

# **Stewarton Bands Support Group**

## **Minutes**

### **AGM and Business meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018**

#### **Present:**

Peter Ronald (Chair), Avril Allan, Audrey Campbell, Graeme Dean, Lesley Irvine, Brian Keachie, Laura Lyon, Leigh Moffat, Nicola McNaught, Margaret Parker, Eleanor Vallance Sylvia Flauger

**Apologies** – Sylvia Flauger, Alan Friel, Paul Glasswell, Gregor Keachie, Seonaid MacPherson, Brian McGuinness, Jane McGuinness, Shona McLaughlin, Arlene Robertson, Katrina Steedman

#### **1. AGM**

- Chair's report

The main aim of SBSG is to work with instrumental teaching staff to provide opportunities for young people in the Stewarton learning community to play musical instruments and to learn musical skills. In that regard we have had a very good year. Some of the bands took part in the Ayr and Glasgow music festivals for the first time in 2017. All 4 Academy bands progressed through the heats to the finals of the SCBF in 2018 and performed brilliantly. We have subsidised and provided reception for Saturday percussions workshops and purchased a lot of new percussion equipment.

We have worked well as part of a larger team with our MD, Brian Keachie. The format of the band rehearsals has been streamlined and we have been happy to pay for extra tuition for some sectionals to enable individual players to develop their playing skills. In order to fulfil the aims we have to have the correct processes in place. This year the committee invested a lot of time reviewing our Child Protection procedures. Arlene Robertson, organised training and now most of our regular volunteers have PVGs for the SBSG.

To support our work we have to raise funds. Although most of the committee were new in their positions, during 2017 we raised £7600 which is an increase on 2016. Less positive was the low amount raised from grants. This is an area that needs addressed. The SBSG run by a small committee and supported by a general membership. There were some unexpected changes in the committee during last summer. This caused some disruption to our usual schedule, the most noticeable being that we missed out on a suitable booking date at the Grand Hall for our 2018 summer concert. Saying all that, meetings have been very well attended and we've been pleased with the number of volunteers who have offered to help with events. Our secretary Margaret has done an amazing amount of work liaising with parents as well as other secretarial duties to the group.

Unfortunately we are in the position of having to recruit a new Treasurer to the committee after 3 years. Since I took over as Chair in July I have been ably supported by Paul Glasswell as Treasurer and I'm sorry that he will be leaving the committee at the AGM. I'd like to express our thanks on behalf of the group formally. We are hopeful of filling the Vice-Chair role and I'm hoping some new P7 parents will join the group this year.

Looking forward we will be supporting the Kickstart weekend and P6 concert at the start of June and our Summer concert on 6 June: Despite the change in location we are planning a great event with 300 guests and around 160 pupils at the Academy. We are hoping to arrange a fundraising event in the autumn and then we will start planning for the festive season again! And the Grand Hall has already been booked for our 2019 Summer concert on Saturday 25 May.

Nicola proposed a vote of thanks in the Chair which was gratefully received.

- Treasurer's report ( in absentia)

Overall accounts are healthy and about £10,700 K clear in balance. There are a number of costs outstanding. Note;

- £1400 for school lets
- Costs of SCBF are expensive when entry fees (£250 per band) and buses are accounted for.

Fundraising was good this year but amount raised in grants and donations was down. In 2016 SBSG got £10000 from Awards from All, whereas in 2017 we only raised around £2000 in donations and grants. We did manage to make a successful application to the Co-Op Community Fund from the group and SBSG were nominated as one of their local causes for the year from October 2017 (raising around £500 to date). We will advertise standing order option at the summer concert again – we get £142 in parent donation per month currently.

The cost of band rehearsal weekends was maintained at £65. The support group will still be subsidising the overall cost of rehearsal weekends but to a lesser degree than previous years and we have introduced a new charges sheet to ensure that payments are processed efficiently. At the same time, the format of these weekends was changed, with the support from the MD in order to cut overall costs.

We are currently subsidising the percussion workshops. We should review costs next year when we see how many young people take part.

We have investigated the possibility of moving away from the 2 signatory system towards mobile banking as it would be more flexible for SBSG and parents. This would now be the responsibility of the new Treasurer to carry forward.

The group has discussed whether some of the funds should be put into a savings account to gain interest.

