



Founder Malcolm Heywood

**Minutes of Tutbury Band Annual General Meeting**  
**Spread Eagle, Rolleston – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Signed in as present:-

B. Harvey, W. Crossley, C. Orton, P. Harvey, C. Perfitt, D. J. & B Cousins, C. Sherriff, P. Rundle, E. Cartwright, S. Tipper, E. Pountney, K. Orton, J. Baker, R. Rowsell, S. Laws, J. Glanville, S. P., & H. O' Callaghan, E. Fern, E. A, M, & P Watson, J. Thompson, .A. Money, D. Bailey, I Hartshorne, S. Mc. Loughlin, D. Walford, D. Armshaw, G. Wright

Apologies received from:-

R. Marrison, P. Appleby, R. Woodberry, J. Springer, P. Lockwood, S. Crossland

1. Election of Officers
- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Chairperson</u>                           | - | <b>Kevin Orton</b>                    |
| <i>(in accordance with the Constitution)</i> |   |                                       |
| <u>Secretary</u>                             | - | <b>Richard Woodberry</b> (re-elected) |
| <u>Treasurer</u>                             | - | <b>Graeme Wright</b> (re-elected)     |

It was suggested that the Concert Bookings and Website management might be easier to organise as a joint task. **David Walford** was proposed and seconded to undertake both, and **Ian Hartshorne** volunteered his support. The transfer to David will be staged and assisted by both Richard and Kevin. When completed, David should have the use of the band mobile telephone which will be used for all Concert bookings - Junior, Senior and Swing Band. Enquiries will be discussed with both Kevin and the appropriate Band Leader before confirmation.

**Barbara Harvey** agreed to continue running the Database,

**Diane Armshaw** would again organise a Christmas Meal.

**Chris Perfitt** offered to take on Fund Raising,

and although Publicity was discussed and agreed to be necessary, no volunteer was forthcoming.

Sarah Leverington had agreed last year to take on Social Event organisation, but as she was not present, it was not confirmed if this role would continue.

Both John Thompson and Elaine Pountney agreed to continue with Uniforms & Refreshments.

Kevin expressed thanks on behalf of the Band to everyone who had undertaken roles over the past year, particularly Richard Woodberry, Graeme Wright, the Harveys, Elaine Pountney and John Thompson.

## 2. Finances

Graeme had produced audited accounts for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010, and copies had been circulated by e-mail to all band members prior to the AGM. In general although subscriptions for the year had increased, the income from Concerts, and the Town Hall Christmas Event had fallen. The Bands are paying less for the hire of rehearsal venues and there was less expenditure on music overall. The cost of new equipment included the replacement of a stolen generator, which was largely covered by insurance. There were also costs involved in the re-organisation of music and its storage, and a cost to the Band of approximately £3,500 for the new gazebos. The "Birthday Bash" at Sudbury generated additional income for band funds.

At present, the considerable stock of instruments owned by the Band does not feature on the Balance Sheet, but they are currently being re-documented and will be included in the future.

Thanks were expressed to Stuart Wolfenden and Chris Perfitt for auditing the accounts over the past two years.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by B.Harvey, seconded by D. Walford, and unanimously accepted.

## 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were read through and Kevin again expressed his thanks particularly to new members who had taken on roles within the band. It was agreed that some ideas had not actually come to fruition – CRB checks in particular, although it now seems that these may not be required. There were also anomalies over the concert fees charged during the year, and problems with uniform did not appear to have been resolved despite the intention to reinforce standards.

The minutes, however, were unanimously accepted as being a true reflection of that meeting.

## 4. Subs

Kevin made a proposal for a new structure of Subscriptions.

These should be increased to £30 per person per year, discounted to £25 for payment before November.

For a combined \*family membership of 2 people - £50 – disc to £45 for prompt payment

For a combined \*family membership of 3 or more £60 – disc to £55 for prompt payment.

Discount for	Life Members - 25 years plus	Free
	Long Service – 20 years plus	50%
	Prev.Year Attendance 100%	Free
	Prev.Year Attendance over 90%	50%

\* family membership is defined as immediate family living at the same address

New members joining after Christmas should remain at £15.

These amendments should come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

It was re-affirmed that one annual subscription covers membership of all sections of Tutbury Band (Junior-Senior-Swing)

At this point, Kevin also proposed that a “one-off” joining fee should apply, to cover the cost of providing each member with a set of music and appropriate folders. It is not practical to have a refundable deposit as in most cases when music has been returned, it is not in a suitable condition for re-use. However, it was agreed that should a new member decide to leave Band within one month of joining, and the music is returned with folders in a pristine condition, a refund of the “joining fee” could be applied.

This Joining Fee is to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011, and although it does not apply retrospectively to existing members it should apply to any member requiring a replacement full set of music.

Both of Kevin’s above proposals were seconded by Paul Rundle and passed unanimously.

## 5. Ireland

Everything is progressing well with the trip to Carrickmacross in June 2011. Kevin has received a draft outline of the proposed itinerary for the event, and it is hoped that the Band will play a Concert on the Friday evening, and at least one more during the main event on the Saturday. Tutbury Band will be one of several bands performing over the two day event, so we will obviously have to wait until nearer the date for more definite plans to be revealed. All travel and accommodation arrangements are now fully reserved and deposits paid.

## 6. Attendance

Kevin expressed concern that some members are not “pulling their weight” as far as attendance goes – particularly when they are not attending practice but are turning up for concerts, and also those who come willingly to practice but decline to attend for concerts. It is appreciated that some members have work commitments and from time to time health issues, but he made the point that when members are under-rehearsed but come to play in concerts, this affects the standard of play. This was particularly noticeable at both the Tutbury Music Festival and to a certain extent the Christmas Concert in 2010 when the band turnout was almost 100%, but the performance was well below our usual high standard. Kevin felt that although it was desirable to demand a set amount of practice attendance prior to a concert, it was probably not practical to enforce this. He proposes to work on a solution to this problem.

