

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LITTLEPORT BRASS BAND**  
**MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 – 7:30PM**

**Present:** Andrew Keen (Chairman); Simon Sharpe (Vice-Chairman); Sharon Sharpe (Secretary); Angela Revell (Treasurer); Eleanor Sharpe; Tony Roberts; Steve Garwood; Matt Ralph; Manda Smith; Tracy Reeve; Diane Philby; Nigel Markwell; Yvonne Boyle and Nigel Bramley

**Apologies:** Giles Philby; Sue Peacock; Shaun Pope and Ryan Goodall

**Minutes of the Last Meeting** – were read by all present and agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman, Andrew Keen.

**Matters Arising**

- ◆ Concerts with Chris Jeans and King's School did not happen and it is hoped to hold some sort of concert in 2011.
- ◆ Awards for All – unfortunately we do not appear to be eligible.
- ◆ In the summertime the outside of the Bandroom needs to be treated (it has been 10 years since it has been done).
- ◆ Shaun Pope to look at the possibility of putting an article in the Littleport Life magazine.

**ACTION: Shaun Pope**

**Chairman's Report**

As my year as Chairman comes to a close I would just like to say that 2010 has been a great year for the band, the excellent fourth place at Stevenage in March, the busy and profitable array of summer concerts and finally a fantastic second place result at Leicester. All these elements have come together to produce a very enjoyable 12 months.

During a busy 2010 the behind the scenes work has been constant, a big thanks must go out to all Committee members for their hard work, focus and efficiency, a special thanks to Simon who has been a great help as Vice-Chairman. Also thanks to Tony who contributes to our contest results by obtaining the best draws for us.

As well as the back room team there has been excellent commitment and focus in 2010 from the players, the bands results have been due to hard work from the players, excellent leadership from Nigel and of course, a little bit of luck on the day. The concerts have been varied and players have worked hard to keep up the standard from the contest. I think we are definitely making progress, players are becoming more aware of the standard required as first section looms, some players are even taking music home, next step I suppose is to practice it.

A warm welcome to the band in 2010 for Matt and Yvonne who have become valued assets. A big thanks to all the people who have helped with getting deps in for engagements, your contribution to this difficult task is appreciated.

2011 is now upon us and first section is most definitely the goal for this year, I am sure your 2010 enthusiasm and commitment will sustain through the next 12 months, this could be a historic milestone year for the band so let's go and get it.

Thanks once again for everyone's commitment, focus and hard work through 2010. Littleport Band is a great hobby with great people and I am proud to be your Chairman and a player.

## **Musical Director's Report**

Another successful year. We hit the ground running with an excellent result at the Areas back in March, with a well deserved 4<sup>th</sup> placing on a technically challenging piece, a big improvement on our 9<sup>th</sup> placing in 2009. Attendance at rehearsals was good, and I felt that it was a fair result, having listened to the other bands that were placed above us that day.

Our first Concert of the year at Sutton was ok given the type of program they had requested. Themed Concerts are always difficult to pull off, and I thought that it had generally gone down quite well. The summer jobs also went well with a full Band at most of them, well done Andrew and the committee for fixing the deps, it's a difficult job to do, especially during the summer when all the other Bands are often out the same days, which makes it even harder to find suitable deps during this busy period. Littleport Show was a little bit disappointing, through no fault of our own, I almost felt they didn't particularly care if we were there or not. March Park more than made up for it, with the Band on form and some great feedback from the Audience.

The autumn was a challenge as far as contesting was concerned, having to give Pontins a miss this year was a little disappointing, but was the right decision at the time, and then not being able to get in at Folkestone, even though we entered well before the closing date was annoying to say the least. However, we entered Leicester Contest for the first time, and what a fantastic result, 2<sup>nd</sup> place on what was probably the most difficult piece the band has played, Purcell Variations, a 1<sup>st</sup> section graded piece, which I felt suited the Band, and which you all seemed to enjoy playing.

It was good to gain some more players this year, with Yvonne joining on solo cornet, and Matt Ralph joining on solo Trom, who brings with him the experience of playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> and Championship section, It would be nice to fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bass Trom positions this year, it's good that we have Mel, Gregg and Michael to call on, but they are unable to come on a permanent basis. At last we have a permanent Solo Horn, Clare Hall has made a big difference to the Horn section and is settling in nicely, her sound and technique improving all the time.

An exciting year ahead, we have managed to get a full band already for the Areas, and already I can hear an improvement in the Bands sound quality. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is there for the taking, it could be ours this year if we want it enough. I'm always talking about intonation, and although it still creates a challenge for us, it is getting better. We must remember the importance of home practice; it's not about how long you practice for at home, but what you practice at home. Fifteen minutes on long notes and technical exercises or studies will do far more for you, than just blowing through pieces until you lip goes, even when you need to learn a new piece for the Band, there's no point in constantly blowing through a piece for the sake of ten bars. And always keep listening to your sound when practicing, make sure every note is a good quality one every time. This time next year we could be preparing for our first contest in the 1<sup>st</sup> section, so the target for this year is to keep building on what we have already achieved.

