



British Youth Band Association



Annual Report

2023

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the period 1st November 2022 to 31 October 2023

Association Chair - Neil Wright

Association Vice-Chair – Keith Morris to 28 January 2023

Paul Morgan from 28 January 2023

Honorary Secretary – Andrew Horton

Honorary Treasurer – Justine Morris to 28 January 2023

Communications Chair – Luke Taylor

Education Chair -

Development Chair -

Contesting Chair - Clive Burd to 28 January 2023

Judging Chair – Gary Roylance

Midlands Region Chair -

Northern Region Chair - Wally Hemingway

Southern Region Chair – Paul Morgan

Co-opted Members – Luke Bodycot – Carl Harris

Registered Office - 32 Burnside Drive, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3EE

Registered Charity – No 277591

Bankers NatWest

Report of the Directors and Trustees for the period ended 31 October 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 October 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the required accounting policies and comply with the Charity's governing document, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "SORP FRS 102".

Structure, Governance and Management

The British Youth Band Association is a Registered Charity by way of Constitution. The Charity regularly operates under the known abbreviation of BYBA. The organisation is viable by way of self-generated income from subscriptions and events. We hope to develop our project funding through grants over the coming years. We have no plans to recruit an Executive Director and intend that the trustees continue to manage the charity directly, on a voluntary basis.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Constitution, the Chair of Trustees is elected by the membership. Following guidance from the Charities Commission the Constitution was amended at the 2017 AGM to allow a Chair to only serve two consecutive terms of 3 years. The trustees listed in this report are those in place as at 31 October 2023. The board of trustees has the power to co-opt trustees until such time that trustees can be voted in at the AGM.

Charitable Objectives and Activities

The charity's principal objective is to inform the public in the arts and sciences in relation to youth bands. To meet our principal objective the charity undertakes the following activities to further our aims:

- Facilitating consultation and exchange of views between groups to develop a support network
- To bring the activities of youth bands to the attention of the public
- To publish magazines and websites for public distribution
- To host performance opportunities for members
- Training of leaders and senior members of bands to raise standards of performance

Public Benefit

Our vision is to deliver an innovative, broader range of activities and services for the membership, making BYBA the UK's marching arts organisation of choice.

We do this by organising membership events, reaching out to non-members, and providing other methods of documented support. Bands who participate in BYBA activities are open to a wide variety of demographics, abilities and styles from their local community and some from further afield.

A number of events are open to the public at reasonable prices, which ensures BYBA and regional events remain financially viable and sustainable.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees receive information on duties and obligations on induction and maintain a good working knowledge of charities and charity law.

Organisation

The Charity is controlled by a Board of Trustees. The day to day running of the charity is divided amongst these trustees with specific roles and responsibilities as required.

Risk Management

The trustees have a risk management plan which comprises of:

- An annual review of the risks the charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan
- Implementation of the procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialize
- All Trustees being DBS checked

Role and Contribution of Volunteers

BYBA celebrates the fact that it has a committed number of volunteers. Volunteers contributed many hours to the organisation during the year. Without this help our organisation could not survive.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities showed a surplus of £352.01.

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the advice of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, the charity aims to hold unrestricted reserves at levels of approximately 12 months of budgeted unrestricted expenditure in order to meet unforeseen costs and statutory obligations. The charity continues to work towards meeting this policy.

Future Plans and Developments

The main priorities are:

- To develop our support services to member units to enable their continued growth, development and service provided to young people.
- To develop our opportunities to provide wider skills to our membership
- To increase bands in membership to provide more benefit to a larger number of young people.
- To work with other likeminded organisations to further develop the activity and bring it to the attention of the public.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Andrew Horton

Trustee

Date: 31 December 2023

Financial Statements

Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01 November 2022 to 31 October 2023

	31/10/2023
Income	
Subscriptions	£441.54
Contesting Fees	£775.00
2023 National Championship surplus	£957.55
Donations / Grant	£196.25
Ticket Sales	£225.82
2022 National Champs - late payment from Stripe	£48.70
Stripe - refund	£19.50
Dalton Wright interest	£54.52
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Total Income	£2,718.88
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Expenditure	
Judges Expenses/Competition Suite	£654.29
Postage	£61.65
Web Site hosting fee	£31.80

Insurance		£626.46
DWBF Grant		£500.00
2022 Finals expenses		£94.12
Ticket sales - reimbursement to contest		£281.15
Photo passes		£59.00
Medals		£38.40
Stripe		£20.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	<hr/>	<u>£2,366.87</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Income (Expenditure)	<hr/>	<u>£352.01</u>

Notes

British Youth Band Association
Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2023

	31/10/2022	31/10/2023
Assets		
Unrestricted Funds		
Cash at bank and in hand	£7,593.92	£8,391.41
Restricted Funds		
Dalton Wright Bursary Fund	£5,261.26	£4,815.78
Total	£12,855.15	£13,207.19
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment	£0.00	£0.00
Depreciation	£0.00	£0.00
Total fixed assets	£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets		
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets	£12,855.15	£13,207.19
Current Liabilities		
Creditor	£0.00	£0.00
Prepayment	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	£12,855.18	£13,207.19
Represented by		
Total funds brought forward	£12,007.40	£12,855.18
Net movement in funds for the year	£847.78	£352.01
	£12,855.18	£13,207.19

