



British Youth Band Association



Annual Report

2024

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the period 1st November 2023 to 31 October 2024

Association Chair

Neil Wright to 29 January 2024

Paul Morgan from 29 January 2024

Association Vice-Chair

Paul Morgan to 29 January 2024

Honorary Secretary

Andrew Horton

Honorary Treasurer

Vacant

Communications Chair

Luke Taylor to 29 Jan 2024

Richard Haw: co-opted from 29 Jan 2024

Education Chair

Technology Chair

Luke Taylor: co-opted from 29 Jan 2024

Events Chair

Emma Arnett from 29 January 2024

Judging Chair

Gary Roylance

Co-opted Members

Luke Bodycot – Carl Harris – Wally
Hemingway

Registered Office

10 Kings Croft, Drighlington, BD11 1LA

Registered Charity

No 277591

Bankers NatWest

NatWest

Report of the Directors and Trustees for the period ended 31 October 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 October 2024.

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 2024. 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 deficit of £883.58

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 2024

Income & Expenditure Account
for the period 01 November 2023 to 31 October 2024

	31/10/2024
Income	
Subscriptions	£410.85
Contesting Fees	£522.00
2024 National Championship surplus	£149.85
Donations	£200
Dalton Wright interest	£67.67
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Total Income	£1,350.37
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Expenditure	
Judges Expenses/Competition Suite	£787.47
Website.	£44.39
Insurance	£676.09
DWBF Grant	£300.00
AGM	£30.00
Medals	£396.00
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Total Expenditure	£2,233.95
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Net Income (Expenditure)	<hr/> <hr/>	<u><u>(£883.58)</u></u>

Notes

**British Youth Band Association
Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2024**

	31/10/2023	31/10/2024
Assets		
Unrestricted Funds		
Cash at bank and in hand	£8,391.41	£7,740.16
Restricted Funds		
Dalton Wright Bursary Fund	£4,815.78	£4,583.45
Total	£13,207.19	£12,323.61
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment	£0.00	£0.00
Depreciation	£0.00	£0.00
Total fixed assets	£0.00	
Current Assets		
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	
Total Assets	£13,207.19	£12,323.61
Current Liabilities		
Creditor	£0.00	£0.00
Prepayment	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	£13,207.19	£12,323.61
Represented by		
Total funds brought forward	£12,855.18	£13,207.19
Net movement in funds for the year	£352.01	- £883.58
	£13,207.19	£12,323.61

Notes



Chairman's Report

Dear friends

Firstly, I would like to extend my warmest best wishes to you all for a safe and healthy 2025, and may it bring you all that you desire.

Secondly, and with a great sense of pride and admiration, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all those who fielded a band during the 2024 season, be that in exhibition or in competition. Your resilient nature to strive for your members to be the best that they can be is inspiring. The 2024 season saw us crown four British Champions at our National Championships in October and with a variety of performance level unequalled on the UK circuit.

It is that diversity and support for all performance types that really makes the British Youth Band Association a home to bands who can genuinely feel part of a united family, regardless of their preference or style of music or performance.

It is wonderful to see our dear friends at TYMBA getting stronger and I am sure that the introduction of the Parade Class will be something that will appeal to the bands there going forwards. It was a huge success at National Championships, and we were all treated to precision marching and showmanship skills that really showcase the performers.

Work is also ongoing in the background with Indoor Music Games, and although we did not see any activity for 2024, I can share that there is much going on in that space for 2025 and 2026 specifically that will be very exciting for our members to consider and be a part of.

Council members throughout the 2024 season have been exemplary in so many ways, and their efforts culminated in a really exciting National Championships event that I think showcased their capabilities, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication.

The landscape in the UK is changing, and we have been witness to the closure of the Summer circuit for our friends at Drum Corps United Kingdom. A decision that has led them to look at taking their product inside via the DCI Soundsport brand, and I and we all wish them every success in their new direction. I am sure if their members wish to do so we may see a summer circuit from them in the future, which would also be warmly welcomed.

This places a greater emphasis on the British Youth Band Association to provide a platform for all those marching bands to come together and celebrate each other's performances in both a non-competitive and competitive way going forwards, and I, and the Association Council will be doing

all that we can to embrace this opportunity and to facilitate for all types of marching bands at our events.

Of course, there is always one last, but essential thank you that is required when summing up the year, and that is to all the countless teams of volunteers that span this great nation of ours, and who do all they can to create magic and unbreakable memories for all those hundreds of marching members from wherever they come from. Without you, none of what we all enjoy will be possible, and so to all of you, and in whatever capacity your assist, THANK YOU for all you do.

Paul Morgan
BYBA Chairman

Treasurers Report

Unfortunately, we still have no Treasurer, so the accounts have been administered and prepared by me with the approval of Council.

This year in contrast to the last few years we have not managed to achieve a surplus.

There are quite a few reasons for this, the main one being that despite obtaining a sponsor for National Championships (thanks to the efforts made by Richard Haw) which covered the hire of the stadium we did not make a significant surplus as has been the case in previous years. This was mainly due to the lower attendance at this year's finals and increased costs, given this was BYBA's Golden Anniversary.

