Daventry Brass AGM

12/05/2026 @ 19.30

1) **Introduction** - Martin Heath (President) welcomed members to the meeting.

2) Apologies – John Dennett, Chelsea James.

3) Minutes of the Previous AGM held on 29/04/2025 were Read, Approved and signed as an accurate record. Proposed by Lucy Higgins, Seconded by Chris Buck.

4) Matters Arising - None.

5) Annual Committee Report – This report was circulated to the band prior to the meeting and agreed by all and attached to the Minutes.

6) Treasurer's Report – This was circulated, the band asked that Caroline Lewin (Treasurer) convey the band's thanks to the auditor Sally Watkinson. The accounts were proposed by Caroline Lewin and seconded by Alison Buck and accepted by all members.

7) Musical Director's Report – This was presented to the band, Kirsty asked that everyone reads the report and takes on board her comments. This report is attached to the Minutes.

8) Election of Officers –
Chair – Alison Buck – proposed by Caroline Lewin, seconded by Chelsea James.
Secretary – David Moorhouse – proposed by Caroline Lewin, seconded by Mollie Anderson.
Treasurer – Caroline Lewin – proposed by Karin Shepherd, seconded by Paul Shepherd.
Committee –
John Dennett – proposed by Ken Ewer, seconded by Karin Shepherd.
Mollie Anderson – proposed by Chelsea James, seconded by Alison Buck.

9) Election of President – Martin Heath – proposed by Alison Buck, seconded by Chris Buck.

10) **Election of Vice Presidents** – Mr and Mrs Blackham, Mr John Frith, Mr Brian Knight, Mr Paul Kelly, David Finney. They were proposed and seconded en-bloc by Caroline Lewin and Alison Buck.
Honorary Life Members were at present Allen Meller. It was suggested that the committee check that the HLM are capable to take on the role and whether there are any female candidates. Maureen Kenworthy was to be asked if she would like to be considered – Alison Buck to contact Maureen, proposed by Mollie Anderson, seconded by Chris Buck.

11) Committee Recognition Award 2026 – This was presented to Lucy Higgins at the concert at Long Buckby UR Church on 09/05/2026. It was suggested that Kirsty is able to present either another award or send her input for this award to the committee.

12) **Any Other Business –** A discussion followed regarding the future of the band as we venture into the fourth section.
Concerts - Alison Buck reported that requests for concerts were still coming in, Newnham Church had accepted the date of 26th September for an evening concert.
Lower Shuckburgh Church had asked for a date for the band to play a concert with all the proceeds going to the Church. This was agreed and Alison Buck was to send a request for members availability.
Byfield Church had also asked if the band could play a concert later in the year.
A member of the Daventry Town Council had approached Alison Buck at the Long Buckby

concert and stated that the Town Council and band would have a greater alliance going forward. There was also the possibility of the band playing at a small private garden party in the next 12 months.
Contests – It was suggested that the band enter a contest during this year before it is relegated to the fourth section, either Leicester – November 2026, Wychavon - October 2026 or NEMBBA in February 2027. The general consensus was that Wychavon might not be an ideal situation for the band to undertake for preparation for the Area Contest as it is made up of a 20-minute programme of music and not just one test piece.
Kirsty stated that during the rehearsals for the regional contest that she would not just play the one piece but would pick other music to play that would complement the test piece. The rehearsals would not be pressured. The band would have a dress rehearsal in full uniform and concentrate on deportment including walking on and off stage and cementing the band's comradeship and teamwork. The committee was charged with discussing which contest the band would enter.
It was noted that there needed to be stronger communication using social media posts and general publicity as it was felt there was a gap in advertising events as Martin Heath was unaware that the Long Buckby concert had taken place. It was suggested that pop-up banners be purchased and to give out advertising/recruitment flyers at concerts. A request was made that members engage more fully with WhatsApp by giving a thumbs up or comments when a player has created a post.

The meeting closed at 20.30.

Item 5 - Annual Report from the Band Committee – May 2026.

