**BWCB Committee Meeting 31 October 2018**

**Reports from Chairs**

**BWCB Fees - review**

BWCB has reached its 10th Anniversary and we have changed considerably, becoming a larger and more complex.

A change in Associate fees from Easter 2018 raised a number of questions, which lead the committee to undertake a review of the fees structure.

The keys principles were:

* Every member pays BWCB membership
* Each band and off shoot group is responsible for meeting its own costs
* Fair, transparent and equality for all, with the same principles applying to each band and group and every member within the organisation.

**BWCB Membership**

Every member of BWCB benefits from belonging to the organisation and therefore pays a termly membership fee of £10 - covers the overheads; stands, lights, chairs, music, folders, photocopying, percussion costs, insurances and licenses for example.

**Band and Off shoot costs**

Each band and group is responsible for budgeting its own room hire and conducting costs, where appropriate. These costs will be shared equally amongst the members of the band/group and are determined by the costs.

Wind band fees will be set annually, based on the average number of players who attend the band each year and 36 teaching weeks; an increase of 3 weeks per year from September 2018.

**Belonging to multiple Bands and groups**

A member of BWCB can belong to as many bands/groups as they chose; paying the fees associated with each band or group.

**Percussion**

As you are aware earlier in the summer we had confirmation from Berkshire Maestros that they would no longer be working from the OLC with a move to Ranelagh School being their way forward from Sept 1st 2018. Kate had been trying to engage Maestros in a conversation regarding the impact of this move on BWCB since mid-March; however they did not communicate any information until 11 July, our last rehearsal of the summer term. An email stated that there would be no instruments for BWCB to use in September and also restrictions on access to the library of music.

BWCB were then left in a difficult situation and the realisation that we would now have to become a completely independent organisation and not have access to hiring percussion for 3 bands and use of the Maestros vast library of music. The committee discussed the situation and if BWCB was to continue to perform gigs and concerts, it was imperative that percussion was purchased.

Prudent and careful financial management meant BWCB was in a position to purchase percussion. We took advice from several professional percussionists and were advised that buying good quality second hand was the way forward and the committee were able to agree a budget of £7000.

We now own 2 very good quality kits, 3 timps, a xylophone and a glock. Further purchases however still need to be made: a set of cymbals for 1 kit and protection cases for all percussion if it is to be transported and used off site at concerts.

**Report from Secretary**

I am going to say a few words about the BWCB organisational structure and some reminders about the procedures when new members join.

BWCB is now ten years old and has become more complex over time. We have implemented a new committee structure which better reflects the needs of the current organisation.

The BWCB committee is made up of the post holders of joint chairs, secretary and treasurer, plus representatives from each of the three bands, Concert Band, Second Wind and Beaufort Band, along with a representative from the two offshoot groups, Breakaway Brass and Liquorice Allsorts.

The BWCB committee is responsible for decisions which affect the whole of BWCB, for example insurance, fees, safeguarding and risk assessments.

Each band then has their own subcommittee which deals with matters relating to that individual band. These include rehearsals, concerts and socials. Members from each subcommittee are present at the whole BWCB committee meetings to relay the thoughts of the band they represent.

We  hope we offer new members a friendly face to anyone who is joining us. However, to ensure the smooth running of membership administration we ask that band representatives/*section leaders* give new joiners the membership forms for completion. When these have been completed, could the band representatives/*section leaders*  pass them directly to Ruth Wise – Membership Secretary. This will ensure our records are up to date. We also ask that new members are added to the registers for their respective band/*section.”*

**Report from Treasurer**

See financial schedules.

**Concert Band**

Concert Band have had a busy year. We started the year with three concerts in September; two at the Lexicon in Bracknell and one at Forbury Gardens in Reading. The first Lexicon concert was on the opening evening of the new shopping centre. On 18 November we played again at The Lexicon for the switching on of the Christmas lights. We ended the first term with a concert at OLC where we collected donations for local Foodbanks.

In the Spring Term we focused our rehearsals on two pieces which we performed at The Woodley Festival. We were the only entry in our class and received very favourable comments.

To end the year we again played in Forbury Gardens in June, Woodley Bandstand and Lexicon Proms in July.

**Second Wind**

Our autumn term began as usual with a play date at Guildford Castle bandstand where, unlike the previous year, it was particularly cold. Later in the term we entertained adults with learning disabilities with a selection of Christmas music, and busked for Crowthorne’s Christmas shopping evening and at The Meadows shopping centre. Our busking was somewhat curtailed due to the re-development of Wokingham town centre, but we finished the term with a concert along with St Sebastian’s Brass Band and our friends from Masterclef at Wokingham Town Hall, a festive and lucrative evening, and way warmer than playing outside.

In the spring, we celebrated our 7th birthday. In the summer, we played at two of our regular venues: Hurst Country Fayre and Windsor Castle, and for the first time in Guildford High Street for the Victoria Day celebrations.

This year we are looking forward to more sectionals and rehearsing in a bit more detail, in order to raise our game. We also plan to have some daytime sessions for people to come along and ‘have a blow’ or a beat or a strum. We’re looking forward to a curry evening this Friday, a concert in Wokingham in March, and possibly a boat trip and a tour next summer (maybe even both at the same time!).

We attracted a number of new members during the year, and said goodbye to others who moved away from the area; our tuba player felt it necessary to take a job in Quatar. Sadly one of our members died from a brain tumour. Typically, our conductor took to his bike and raised nearly £600 for the Brain Tumour Charity, much of it through donations from Second Wind. Our membership now stands at around 40 but we have spaces for new players in some sections.

At the end of the year, Kevin floated the idea of a Latin motto. Several have been suggested: maybe *Dum spiro spero* is the most appropriate: *While I breathe, I hope*!

**Beaufort Band**

Beaufort Band have had a good year. Beaufort Band is a very friendly band and have had some really enjoyable rehearsals. There have also been a number of brilliant socials.

Beaufort Band are planning on entering the Woodley Music Festival in the spring of 2019 and will be working hard to prepare their favourite pieces for this.