The obtaining of a sponsor did however allow Council to waive entry fees for finals, which hopefully assisted bands in offsetting travel costs.

In addition, Council decided not to charge any show sponsor a fee for hosting the show. Council recognises the significant cost to show sponsors and the financial risk taken by them in running a show. Accordingly, all judges' expenses were paid from BYBA funds where normally, at least some, of the costs would be met by show sponsors.

On a positive note, and in addition to the sponsorship for National Championships, we also obtained some donations from The Masons, via Paul, and fees from advertisements in the Final's programme.

Andrew Horton
Acting Treasurer

Events Report

2024 was an unforgettable year filled with extraordinary competitions and events, marking a significant milestone for us at the British Youth Band Association. Celebrating our 50th anniversary, we embraced every moment of this special year, reflecting on the incredible journey we've had and the young talent we've had the pleasure of supporting over the decades. To commemorate this milestone, we hosted five outstanding shows, each one more memorable than the last.

These events were made possible thanks to the generous support of our amazing sponsors, who played a crucial role in not only running the shows but also in providing invaluable opportunities for each individual band. Their dedication helped ensure that every band had the chance to showcase their talent, compete at a high level, and experience the joy of performance. We couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate our 50th year, and the impact of these events will be felt for years to come.

Our finals were once again held at Steel Park in Corby, and we are immensely grateful to them for being such wonderful hosts. Their hospitality and support truly made the event special, ensuring everything ran smoothly and that every participant, audience member, and volunteer had an unforgettable experience.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the new opportunities it will bring for both our members and the audience, as we continue to compete and grow. The world of marching bands is constantly evolving, and we are eager to see what the coming year holds for us. This activity is incredibly close to the hearts of so many, and we are committed to ensuring that it continues to thrive, providing valuable experiences and support to the next generation of young musicians. Our aim is to keep fostering a space where youth can develop their musical talents, make lifelong memories, and be part of a vibrant community that celebrates their passion.

As events chair, I cannot thank everyone enough for the support shown this year through the events circuit. I wish everyone the best for the future.

Emma Arnett
Chair of Events

Judging Report

The 2024 season continued in the vein of personnel changes to the judging panel which worked to good effect. The April training session was well attended again and provided us with a positive start to our approach for the year with some great input from all. We saw the temporary retirement of Tony Lees for personal reasons, who has contributed massively over the years and Lisa Clayton also had to step aside after only 1 season. leaving us without any colour guard judges. Luckily, we were able to call on the services of Ivan Balchin whose credentials need no quantifying. We were also able to call upon the experienced Ken Mansfield, who slotted into the visual caption seamlessly. Finally, we welcomed Stu Warmington whose Military and TYMBA experience provided us with a more than capable percussion judge.

The judging system continues to work well and despite a few small user errors, Competition suite continued as an effective tool for judging and scoring. I take responsibility for the errors in some of the caption scorings being incorrectly announced and going forward will insist on an appropriate amount of time to properly check and record the scoring without being rushed. The show schedule needs to allow for this going forward. The quality of narrative and system provided no issues or queries from our members which meant that all events passed off successfully without complaint to 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.

Finally, and most positively we eventually saw the launch of the parade band class at our championships which provides another outlet for bands/units to perform. We hope this will grow going forward.

Gary Roylance
Chair of Judging

Technology Report

The Technology role was newly created at the 51st BYBA AGM and it has been an honour and a privilege to be the first holder of the position. During the past year I have been able to identify a number of areas that could be improved with technology and have started to implement these where appropriate.

The first such area was contest registration. Previously, managing these was a massive faff – the website needed manually updating to add all the contest dates, then a Microsoft form was sent to all the member bands (and manually linked on the website for non-members), then these details were collated in spreadsheets, the draw was done manually, the spreadsheets were sent to show sponsors... there was quite a bit of manual work involved (and a lot of hoping the spreadsheets were up to date!). Now, we have a much more straightforward system – the Events chair creates the shows, which automatically pull through to the main website. Bands can then log in and choose which events they wish to enter, which also pulls through everywhere – so each job is only done **once** and then disseminates as required, saving time and reducing the potential for errors.

This new system also provided an enhancement for posting scores and results too. Although we use CompetitionSuite for recording scores and judges' commentary, these still needed to be manually updated on the website (and a league score calculated). But because we had this new system, it was possible to communicate with CompetitionSuite and pull in each score for the band, so now the results page is also auto-updating. It also means that we have our own record of the scores should CompetitionSuite no longer be available, and I'm hopeful we can start to backfill this data resource so that we have electronic records for a larger chunk of BYBA's history.

As part of creating this "digital estate", work has also begun on creating a web API. This is a tool that allows programmers to access our information in a way that we control and share. Currently there's not a great deal of available information, but there should be enough for bands to display a list of shows they've entered on their website or their latest scores – which are potentially widgets we could give bands code for!

The next area in line for upgrading is the membership system, so that all of this information can be digital too. Currently the list is manually kept up to date (on the existing website and in the new systems) and so allowing registrations is a big step to making everything self-sufficient. I'm hopeful that you should be able to register for the AGM in this way!

Luke Taylor – Technology Chair