

Wellington Memorial Silver Band AGM 15/01/2024

The band met for their annual AGM on 15th January 2024. Chairman Thomas Woods welcomed everyone to the meeting. Vice presidents Raymond Stewart and Robert McClurg were in attendance. Apologies were accepted from Avril Carse and Elma Pentland.

Thomas welcomed Robin Fairbairn back to the meeting after his absence last year. We stood for a moments silence to reflect on all those who had been bereaved since we last met.

The minutes from the last AGM were read and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

The treasurer, Sam Woods, gave a short report and explained that we had registered for Gift Aid and received a refund around £1400 from HMRC. Thomas thanked Sam for his continued commitment to is role. The accounts were checked and verified by an independent auditors and it was proposed and seconded that the accounts be accepted as accurate.

The Chairman spoke about the busy year the band had in 2023, between the spring festival in April 2023 and the numerous Coronation events that we attended. Our M.D David Hawthorne stepped down as conductor in June 2023 and after a short period of advertisement, Stephen Cairns was welcomed as the band's new Musical Director, and they celebrated their first win with him in November 2023. We had 13 engagements throughout the year, and the band are looking forward to another busy year.

Thomas thanked all the officers and committee for their continued support, Sam for his continued work as treasurer, Victoria for continuing her role as secretary and Catherine for her role as assistant secretary. Robert McClurg was thanked for his hard work sorting and filing our music, he confirmed we have 808 pieces of music in our library!

Dawn Stewart was thanked for her ongoing dedication to the Junior band, and thanks to Graham McNamara for stepping in to help her. It was also mentioned that she works hard in helping the band secure guest players for various engagements as and when it was required. She also heads up the carol playing during the festive period and arranges for ensembles to play at different venues to raise money for Action Cancer. All of it does not go unnoticed. This year an impressive £6995 was raised for the charity. Robert had also mentioned that since Davy Dickson began the fundraising efforts for Action Cancer, the bands had raised over £60,000.

All offices were declared vacant and the proceedings were handed over to Robin Fairbairn. He thanked us for inviting him and apologised for his absence last year and he is happy to be back with us. All offices were re-elected in block.

Thomas had discussed player of the year with Stephen prior to the meeting. He remarked that everyone is in the band for the right reasons, and everyone is pulling

their weight. He complimented Graham for an excellent performance at the Maldron Hotel, Dawn for her work with the juniors and our guests, and Catherine for stepping up in the principal's seat. Team work is what helps our band to continue. Graham, Dawn and Catherine share the player of the year award, and Catherine received a certificate for 20 years of service to the band.

Patrick Millar remarked that the functionality of our band all boils down to teamwork, we all play well at contests and it's all due to everyone's practice and dedication. He told us how is still enjoying coming to the band and how he appreciates the help moving his instrument.

The meeting was then brought to a close and everyone enjoyed some refreshments and a chat.

Officers

President: David Dickson

Vice presidents: William Pentland, Robin Fairbairn, Jim Smyth, Raymond Stewart, Elma Pentland, Avril Carse, Tom McNeilly, Robert McClurg, William Moody

Chairman: Thomas Woods

Vice-chairman: Robert McClurg

Treasurer: Sam Woods

Secretary: Victoria McAuley

Assistant secretary: Catherine Dodsworth

Librarians: Robert McClurg, Evelyn Woods, Patrick Millar

Committee: Catherine Dodsworth, Dawn Stewart, David Hanna, Graham McNamara

NIBA/BBNI reps: Catherine Dodsworth, Victoria McAuley, Dawn Stewart

SWDBA reps: Sam Woods, Thomas Woods

Crossgar War Memorial Hall reps: Robert McClurg, Callum Bowsie

Equipment officers: David Hanna, Graham McNamara

Conductor: Stephen Cairns

Assistant Conductor: Thomas Woods

Band sergeant: Dawn Stewart

Independent persons: Robert McClurg, Dougie Marr

Signed



Chairman.

15/01/24.