

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LITTLEPORT BRASS BAND**  
**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2012 – 7:30PM**

**Present:** Andrew Keen (Chairman); Simon Sharpe (Vice-Chairman); Sharon Sharpe (Secretary); Angela Revell (Treasurer); Eleanor Sharpe; Tony Roberts; Nigel Markwell and Howard Peacock

**Apologies:** Matt Ralph, Andrew Bateman, Sue Peacock, Ryan Goodall, Tom Pearson, Adrian Revell, Richard Duffield, Louise Duffield and Amanda Kippax

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

**Matters Arising**

- ◆ Website – there has been a massive improvement and there is scope to add more. Ideas to Ryan. It was suggested that another person could have Admin rights to make changes when Ryan is not able too – the website still says “Season’s Greetings”. Nigel Markwell did not like the banner at the top of the website as he felt it made the site look like a community website.
- ◆ Promotion Board/A-frame – it was agreed that the A-frame was not needed as the Band plan to do more indoor engagements this year. It was agreed that we do need something though with the Band name on it – this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ Beer garden/smoking shelter – has not impacted on the Band as much as we thought it would, but will wait until the summer months and see what happens. Some of the Committee had met with the Legion to discuss the fact that the smoking shelter is on a small piece of our land – this will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ Fulbourn and Teversham instruments – the Band found out about this too late as most were sold when enquiries were made.
- ◆ Grants from Veolia – Simon had looked into this and we do not qualify.
- ◆ Shaun Pope to look at the possibility of putting an article in the Littleport Life magazine.

**ACTION: Shaun Pope**

**Chairman’s Report**

As my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Chairman comes to a close I would just like to say that 2011 has been another great year for the band. An excellent performance of Eric Ball’s “Resurgam” at the Areas in March confirmed that the band had improved a great deal on 2010’s achievements. A well-deserved placement of 4<sup>th</sup> moved us into position for 2012 moving closer to the 1<sup>st</sup> section. A superb effort from a dedicated, hardworking team.

The steady flow of concerts proved successful throughout the summer months building the profile of the band and securing necessary finances, big thanks again to all who were involved.

2011 was also an experimental year with the band holding its own Christmas Concert, something that had not been done for quite a few years. This proved to be a great success, a good audience turnout, a great MC, great solos, the band put on a great show, we even made some money. My thanks to the Committee who worked tirelessly to make it happen, to the players whose teamwork produced a great concert and to Nigel who program choice was

excellent (although scary at certain points). The success of this concert has given us a focus for 2012 to arrange further concerts to boost the profile of the band.

As 2011 moved into the colder months the band pulled out of the bag an amazing performance of "Oceans" to grab the 1<sup>st</sup> place slot at the Leicester Contest. What a great end to the year, this win confirmed that the 4<sup>th</sup> place at Stevenage was not down to luck but quality of playing and hard work. A big hip, hip hooray for the band

A warm welcome to the band in 2011 to Jamie, Sarah and Andrew who have become valued team members and have contributed a great deal through the year. We are one of Cambridgeshire's thriving bands with nearly all the seats filled. Excellent achievements especially as other bands are struggling.

My thanks go out to a rock solid, dedicated Committee who have worked non-stop to contribute to the bands 2011 success. Thanks to all players for their commitment and Nigel for his superb leadership once again. Another thank you goes out to Manda & Tracy who made a great team as Librarians, unfortunately they left the band in 2011 to pursue other avenues, and we wish them well in their endeavours. Also to leave was Yvonne who had been a valued player since 2010. We wish her and hubby Kevin all the best with the birth of their twins.

Thanks once again for everyone's commitment, focus and hard work through 2011, Littleport Band is a great hobby with great people and I am again proud to be your Chairman and a player.

### **Musical Director's Report**

First I would like to thank Andrew and the committee for all their hard work and support during the last year, and not forgetting Tracy and Manda for sorting the library out. I know what a difficult job it can be, as Sal and I look after the Library at GUS.

I was sorry that Tracy and Manda had to make the decision to leave the band last year, but fully respect their decision and I wish them every success in the future, I'm sure we will see them from time to time. We also have to say goodbye to Yvonne for a while, as she'll have her hands full with the arrival of her twins due very soon, this does leave a bit of a hole now on the front row, so if anyone has any ideas please come forward. It's always nice to see Ryan and Owen Duffield in the Bandroom, and it's always very much appreciated, but unfortunately due to work they are unable to be here on a permanent basis. It was great to welcome Andrew Bateman into the band, which has filled the long vacant Bass Trombone position. Andrew brings with him a wealth of experience, having played under Peter Graham with the Salvation Army Band, and more recently the City of Cambridge band.

Another good start to the year with a well deserved 4<sup>th</sup> place on Eric Ball's Resurgam at the Area contest in Stevenage, narrowly missing out on a trip to the finals, a good effort on what is still a very difficult piece of music. Although Folkestone contest was a little disappointing, I thought the result was a fair one, even if I didn't agree with all of the adjudicator's comments on stage. We did however redeem ourselves at Leicester with our winning performance of Oceans, and congratulations to Ryan Goodall for winning the best soloist prize, what a great end to the contest season.

