needs to be a minimum of 10 bands to make it a reasonable day

RT said that for the Exmouth Contest they initially used to limit to a maximum of 15 bands, but numbers dwindled down. The last time that contest ran it was only 7 bands. The layout at Exmouth seafront has also changed so another reason we are not doing it. The Festival of Brass event was supposed to replace it.

GR stated that it would be good to understand why people don't want this event.

RT added that following the feedback from the questionnaire we sent out, this event covered the aspects most people wanted.

MP informed the meeting that from his band's perspective (Lanner & District Silver) the event is cost prohibitive owing to the distance to travel. Unfortunately they couldn't warrant another £1,000 cost for a coach on top of the expense for the regionals and November contest.

BJ said the Cornwall Festival Brass event works well as the participating bands don't need to pay to travel.

RK asked if we leave the entry open to the closing date or do we decide to close owing to a lack of entries.

RT responded to say as we always get late entries for other events, he suggested we will leave it until 26<sup>th</sup> April - if not 8 to 10 entries by then we will need to pull the plug.

RK thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 19:41.

Ray Kingdon  
Chairman