Thanks for a very successful year.

## **Treasurer's Report**

It became apparent quite early into 2010 that many of our old trusted and relied upon summer engagements would not be staged that year due to cost cutting councils etc., and that if we wanted to earn money from playing it was down to us to actively look for opportunities. So we did, and I think we were all surprised at how readily they came our way. We picked up concerts at Oxburgh Hall, Kings Lynn Park and March Park. These engagements gave a welcome and much needed boost to our funds and we hope to be welcomed back again this year. All engagements are important however, and throughout the year altogether earned us a total of £1850.00, which is the most we've ever earned through concerts in a single year (carol playing excluded).

A much more structured approach to collecting subscriptions has also had a positive impact on the finances, with subs collected totalling £1440.00, almost double from 2009. Thank you to Louise and Adrian for taking charge of this so efficiently. Money raised from subs continues to be paid into the 'uniform' account, which is where we hold money while trying to save for more costly purchases, such as instruments. This is an ideal of course, as keeping up with the regular expenses of insurance, heat and light, registration fees and the odd new jacket here and there all have to be paid for too and in the lean months some of these funds do have to be drawn on.

We were fortunate early in the year, to be chosen as one of the local charities supported by the Waitrose Community Matters scheme. We were awarded a cheque for £377.00, which was a welcome boost. We are always on the lookout for any organisation that may give grants, so if you know of any please pass the details on.

I can't possibly forget to mention the great success of scooping 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Loughborough contest in November and bringing home £150.00 in prize money. A very well deserved result for all the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the band.

Again last year, due to the weather we had only one chance at carol playing, and this was the regular gig outside the Co-op on Christmas Eve. Thanks to those who were able to make it and of course to the band fairy, who is willing to turn up year after year in support of the band. We made £93.87.

I'd like to give my thanks to Ann Garwood for auditing the books for us once again.

## **Election of Officers**

President: Tony Roberts

Proposed: Louise Duffield

Seconded: Tracy Reeve

Chairman: Andrew Keen

Proposed: Sharon Sharpe

Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Vice-Chairman: Simon Sharpe  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Yvonne Boyle

Band Sergeant: Richard Duffield  
Proposed: Yvonne Boyle  
Seconded: Simon Sharpe

Treasurer: Angela Revell  
Proposed: Sharon Sharpe  
Seconded: Tracy Reeve

Secretary: Sharon Sharpe  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Tony Roberts

Musical Director: Nigel Bramley  
Proposed: Louise Duffield  
Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Librarian: Manda Smith/Tracy Reeve  
Proposed: Sharon Sharpe  
Seconded: Louise Duffield

Contest Secretary: Nigel Markwell  
Proposed: Sharon Sharpe  
Seconded: Simon Sharpe

Dep's Secretary: Andrew Keen/Simon Sharpe  
Proposed: Yvonne Boyle  
Seconded: Sharon Sharpe

Jackets/Instruments Secretary: Yvonne Boyle  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Tracy Reeve

Publicist/PR: Shaun Pope  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Sharon Sharpe

Committee: Eleanor Sharpe; Matt Ralph

## **Any Other Business**

### ◆ Website

- o For personal reasons Ryan had not been able to update the website and he also stated that he had not been given dates for concerts etc.

- o Louise suggested that as Shaun is taking on the PR role he should in future liaise with Ryan about the website.
- o Everyone agreed that the website was good and it did work, but Ryan needs to update pictures, snippets of music, results and rehearsal schedules.
- o It was agreed that this would be discussed further at a Committee Meeting.
- ◆ Attendance
  - o The whiteboard seems to be working
  - o Nigel B feels that attendance is improving
  - o Rebecca is going to bring in a wall planner for 2011
  - o Band members to continue to text Andrew if they cannot attend
  - o Andrew to circulate a contacts list to band members to get everyone's mobile numbers so he can send out reminders to players via text messaging.
- ◆ Matt wondered if it would be worth contacting ADEC to see if we could hold a "themed" concert ie "music from around the world". There was a general discussion about concerts and it will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ Nigel Markwell suggested that we needed a new band board – a promotional board with pictures and updated news, website details, contact details on it. To be discussed further at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ Butlins – Nigel Bramley would like to do this contest with the band. Sharon to find out costs etc. It was agreed that the band would do Folkestone this year.
- ◆ Rehearsals leading up to the contests – it was agreed that there was no need to take a 10 minute break.
- ◆ The car boot will be held in 2011.
- ◆ There had been a bonfire in the garden near the Bandroom. Andrew to speak to the Legion about this.
- ACTION: Andrew**
- ◆ Fulbourn and Teversham band had folded and there are various instruments for sale. Andrew to get a contact number and see what is available.
- ACTION: Andrew**
- ◆ Nigel Bramley mentioned that John Hudson would like to bring some instruments into the band for us to look at, and this will happen after the contest in March.
- ◆ It was mentioned that Veolia do grants for various things and Angie to look into this.
- ACTION: Angie**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.