Notes



Chairman's Report

Dear friends

I can't believe that I am writing my sixth, and final report. It seems a very long time ago since my first year as chair, and we have gone through a lot as an association since. I honestly can't tell you that it has been a wonderful six years, and that I've enjoyed every minute. However, there have been some real low points and high points, and it has been a journey. The lowest point for me was the loss of two seasons due to the Covid Pandemic, which none of us foresaw. This has made it hard for bands to recruit, practice, re-build etc. It really does feel a different activity since, and I know it has changed peoples priorities, and that it has made it harder for Bandmasters/Corps Directors.

However, some of the things to be celebrated in this time are our new partnerships, and friendly relationships that we now have with our friends at TYMBA and IMG. It has been great to share with these associations and find common ground, and focus to help move the activity as a whole forward.

The biggest challenge facing us all now as an activity is the cost of transportation. From coach fees to hiring or running a truck. This really is having a detrimental effect on the wider activity, and meaning that Bands/Corps are having to prioritise fundraising, and staff time against the cost of competing in shows.

I do believe there is still a passion and love for this wonderful activity, and that it will go full circle again at some point in the future, but we need to ensure we go back to basics, have a youth- rebuilding focus, and learn from the mistakes of the past if we are to survive.

For me personally, it is time to go back to doing what I'm best at and love the most: teaching and inspiring the next generation to love music and the activity.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful and passionate council I have had supporting me over the past years, but especially over the past tough year. I'd also like to wish my successor the very best of luck moving forward.

I won't be around as much short term as I have projects I am currently working on that need a lot of my time and focus. However, I will be around in the background and will give my full support wherever I can.

Very best wishes to you all in the future.

God bless.

Neil Wright
BYBA Chairman

Treasurers Report

As we have been without a treasurer this year Neil Wright and Andrew Horton have handled the day-to-day finance operations between them. Special thanks must go to Jon Haw, who despite having stood down from the treasurer's role over 2 years ago, has been extremely helpful dealing with the setting up of on-line banking for Neil and Andrew and assisting with the numerous queries we may have had along the way. I think it is fair to say that it was a fairly steep learning curve, but not overly onerous once we got to grips with the process.

Financially the Association is in a good position and there has been very little movement from a liquidity perspective.

Once again, we made a surplus, entirely due to the profit made at finals. Given the healthy profit made last year, we were able to reduce the entry fee for finals, therefore passing the benefit onto the membership.

In addition, no fees were charged to contests this year. Contest fees are usually charged to offset the expense incurred by BYBA – such things as judges' expenses and CompetitionSuite fees. However, recognising the expense incurred by contest organisers, coupled with the reduction in the costs incurred by BYBA (mainly down to the generosity of judges either not claiming expenses or donating part of their expenses back to BYBA), we were able to absorb that cost this year. That is unlikely to be replicated this coming season, although we hope to be able to charge a reduced fee to contests.

Going forward we anticipate a similar level of income and expenditure this year, with perhaps a smaller surplus as the end of the year, depending on the number of bands entering National Championships, as this will have a direct impact on the income generated from that event.

Council would welcome a volunteer to take on the role of treasurer, which whilst not particularly onerous, is somewhat time consuming.

The income and expenditure account and balance sheet are set out in the following pages of the annual report, which we present for the membership's approval and are happy to try and answer any queries on the same at the AGM.

Neil and Andrew

Finance and Governance Committee Report

The finance and governance committee has not formally met during the last year mainly due to the two remaining members, Neil and I, having full access to the bank accounts. Council has however had regular remote meetings to ensure all are up to date on the continually changing landscape, and any major outlay, has been discussed and approved.

As can be seen from the treasurer's report the Association is still in a healthy financial position with income exceeding expenditure this year.

It is good to see that we have made a surplus mostly down to the profits made from National Championships and the generosity of Council members and judges in not claiming expenses, or only a proportion.

Whilst we are not required to have our accounts audited, Jon How, a former treasurer has reviewed the accounts, from a point of view of ensuring transparency.

I can confirm that we are compliant with our obligations to the Charities Commission in relation to the filing of the annual return and maintenance of the charity's records in accordance with the Charities Act. A risk assessment has also been undertaken and the risk register updated. A risk assessment and safety plan was also prepared for National Championships. All Trustees are now required to have a DBS check. In addition, where legislation changes, which may have an effect on the Association, this is taken into account in relation to our working practices.

Andrew Horton
Chair - Finance and Governance Committee

Contesting Report

2023 proved to be another great year on the contesting front with 22 great performances across 5 shows – culminating in a well-attended and highly successful National Championships, which once again returned to the excellent Corby Town FC.

Special thanks to Clive Burd, BYBA's former Contesting Chair for all his hard work as Championships Director and all Council members and volunteers who made the day a success.

Congratulations to all units who managed to put a show on the field this year – an achievement which should not be underestimated.

