

**Yorkshire & Humberside Brass Band Association.**  
**Registered Charity No. 1068921.**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WALTON VILLAGE HALL,**  
**SATURDAY 19th JANUARY 2019 AT 10.30 A.M.**

**1. Present**

Messrs: Stuart Warriner (Chairman & Otley), Kenny Crookston (BBE), Peter Gilby (Ripon City), Garry Hallas (Vice Chairman & Emley), Francis Hargate (Dronfield Genquip), Andrew Horton (Hatfield and Askern), Michael Stallybrass (Chief Steward), Ron Stirk (Treasurer), Arnold Tattersfield (Horbury Victoria) Malcolm Tomlinson.

Mesdames: Peggy Tomlinson (President), Marie Williams (Secretary), Margaret Bryan (Chapelton Silver), Helen Douglas (Swinton & District Excelsior), Kathleen Harrison (Elland Silver), Ellis Mortimer (Kirkbymoorside Town), Dorothy Ratcliffe (Trustee & Swinton & District Excelsior), Catherine Stallybrass (Webmaster), Carol Tattersfield (Horbury Victoria Youth), Ann Thorpe (Yorkshire Imperial) and Jennifer Wormald (Vice President).

**2. Apologies for absence**

Peter Bryan (Chapelton Silver), , Julie Wood (Chapelton Silver), Stannington Brass.

**3. Chairman's Welcome**

As a preliminary Stuart suggested that all present introduce themselves to the meeting.

- He then summarised the history of the Association noting that membership had peaked at 79 member bands in the 1990s but that it had now shrunk to 24.
- He outlined the Associations current role:
  - Representing bands from Yorkshire, Humberside and the North-east on the Regional Brass Band committees.
  - Organising contests – currently Hardraw Scar, Easingwold and the Annual contest.
- Stuart then turned to why this meeting had been called. He said that there were three main problems facing the Association: membership of the association as a whole has fallen, but more severely the level of engagement with the association meetings has also fallen, leading to a very small pool of people to participate in organising and running events. Many of these stalwarts would like to decrease their commitments after many years' service but there are no obvious replacements.
- He said that it was clear that nobody wanted to wind up the association, but that if this should prove necessary it was important that it be done in an orderly and considered manner.

He summarised the three possible options:

- The winding up of the association.
  - A reduced organisational ambition with activities focussed on event organising. This would entail suspension of the advocacy role and a lighter overhead in terms of meetings.
  - An "as is" continuation of the operation.
- He emphasised the need to identify people to help if the Association was to survive.

- Finally he thanked those present for attending the meeting.

Peter Gilby commented that it was really an age issue – the current committee were simply getting too old to carry on.

#### **4. Consideration of the EGM motion regarding the the future of the Association**

Stuart then invited comments from the floor, especially from those who did not usually attend meetings.

Comments included:

- Contests are good, but bands don't understand the importance of the Association.
- Bands don't know if they are members.
- There is a problem of communication within bands.
- Band members don't want to lose it (sentiment) but don't want to be involved in running anything.
- Players' commitment is to their band not to the Association. There is a general problem in getting players to do anything outside their own band.
- There is a need to find people with drive. Only when these have been found can the Association decide what path to pursue.
- Both functions of the Association can be run independently of any Association.
- There is a strong element of "What's in it for us?"
- Top bands feel that they don't need an association – people come to the Association when they have a problem.
- Lifestyles have changed – people tend to sort things out as individuals making use of electronic media.
- Bands need to take more responsibility for making banding prosper – sharing knowledge and resources.
- Raising the profile of the Association especially in Social Media.
- Abandon the representational role – it is no longer needed as people don't know about it or use it – they go direct to individuals who can sort their problems.
- The format for engagement should shift to electronic communication: website and social media. Every band will have a "band geek" – they are the people the association needs to identify.

Stuart suggested that the meeting progress to considering which of the three options the meeting wished to endorse asking for a show of hands to consider whether the meeting wished the Association to cease to exist. One hand was raised.

Stuart then asked if those present would engage in running the association – All those not already involved affirmed their willingness.

This motion was then put to the meeting; ***The Association should continue, subject to new committee members coming forward at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, but should review its organisational structures and remit.***

This was proposed by Arnold Tattersfield and seconded by Peter Gilby.

**It was carried nem. con.**

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

AGM - 10.30 a.m. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at Walton Village Hall