



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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 2024-25 the objectives were further detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to continue with fundraising initiatives as well as assist local charities in their fundraising activities and continuing to evolve as a hub of the community• to qualify for the Great Britain National Finals 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 benefit, in particular, the	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

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>Qualifying for the Championship Section British National Finals 2024</u> The band was promoted to Championship section for the 2024 contesting season. Competing at the Welsh Regionals in March 2024, the band reached its highest ever achievement by qualifying for the British National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall which were held in October 2024. It has been an ambition to reach the RAH since the bands' formation and we were proud to be able to take our members, their families and our supporters on an incredible journey to this iconic venue. For some, it was their first time to visit London and the RAH, and what an amazing experience to be able take to the stage there, something we will treasure forever.</p> <p><u>Spring Festival Champions 2024</u> Our third time competing in the senior trophy in May 2024 saw an incredible win for the band, gaining promotion to the senior cup. Following our qualification to the National Finals back in March, this was another huge success.</p> <p><u>Eisteddfod Champions 2024</u> The band competed at the National Eisteddfod in August 2024 and were delighted with another contest win. The contest was televised on S4C and was watched by so many of our families and friends. It was another wonderful opportunity for members and supporters.</p> <p><u>Welsh Open Champions 2025</u> In February 2025, the band successfully defended its title as Welsh Open Champions 2025 for the third consecutive time. This was a highlight for our members in only our seventh appearance at the</p>

contest. We also won 'Best Bases', 'Best Cornet' and the Musical Directors Prize.

Success for our Younger Members

As an organisation, we are proud of our strong links with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD). Over the years, we have had many players join the band while they are studying in Cardiff and we form part of the support network for those young people while they are away from home. The experiences and tuition we can provide forms part of their musical education and compliments their studies.

One of our students graduated in June 2024 and while we were sad to see their time with the band come to an end, we were so proud of their success in joining the Band of the Irish Guards.

Our principal euphonium player won the Besson Brass Prize at RWCMD in March 2025, an incredible achievement in a strong and talented field of young musicians at the college.

Concerts and Community

The band is proud to have played at several concerts throughout the year including Bedwellty Park, Ross on Wye bandstand and Chepstow bandstand. We took part in a wonderfully supported joint concert with Can Aderyn choir and Beaufort Male Choir. We collaborated with Paid Gofyn, a local Welsh folk group who asked us to record backing tracks for their sing Wrexham which is played at Wrexham FC. We went on to perform as guests at their concert in Bedwellty House. This was a fantastic opportunity for members to play to a new audience and form new relationships with other musicians in the area, a collaboration we hope to repeat in the coming year. We 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.

Recruitment

Many brass bands face challenges in recruiting new players. 2024-25 was no exception for Ebbw Valley Brass, however, during this period, the band successfully appointed a first-class principal trombone, two tuned percussionists, principal and assistant principal cornets, a principal euphonium, flugel, bass trombone and back row cornet players to ensure a full complement and welcome new members to share the opportunities playing in a brass band brings. Recruitment strengthens the band and ensures our members have the best possible opportunities to perform in concerts and

contests. In March 2025, the band successfully recruited a new Musical Director. We were so fortunate to secure the services of a young and ambitious conductor who has played at the highest level. We are confident that this partnership means the band can provide the highest possible level of musical education and achievement for our members as we continue to strive in making the band as accessible, affordable and inclusive as possible.

Ebbw Valley Ten Piece

We successfully launched a ten-piece band in 2023/24 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 continued its success in 2024/25, raising funds for our trips to Blackpool and London.

Fundraising

As well as our usual programme of summer and Christmas fundraising, we continued initiatives in an effort to raise funds including performances with our ten-piece band and more outreach work for donations and sponsorship.

Youth / Beginners Band

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.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>Appointed by the management committee at Annual General Meetings</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All new Trustees will undertake any development training, which is deemed necessary for the role,</p>

		<p>and will be supported by the outgoing official for an 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	Ellen Waite	None	Jan 2025 - Mar 25	
3	Donna Hardman	Chair	Jan 2025 - Mar 25	
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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)	<i>D. Hardman</i>	
Full name(s)	Donna Hardman	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	15/01/2026	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Ebbw Valley Brass	1004260
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025
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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					
Donations and gifts	8,782	-	-	8,782	-
Grants and Gift Aid	5,681	-	-	5,681	-
Member subscriptions and donations	6,788	-	-	6,788	-
Easyfundraising	309	-	-	309	-
Other	20	-	-	20	-
Fundraising Activities	10,264	-	-	10,264	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,843	-	-	31,843	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,843	-	-	31,843	-
A3 Payments					
Utilities	2,843	-	-	2,843	-
Repairs and maintenance	330	-	-	330	-
Instrument purchase and maintenance	1,780	-	-	1,780	-
Coach and van hire	4,296	-	-	4,296	-
Insurance	1,476	-	-	1,476	-
Music	571	-	-	571	-
Copier and stationery	459	-	-	459	-
Charitable activities expenses	7,006	-	-	7,006	-
Misc and donations	360	-	-	360	-
Contest Entry	1,415	-	-	1,415	-
Uniform	684	-	-	684	-
Musical Director	12,955	-	-	12,955	-
Sub total	34,175 #	- #	-	34,174	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	34,175 #	-	-	34,174	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,331 #	-	-	- 2,331	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 2,331 #	-	-	- 2,331	-

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	16,166	16,166	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,166	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error OK OK

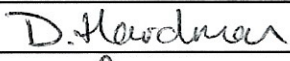

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Instruments, equipment		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 	D Hardman D Woods	15/01/26 15/01/26



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Ebbw Valley Brass

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1004260

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 31/03/2025

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:

[Signature]

Date:

15/01/26

Name:

ARWYD J. JAVIES

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

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT ICAEW

Address:

GELWYN HOUSE 1a ABBEY TERRACE
LLANDEILO SA19 6BD.

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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.

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