The summer concerts were ok, but some of the playing was not really to the standard I would expect now. I know some of the music was very challenging, but it's very likely we will be a first section band come Jan 2013, and we will be doing more formal type concerts in the future hopefully. With the summer comes a much more relaxed approach to rehearsal and home practice, resulting in a lack of stamina, then we hear all those horrible tuning problems creeping back in. I don't expect everyone to spend the summer indoors practicing for hours on end, but we still need to be able to play well for the summer jobs, and unless it all goes wrong (which it won't) at Stevenage this year, we will be heading to the finals towards the end of September. If we allow the standard to drop during the summer, we will let ourselves down at the finals, which I suspect is why we didn't do so well at Folkestone?

I was very pleased with the bands performance at the Christmas concert, and hope this will now be an annual event. It's got to be better than freezing to death outside Tesco's for hours playing carols!

A very big thank you to you all, and I look forward to an even more successful 2012.

### **Treasurer's Report**

After initial uncertainty given the current financial climate, we were pleased to be welcomed back to March Park and Kings Lynn Park. These engagements, along with Hunstanton are funded from council budgets and can no longer be taken for granted. However we continue to look for other opportunities and this year presented one of our own making, our very own Christmas concert, something that we hadn't done for very many years. It was a great success for everyone involved and raised £310.00 for band funds.

Engagements earned us a total of £2060.91, which is the most we've ever earned through concerts in a single year (carol playing excluded)

Subscriptions collected this year totalled £1620.00 and the system of collecting these weekly paid dividends this year as we were able to purchase 3 new instruments; a flugel horn, soprano cornet and Bb bass. For these three instruments we paid a total of £1240.00.

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.

Another significant draw on the band's finances is the expense incurred with using guest players. As we continue to improve and progress, we need to fill any empty seat with a player who is capable of meeting the challenges of playing to the standard we now expect. This comes at a price, and in 2011 a total of £619.30 was paid out in this way.

I can't possibly forget to mention the great success of scooping 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Loughborough contest in November and bringing home £250.00 in prize money. A very well deserved result for all the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the band.

On the subject of contests, it's pleasing that the idea of hiring a coach has been so popular. On each occasion, the band has been able to subsidise approximately a third of the cost, which makes this an affordable idea all the way around. Coach hire in 2011 totalled £1190.00, but player contributions came in at £825.00.

Again last year, due to commitments on everyone's time, 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 £150.60.

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: Andrew Keen

Seconded: Shaun Pope

Chairman: Andrew Keen

Proposed: Shaun Pope

Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Vice-Chairman: Simon Sharpe

Proposed: Eleanor Sharpe

Seconded: Tony Roberts

Treasurer: Angela Revell

Proposed: Sharon Sharpe

Seconded: Eleanor Sharpe

Secretary: Sharon Sharpe

Proposed: Andrew Keen

Seconded: Shaun Pope

Musical Director: Nigel Bramley

Proposed: Nigel Markwell

Seconded: Eleanor Sharpe

Contest Secretary: Nigel Markwell

Proposed: Eleanor Sharpe

Seconded: Simon Sharpe

Jackets/Instruments Secretary: Amanda Kippax

Proposed: Eleanor Sharpe

Seconded: Sharon Sharpe

Publicist/PR: Shaun Pope

Proposed: Simon Sharpe  
Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Band Manager: Shaun Pope  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Entertainment: Matt Ralph/Eleanor Sharpe  
Proposed: Andrew Keen  
Seconded: Nigel Markwell

Committee:

### **Any Other Business**

- ◆ Librarian
  - Andrew suggested that as no one has come forward for the specific role then an idea would be for Committee members to sort out music during band practice and then every couple of months it would be sorted more thoroughly by the Committee.
  - Angie to buy more hole punches so each section has their own and she will also get clear reinforcements so the music does not get torn etc.
- ◆ Andrew Bateman has a contact that would be able to do a band recording. The Committee agreed in principle that it was a good idea and it was something that would be looked at either this year or 2013. Sharon suggested that as Matt has done recordings with Waterbeach it was something that he and Andrew could discuss/liaise about.

#### **ACTION: Matt**

- ◆ Andrew Bateman also suggested that Littleport Brass Band do a joint concert, he suggested with Cambridge City. Andrew felt that Nigel would prefer to do a joint concert with GUS and that this is something that could be looked into for 2013. Sharon to liaise with Nigel about this.

#### **ACTION: Sharon**

- ◆ The outside of the Bandroom needs to be resprayed and various holes filled to make sure the bees do not return. A date of **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012** was agreed.
- ◆ Howard asked if the heaters could be put on timer so the Bandroom was warm when everyone arrived. Andrew to look on-line for instructions on how to do this.
- ◆ Nigel Markwell said it would look more professional if after a contest the Band were to wear their band t-shirts. Not everyone has one though and Andrew was to get in touch with Lloyd Shipp to get a catalogue so an order could be made.

#### **ACTION: Andrew**

- ◆ Nigel Markwell also asked if the Band had any headed notepaper as this would look more professional when he has to write letters regarding competitions. Sharon said she would make some headed paper and also some invoices.

#### **ACTION: Sharon**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