Many congratulations to our National Champions, Lanesfield BB/GB (Championship) – Beeches – (Associate class) and Phantom Knights – (Premier).

We also hosted another online I and E, event in November 2022, where again the number of entries was highly impressive, as was the standard. Once again thanks to Luke and his team in facilitating this great event, which is ever popular and pulls in entries from a number of bands from both inside and outside membership of BYBA and is a real example of offering alternative performance opportunities.

For 2024 we have a full calendar of competitions for the summer season – two of which will once again be joint with our friends at DCUK – with the season culminating once again with National Championships at Corby on 6 October 2024.

Judging Report

The 2023 season saw some changes to the judging personnel in which we fully welcomed Lisa Clayton and Richard Moore to the panel. The April training session was well attended and provided us with a positive start to our approach for the year with some great input from all attendees in particular Tony Lees who put together a semi-interactive session on the visual musical co-ordination aspects accompanied by video tape segments which raised some great discussion points.

The judging system was brought forward from 2022 and has worked well and the introduction of CompetitionSuite for recordings whilst providing a few teething / technical issues has worked well and made the show day experience a little more slick. The quality of narrative and system provided no issues or queries from our members which meant that all of the events passed off successfully without complaint or disagreement which is what we set out to achieve.

We hope to be able to add further to the judging panel to provide more variety and differing perspective to grow the system and activity for the member units.

The quality of performances we have seen has improved noticeably and the activity from a BYBA perspective has seen some growth which is great to see.

I hope going forward we can continue to develop the process to further benefit the members and continue to build a more open dialogue and also provide an outlet for people who cannot commit to performing or instructing with a band/corps to become involved in the judging system and remain within the activity.

The judges training for 2024 will therefore take place on Saturday 13th April.

Gary Roylance

Chair of Judging

Communications Report

Digital Presence

Over the past 12 months, there has been quite a stir around Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter (and subsequent rebranding to X). There has been a lot of controversy that has seen a significant number of users and advertisers leave the platform. These include measures like dissolving the Trust and Safety Council (responsible for policies on hate speech, child sexual exploitation and self harm), along with a rise in racism, conspiracy theories, and just general hate speech, and so BYBA has followed suit in beginning to distance ourselves from the platform. This has contributed to a net loss in followers over the year.

On the flipside, the video coverage of the season brought a significant increase in subscribers to our YouTube channel. Overall, the new videos have had almost **10,000** views (9,425 at the time of writing), with the most viewed video having **1,931** views.

Facebook – 4676 followers (+78 from 4598 last year)

Instagram – 804 followers (+43 from 761 last year)

YouTube – 195 subscribers (+70 from 125 last year)

X (formerly Twitter) – 1334 followers (-31 from 1365 last year)

Show Videos

Between the 2022 and 2023 seasons, I invested in some personal equipment which I have been all too happy to let the Association use – cameras, microphones, stands, all the assorted bits and bobs! We made use of these to produce videos for *almost* every performance throughout the season, with technical issues preventing one or two videos from being recorded. These videos are all freely available to watch online on the BYBA YouTube channel, and will hopefully remain there indefinitely to inspire future generations of banders.

In order to get the best video, I used a GoPro camera situated in the stands near the effect judges. However, as has been the case in previous years, using solely this camera would result in the audio being interspersed with judges' comments. So, I also invested in a Zoom H4n Pro audio recorder, which was situated within the stands to grab good quality sound (and the applause!!). The GoPro was controllable via the mobile app, which meant we only required one person with the audio recorder to start and stop it. Then, the tricky part was editing together the two and making sure they were perfectly aligned, which certainly took a few goes!

Unfortunately, I had purchased the GoPro before considering using it for BYBA purposes – had I given it more consideration I would have opted for a different model. The main drawback is the whole recording/alignment process – at present it requires the operators to press record at exactly the same time, and even then some manual adjustments, whereas ideally you'd just press one button somewhere (maybe on a smartphone or laptop) and it would start/stop them both at the same time so that they are perfectly aligned. I had opted for the GoPro Hero11 Mini as it was cheaper than the full Hero11, but upon consulting the technical specifications it became apparent that the Mini has had most of the features that could be used for synchronized recording removed!

Photo Passes

During the offseason, several conversations were had, and it became increasingly apparent that the handling of photography at our events could be significantly improved. There was no synchronization between bands informing us that a member could not be photographed and photographers at events, for example. Another issue was BYBA having no oversight into which images were sent off to external publications like Drum Corps World, sometimes only seeing them for the first time ourselves within these magazines.

We decided to implement a Photo Pass policy for the 2023 season, in which a photographer would inform us which events they wanted to take photos at and we would then issue them with a pass. Each band was also issued with a “wildcard” pass to enable them to photograph their own members too. After the event, the photographers submitted their photos to BYBA so that we could then ensure there were no photos of members that had not given photography consent or anything else that could cause issue. This then meant that we were protecting the privacy of these members by not releasing potentially sensitive information, but also allowing minimizing the extra effort required by these photographers.

Luke Taylor
BYBA Communications Chair