During the year there have been a few changes – firstly Ken stepped down as Musical Director last June and this was marked with a presentation of gifts as our thanks for the years he has taken the band. In July we were delighted to appoint Kirsty Woodhouse as Musical Director – Kirsty has a wealth of experience as both a player – principal cornet with Thrapston band and as conductor of Moulton77 band. Over this time Kirsty has helped the band grow both musically and socially, bringing new music and her spirit and enthusiasm to each rehearsal. Also we were thrilled to hear that Kirsty and her partner Vic are to be married next year.

We had a steady number of engagements throughout the year including Braunston Marina Festival, Everdon Fete. We had a number of new Christmas events to play at the West Hadden Wassailers, Dunchurch Pools, Wappenham Farm and Rugby Football Club. We hope to return to these venues this year. We also visited Astley Hall Care Home on Boxing Day which was well received by the residents. Our first concert of 2026 was at Long Buckby UR Church on Saturday 9th May, this was a huge success with lots of good feedback as both the audience, Kirsty and the band enjoyed it. There have been a couple of areas of interest for further collaboration - again with the Church, a private function and Daventry Town Council

Recruitment of players for certain sections has been challenging this year although we are pleased to welcome back Lucy now flourishing on flugel horn, Karen on first baritone, Chelsea on second horn and Mollie on solo Euphonium. Antonio who came as a euphonium player and is doing a good job as first trombone player. Ken who has settled well as second euphonium. Shell who began by playing baritone and is enjoying playing the timps and percussion and Paul our kit player. We also give our thanks to Karen, Vic, Steve and Jodie from Moulton77 who regularly attend rehearsals and have become an integral part of this band. We are still advertising for cornets and trombone players.

Unfortunately due to lack of players, we were unable to enter the Area Contest and this has taken us to the fourth section. We have only one way to go now and that is upwards.

The committee has worked well together to keep the band running smoothly, along with the usual maintenance, most areas of the hall were painted and a deep clean was performed. The committee would like to extend its thanks to Ken as hall manager – he manages the hall bookings as well as the cleaning. The committee also thanks Fiona Dennett for her work in obtaining quotes for the painting and cleaning and liaising with the contractors.

Now to the future generation – Upbeat brass our training group has gone from strength to strength, as well as our existing players (cornet, horn and baritone) we welcomed Dave M and his family of cornet players to the group and three tenor horn players – two from DSLV who had began tuition at school and were excited to continue and the younger sister of our existing horn player who had been eager to play for a couple of years. We are now looking at learning more advanced music and anyone that is available to help out, this would be appreciated.

Item 7 - MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Daventry Brass AGM Tuesday 12th May 2026

Since officially starting my role as Musical Director on 1st July 2025, I have been incredibly encouraged by the progress the band has made both musically and socially.

Over the past year we have enjoyed a number of very positive events and performances, with audience feedback consistently being fantastic. The introduction of new and uplifting music into our programmes has helped create engaging and entertaining concerts/performances, which audiences have clearly enjoyed. This continued positive response is a real credit to the hard work and commitment shown by everyone in the band.

One of the standout moments of the year was our recent *A Night at the Movies* concert, which proved to be a massive success. The event was extremely well received. The organisers have already asked us to return again and an audience

member also asked us to support one of their events, which is a huge compliment to the band and everyone involved. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

Musically, the quality of playing across the band is improving, and there is clear progress being made. However, we must continue to push forward and not become complacent. There is still plenty of potential within the band and I believe we are capable of achieving even more with continued commitment and focus.

Attendance overall has been very good, which has helped rehearsals remain productive and consistent. Consistency and commitment are key factors in any successful ensemble, so thank you to everyone for this.

I would like to recognise a few individuals whose attitude and commitment have stood out positively. Thank you Wayne for making me feel very welcome and valued from the moment I walked through the door. Lucy, your willingness to learn, improve and progress has been lovely to work with and is exactly the kind of attitude that helps move a band forward and you are very deserving of the individual award received on Saturday. Likewise, Shell, your work on percussion has proved that if you genuinely want to do something and are prepared to put the effort in, it is absolutely possible (now stop watching YouTube videos at 2am and get some sleep!!). Daventry is very lucky to have you all, thank you - and keep it up!!

