



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Charity name: Ebbw Valley Brass

Charity registration number: 1004260

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>Formed in September 2011 following the merger of Cwm Town Band and Ebbw Vale Town Band, the purpose of the organisation shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to promote, improve and develop public education and appreciation of the art and science of music, in particular, brass band playing.• to provide tuition, equipment and support musical education to members making the organisation as accessible, diverse and inclusive as possible.• and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the trustees may from time to time decide.• to strive for continued excellence of performance on the contest and concert stage; and• to increase the activity and focus on the development of children and youth in learning to play a brass instrument. <p>During 2023-24, the object was further detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to develop new fundraising initiatives as well as assist local charities in their fundraising activities and continuing to evolve as a hub of the community• to win the band's fourth British National Championship title and retain the Welsh Open Champion title.• to increase the number of concert and contest performances• and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the trustees may from time to time decide.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The band has continued to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• perform in contest and concert venues throughout the UK

benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide musical tuition, equipment and support to its members in line with its objectives • reached its highest ranking on the world brass band stage • achieved its highest level of competing in its short history • supported our members in their musical aspirations and ambitions • taken every opportunity to perform or collaborate with local community-based or charitable groups in an aim to raise the band's profile within the community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The charity's trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><u>First Section GB National Champions 2023</u> In March 2023, the band won the first section Welsh Regionals, qualifying for the National Finals for the seventh time. The band competed at Cheltenham Racecourse in September 2023 and won the first section, securing its fourth national title and best instrumentalist prize. We are the only band to have won all four of the lower section national titles and best instrumentalist prize, a record we are extremely proud of, and which was the pinnacle in our short history.</p> <p><u>Welsh Open Champions 2024</u> In February 2024, the band successfully defended its title as Welsh Open Champions 2024. This was a highlight in only our sixth appearance at the contest. We also won 'Best Bases', 'Best Trombones' and the Musical Directors Prize.</p> <p><u>Contesting</u> As well as competing at the National Finals, the band made several appearances at other local and national contests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East Wales Brass Band Association Spring Festival – First Prize and best soprano • South East Wales Brass Band Association Autumn Festival – Second Prize and best trombone • Blackpool Spring Festival • Wychavon Festival of Brass – fourth place in first section, fifth place in championship section

Concerts and Community

The band is proud to have played at several concerts throughout the year including Bedwellty Park, Ross on Wye bandstand, St Mary's Priory in Chepstow. We also attended a number of local venues to support the community in their Acts of Remembrance, summer and Christmas events. Prior to each major contest, the band has held an 'open rehearsal' in a local venue providing a free preview of our upcoming contest performance for the local audience to enjoy. In doing so, we have paid to hire venues in the community, thus supporting their future as spaces for all to enjoy.

Rounding off 2023-24

We finished 2023-24 in the same way as we finished 2022-23 – with qualification to the British National Finals, this time in the championship section, to be held at the world famous, prestigious Royal Albert Hall. This is the pinnacle of the band's short history, joining the elite line up of qualifying bands from all over the UK.

Recruitment

Many brass bands face challenges in recruiting new players. 2023-24 was no exception for Ebbw Valley Brass, however, during this period, the band successfully appointed first class principal trombone, tuned percussionist, solo cornet and assistant principal cornet players to ensure a full complement of players.

Ebbw Valley Ten Piece

We successfully launched our new venture, a ten-piece band in a bid to reach a wider audience with a different take on traditional brass band music as well as raise funds and increase our number of public appearances. The ten-piece band secured a number of engagements during the year; we were particularly proud of our performance at Chepstow Bandstand and the NHS 75th anniversary celebrations at Bryn Bach park.

Redesigned Bandhall

Time was invested in redesigning an area of the bandhall into a meeting space, enabling us to provide other volunteer community groups who need a space for their activities with a free facility.

Fundraising

As well as our usual programme of summer and Christmas fundraising, we launched some new initiatives in an effort to raise funds including the launch of a new ten-piece band and more outreach work for donations and sponsorship.