Overall attendance this year has been good.

The subject of asking guest players to fill in on odd occasions when sections are depleted raised some general discussion, with particular reference to Swing Band. Kevin re-iterated that all regular players of any section of Tutbury Band are expected to be full members, and pay the subscription. It should only be necessary to bring in “guest players” under exceptional circumstances. Under the new baton of Gemma Bower, it is hoped that the Swing Band will adhere more closely to this, and also that music should not be loaned to other Bands.

## 7. Uniform

Kevin felt that the general standard of dress was quite low, and it was particularly noted at major concerts such as Tutbury Music Festival and the Christmas Concert, when trainers and non-uniform trousers were commented on by members of the public.

Some proposals were made for further investigation –

- Cravats printed in appropriate band design could be worn optionally instead of a tie by ladies.
- Clip-on ties could be made “obligatory” if a member is deemed to be wearing the band tie inappropriately.
- Polo Shirts to be used for Junior Band uniform.

The above are still open for discussion, and Diane Armshaw expressed some interest in making preliminary feasibility studies/costings.

The official Tutbury Band uniform was confirmed as currently

White Shirt with band tie (It was confirmed that for ladies a “tailored and fitted” blouse may be worn outside trousers/skirt, but shirts must be tucked in)

Black or Navy Trousers or Skirt (for ladies). – No Shorts or “cropped” trousers.

Band Pullover for Senior Band

Band Sweatshirt for Junior Band.

Suitable footwear – NO WHITE SOCKS WITH TROUSERS  
NO TRAINERS.

If required, Band Caps/or approved White Sun Hats.

No additional adornments, scarves, etc.

It was suggested that perhaps some members of the Band might be persuaded to model acceptable and non-acceptable clothing/footwear to be photographed and put on to the website.

## 8. A.O.B.

- The Band has a substantial amount of instruments of both brass and woodwind available for members to borrow, and we would particularly like to encourage new members to make use of them. It was suggested that we make more use of publicity, open days, workshops etc. to publicise both the band and the availability of the instruments. We should possibly target music teachers, local schools, peripatetic teachers etc.
- The level of music played in both Junior and Senior Bands – is everyone satisfied with this? Any ideas should be forwarded to Kevin for consideration.
- This led to considerable discussion regarding the standard of music played in Junior Band.

It was felt that absolute beginners should always be considered when choosing music to be played and there was a general consensus amongst players in the Junior Band who were present at the meeting, that the current level of Junior Band music is becoming too high, and may in fact be deterring absolute beginners. It was confirmed that Training Band is still available, although at present there are no members of this section.

Statistics show that the number of members at Junior Band level has dropped over the past decade and to rectify this it might be worth canvassing/’workshopping’ local primary schools and their P.T.A’s. Also posters and publicity advertising Tutbury Band and its facilities, and perhaps adverts in local music shops such as Foulds, Windblowers etc. Whilst the move to Belvedere does not appear to have deterred members from Tutbury or Richard Wakefield School from continuing or joining, there is still an imbalance of older members to younger members.

There was a suggestion that Wednesday night provided the only mid-week outlet for wind/brass players locally, and thus attracted more adept players who could not make themselves available on Saturdays or week-ends for other bands. This, however, brought the reply that Junior Band, and its level of playing should be designed to encourage and nurture beginner/intermediate players of all ages to improve their skills and progress to Senior Band level. It should not be geared to retain players of a more experienced standard who are looking for somewhere to play. This latter sentiment was endorsed unanimously.

It was also stated that it is not our intention to deter people from wanting to progress to Senior Band, therefore, we also need to be mindful that we do not create “too large a gap” between the most challenging Junior pieces and the standard of the Senior Band pieces.

It was suggested that it might be worth considering sending a letter to the parents of a child who has reached the standard required for Senior Band, suggesting the move, rather than just mentioning it generally at Band practice, as children are notoriously bad at passing on information to parents.

- Kevin has taken the decision to re-instate auditions for Senior Band. He will undertake this himself informally, prior to the new member coming to a Senior Band practice.
- Diane Armshaw requested that the heating at Rolleston be switched on early enough for it to be useful for our Saturday rehearsals. Graeme Wright would look into this.
- It was suggested we should do more to raise the profile of our Christmas Concert. Maybe a stall selling tickets, and a group of players in the Burton precinct prior to the event. Apparently at least three weeks notice is required for such an event, and Kevin suggested that in the next few weeks we should select a date and make the appropriate arrangements.
- There was a request for more notice to be given of the forthcoming A.G.M. This would be taken into consideration for next year, and hopefully a format could be agreed upon for a set calendar date each year.
- It was suggested that all Band owned instruments should be “marked” on the case numerically, so that it becomes easier to trace which instrument is currently on loan to which member. Diane Armshaw and Paul Rundle will undertake this.
- It has been noted that the Percussion section is not getting a great deal of assistance loading and unloading their equipment. All members are asked to help with this considerable chore. This is in addition to helping with putting out and returning chairs at practice. Everyone should at the very least be prepared to take their own chair back to the store-room.
- As we are “Tutbury” Band, it was asked if it would be possible to organise a social occasion within the village – maybe the Christmas Dinner? Diane Armshaw agreed to look into this.
- Emily Watson proposed that the Band should “do something” special to celebrate our oldest band members, - one of whom is an octogenarian and another fast approaching that milestone. It was unanimously agreed that this was a good idea, and should be given due consideration. All ideas to Emily/Kevin.

The meeting closed with thanks from Kevin to everyone who was able to attend.