We are very glad that Graeme Dean has agreed to take over as auditor from 2018/19. Thanks to Douglas Shanks who has provided this support for many years.

- MD report

**August: All band rehearsals commenced**

- Introduction of Mr Gregor Keachie as Intermediate Band MD
- The Saturday Morning Percussion Workshops Commenced
- Various Woodwind Workshops took place

**October:** Miss Seonaid Macpherson joins East Ayrshire Instrumental Staff on a permanent basis and Stewarton Academy one day a week!

**November:** Endless Band weekends

Including Workshop day with Nigel Boddice MBE (RCS)

**December:** SCBF Regionals Livingston

All bands took part and received invitations to the

Finals - tremendous achievements by everyone

Amazing achievement for pupils and staff involved.

**Christmas 2017** bands participated at various festivities and a good time was had by all. Excellent PR exercise promoting the bands

**February** Rehearsal weekends for all bands participating at the SCBF Finals

Including Workshop day with Hughina Naylor

**March SCBF Finals**

P7 Community Band, Junior, Intermediate & Senior Bands

**May** New P6 Kickstart Programme Testing commenced.

The band weekends allow the opportunity for more top professional musicians to come in and work with our pupils at Stewarton. I continue to count it a privilege to be responsible for all the bands and to work with Miss Craven, Miss Macpherson and Mr Gregor Keachie. The team continues to work well and has a good vision for the future

- Election of management committee

All existing members of the committee stood down.

The following members were elected for 2018/19

		Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Peter Ronald	Nicola	Audrey
Vice chair	Shona McLaughlin	Eleanor	Avril
Secretary	Margaret Parker	Peter	Nicola
Treasurer	Avril Allan	Peter	Audrey

The constitution will be amended and circulated for the next meeting to be approved.

## 2. MD business

- Teaching team  
Gregor will hopefully remain involved with bands next year. Brian will keep us updated.
- Percussion workshops  
One more workshop on Saturday 26 May. Still going well. The percussion ensemble has been a success and will be playing at the summer concert.  
Eleanor has arranged lets for percussion and Kickstart.
- Kickstart weekend  
Alan Friel is standing in for Brian during his sick leave. Testing has taken place. The meeting for families will be 30 May. The weekend will be 1-3 June. Margaret, Jane and Peter will help out. The group agreed it wasn't necessary after all to arrange snacks for Kickstart.
- Band supplies  
Brian presented an invoice for woodwind reeds for use at Kickstart and reserve supply.

ACTION: **Peter** to pass to Paul for payment (DONE)

Proposal for Marimba would require matched funding (costs between £5 – £ 7,000).  
Agreed we will look into this again after concert. Group agreed to look into possibility of purchasing music stand banners

ACTION: **Brian** will research costs during summer and we will discuss in autumn

Brian is organising tuition for new euphonium and tuba players which will be funded by SBSG and will keep us updated.

## 3. SBSG business

- Fundraising

**Summer concert - confirmed date is Wednesday 6 June 2018 at the Academy.**

It was agreed that the proposed post-concert party for senior band would be separated from the concert.

ACTION: **All** –please see SC action list attached to minute. **Jane and Nicola** will arrange a separate get together for leavers, Brian K and the committee.

It was agreed that Shona would take on Vice Chair to focus on fundraising events. (This would free up some of Peter's time to follow up grant application ideas. It's still hoped that someone will come forward who can find time to research these ideas.) The group thought a bingo night in the autumn would be popular.

ACTION: **Peter** will ask Shona to lead on this as Vice Chair. (DONE)

- Treasurer

ACTION: **Peter** to ask Paul to arrange handover to Avril after the summer concert. (DONE)

- Secretary's update  
Margaret's time is focused on concert but will follow up issues about non-payment after this.
- Child Protection  
Arlene has agreed to continue to help with this next year when required. She has already requested a list of completed PVGs from the school  
ACTION: **Arlene** to follow this up please so we have list in place for 2018/19

4. **Next meeting** - Monday 25 June, 7:30 – 9pm, Annick Centre.

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**Dates of future meetings for diaries:**

From 7:30 – 9pm at the Annick Centre, Standalane;

Monday 27 August  
Monday 24 September  
Monday 29 October  
Monday 26 November  
Monday 17 December

**Other dates for diaries**

The Grand Hall is already booked for our 2019 Summer concert on 25 May.