		<p><u>Youth/Beginners Band</u> The ambition is to set up and recruit to a youth/beginner's band to secure future musicians and benefit the community. While we have previously been able to run an academy band, circumstances have not yet allowed for this to be relaunched, mainly due to volunteer time but this is an ongoing priority as and when circumstances allow.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The financial climate for a musical organisation such as ours is challenging. The band's position of 'breaking even' reflects the hard work in looking at new ways to generate income in line with the organisations aims and objectives. With ever rising costs, we assess the operating costs against income and ensure the financial viability. The trustees consider one of the main risks to the success in delivering the organisations objectives to be lack of grant funding or fundraising opportunities for future ventures and equipment and carefully take this into consideration in planning day to day activities and overall management of the band. The bands' principal sources of funding include monies raised at Christmas time and throughout the year, playing at various venues and collecting donations. Member contributions, donations and fees for public engagements also account for a significant portion of the bands' income.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	No reserves policy is held; however, the trustees are mindful of income vs future eventualities and liabilities.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	None
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Constitution adopted 13 June 2016
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by the management committee at Annual General Meetings Trustees will be the appointed officials of the band as agreed and approved through the Annual General Meeting. These positions will be appointed from playing and non-playing members of the band. Individual skills and experience will be considered for these roles and agreed in line with the Constitution of the band. All new Trustees will undertake any development training, which is deemed necessary for the role, and will be supported by the outgoing official for an

		<p>agreed period.</p> <p>The Management Team elected at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the bands' Constitution shall comprise the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman 2. Vice Chair 3. Band Manager 4. Secretary 5. Treasurer 6. Academy Manager (N/A) 7. Not less than three or more than five members to act as Management Team Members 8. A Musical Director shall be appointed by the Management Team to be responsible for the musical director, conducting and progress of the band. 9. A Resident Conductor shall be appointed by the Management Team to be responsible for the musical direction and process of the Academy 10. At its discretion, the Management Team may recommend to the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of a President and up to five Vice Presidents, who will support the Band in completing its objectives and be available as a resource for consultation and advice.
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Ebbw Valley Brass
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1004260
Charity's principal address	<p>The Old Tyllwyn School Greenfield Terrace Tyllwyn Ebbw Vale Blaenau Gwent NP23 6AF</p> <p>Please note: the principal address is not recognised by the postal service. Therefore, any post should be directed to:</p> <p>C/O 9 Greenway Close Griffithstown Pontypool Torfaen NP4 5BA</p>

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dean Woods	Band Manager		
2	Gabrielle Brill	Secretary		

3	Donna Hardman	Chair		
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19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

Additional information (optional) N/A

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

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Date

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Ebbw Valley Brass

1004260

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Contributions	6,711	-	-	6,711	-
Fundraising activities	9,686	-	-	9,686	-
Grant income	2,024	-	-	2,024	-
Donations	12,583	-	-	12,583	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,004	-	-	31,004	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,004	-	-	31,004	-
A3 Payments					
Insurance	1,088	-	-	1,088	-
Utilities	1,706	-	-	1,706	-
Repairs and Maintenance	280	-	-	280	-
Fixtures and fittings	541	-	-	541	-
Contest entry	1,385	-	-	1,385	-
Volunteer and Member Expenses	17,516	-	-	17,516	-
Transport and vehicle hire	1,878	-	-	1,878	-
Venue hire	463	-	-	463	-
Stationery and Copier charges	435	-	-	435	-
Uniform purchase	1,897	-	-	1,897	-
Sundries	1,820	-	-	1,820	-
Contest expenses	6,910	-	-	6,910	-
Instrument maintenance and repair	814	-	-	814	-
Sub total	36,731	-	-	36,731	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	36,731	-	-	36,731	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,727	-	-	- 5,727	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 5,727	-	-	- 5,727	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Treasurers Account and cash in hand	15,875	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,875	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Brass and percussion instruments	Unrestricted	-	-
	Music library	Unrestricted	-	-
	Stands, mutes, equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Recording equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Member expenses	Unrestricted	14,400	Annual
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name Ebbw Valley Brass		
	On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2024	Charity no (if any)
Set out on pages	2-3		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03 /2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.