The addition of new members Steve, Jodi, Chelsea and Antonio, alongside the return of Mollie and Karen, has strengthened the band considerably. Daventry has moved from what felt like a position of crisis to a far more relaxed and stable situation. That said, recruitment must still remain a priority if we are to continue building for the future. I would like to recognise the willingness shown by some members to move onto different instruments where needed for the benefit of the band. That flexibility, teamwork and commitment is hugely appreciated and plays an important role in helping the band continue to strengthen and progress

Looking ahead, I would like the band to continue progressing in all areas. Musically, I believe we can keep improving the overall quality of playing and performance standards, but must continue to support one another in a positive and respectful environment.

I also believe it is important for the band to trust the direction we are moving in. I have a clear vision for the future of the band and the experience to support it, with a proven track record of success both musically and organisationally. Everything I ask of the band is with the intention of helping us continue to improve, succeed and enjoy ourselves.

Whilst many things have improved significantly, I do feel that across the past 10 months there have been a few occasions where the level of respect shown towards me as Musical Director has not been of the standard I would expect. Mutual respect is essential if we are to continue together and maintain a positive and professional rehearsal environment.

I care greatly about this band and put a huge amount of time, energy and thought into everything I say, ask and plan. Whilst I am Musical Director, I am also human and, like everyone else, I do have feelings. If we are to continue progressing positively together, a greater level of mutual respect, understanding and support towards me as Musical Director is now expected.

Going forward, I would like to introduce more opportunities beyond normal rehearsals and concerts. This could include workshops with world-renowned Musical Directors, which would be a fantastic experience for the band both educationally and motivationally and also may bring new players through the door. Finally, I would love to see the band continue becoming more sociable and supportive as a group, as strong relationships away from the music stands often translate into stronger performances.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work, and commitment throughout the year. I am excited about what the future holds for Daventry Brass and look forward to continuing this partnership.

Kirsty Woodhouse

Daventry Brass Musical Director

DAVENTRY BRASS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

EXPENDITURE	2025	INCOME	2025
Registration / Contest	185.00	Hire of Hall	20,928.00
Conductor	2,750.00		
Insurance of Instruments	564.06	Functions	1,650.00
Repairs to Instruments	96.00		
Uniforms purchased	361.80	Bank Interest	4,755.46
Music purchased	608.62		
Music folders purchased	206.92		
Instruments purchased	231.98		
Junior Band	85.00		
Performing Rights licence	97.01		
Brass Band England	140.40		
Player expenses	220.00		
Bank charges	12.60		
Miscellaneous	468.49		
Depreciation	719.78		
Expenditure on Hall			
WNC NDR Rates	311.23		
Repairs and Renewals	1,550.90		
Chairs	100.00		
Service and maintenance	1,256.74		
Insurance	2,462.24		
Caretaker and Supplies	4,897.37		
Energy costs	4,952.61		
Total	22,278.75		27,333.46

DAVENTRY BRASS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

			2025
	FIXED ASSETS		
	"New" Band Hall at Daneholme Close Daventry at current valuation (Daventry District Council acquired the freehold of the "Old" Hall in exchange for the freehold of the "New" Hall)		1,166,400.00
	Instruments and cases as at 31.12.24	6,977.00	
	Items Purchased	231.98	
	Less depreciation (10%)	620.98	
	Instruments as at 31.12.25		5,589.00
	Uniforms as at 31.12.24	1,608.00	
	Uniforms purchased	361.80	
	Less depreciation (5%)	98.80	
	Uniforms as at 31.12.25		1,871.00
	TOTAL		1,173,859.00
	CURRENT ASSETS		
	Charities Official Investment Fund		116,024.15
	Bank Current Account		10,324.72
	Cash in hand		105.80
	TOTAL		1,300,313.67
	Less Current Liabilities		Nil
	TOTAL NET ASSETS		1,300,313.67

On behalf of Daventry Brass C. LEWIN Trustee

On behalf of Daventry Brass Alison Buck Trustee

Date: 12/05/2026.

Report by Independent Examiner:
In accordance with the instructions given to me I have prepared

Sally Watkinson