**Crystal Palace Band - Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 15th January 2019**

**Present**: Tom Whittaker, Richard Lovett, Rachel Bleach, Catherine Tinker, Bob Barnes, David Charlesworth,

**Apologies**: Mike Gray, Nicci Maher, Dave Howell, Laura Channel, Dianne Barker, Ben Ward

The meeting started at just after 8.20pm.

**Actions arising from the meeting:**

Tom Whittaker

* Speak to Ben about a date for clearing out the sellable instruments from the undercroft.
* Speak to band about reducing the amount of talking during rehearsal.

David Charlesworth

* Form a sub-committee with Richard and Ben to review band instruments, checking who has what and to formulate a strategy for spending money on instrument upgrades/ repairs over the next few years.
* Meet with Cath to draft the Band’s Data Protection Policy.
* Look at our affiliation with Brass Band England and whether this could reduce our band insurance.
* Speak to Graham Lunn about a fee for rehearsing in the church.

Richard Lovett

* Clear out the undercroft and sort out the band instruments stored down there with band support.
* Provide a list of all percussion needed with prices to the committee.
* Be part of the sub-committee, with David and Ben, reviewing band instruments and strategy for future instrument upgrades/repairs.
* Investigate a band trip to Antwerp.

Mike Gray

* Send picture of bass drum to Potters and get a price for refurbishment. Amo also to be contacted for a quote.

Dave Howell

Ben Ward

* Organise a Saturday afternoon date to clear out the undercroft (all band members).
* Contact Isobel Cox, Toby Andrews and Francis Reiband to check if they still have band instruments/jackets.
* Start the refurbishment of the instruments in the band that are being played.
* Provide list of what instruments we have and who has them.
* Determine with Mike what further percussion kit needs to be ordered

Rachel Bleach

* Organise a meeting with the CP Museum to discuss layout and storage arrangements.
* Contact Mike Miller (who came along on rep) to see if he is interested in coming to band again.

Cath Tinker

* Chase people on their availability for all the jobs.
* Meet with David Charlesworth to draft Crystal Palace Band’s data protection policy.

Bob Barnes

* Trial putting curtains/duvets over the cabinets to see if it makes a difference to the acoustics.
* Look into other ear protection alternatives other than stand barriers – *on hold until a decision is made about moving rehearsal venue.*
* Speak to band about reducing the amount of talking during rehearsal.

Laura

* To be added to the child protection team. Send Richard a photo to be used for this on the website.

Roger Morton

Dianne Barker

**MATTERS ARRISING:**

FORTHCOMING JOBS, CONTESTS AND CONCERTS

* Saturday 16 March – L&S Counties Area Contest, Stevenage
* Sunday 19 May – Victoria Gardens Bandstand, Broadstairs
* Sunday 15 June – Leas Cliff Bandstand, Folkestone
* Sunday 1 September – Regent’s Park Bandstand, London
* The committee agreed that it would be good to try and do the Crystal Palace Festival this year.
* Do we want to do Belmont again? If we do we need to practice the marching and we need Luke to play the bass drum.

**PROGRESS BAND**

* Rachel has sourced a box for the Progress Band banners – need final measurements.
* PB will be entering the Bromley Music Festival this year.
* PB are looking at creating an unregistered competition for local bands. This would involve establishing a connection with Brass Band England and Making Music.

**MEMBERSHIP**

* We have a couple of people who cover parts in the band but then aren’t always selected for main band concerts/contests. We need a plan on how we can make this fairer for those players.
* There are a number of sections that are a concern:
  + Horn section – Carol and Nicci can’t always make rehearsals due to work commitments.
  + Trombone section – can be shortages on bass and 1st trombone
  + Bass section – Alex is looking to move away, Brian is only available for certain jobs in the year. Harry has joined us but is only a term time player.
  + Flugel – Graeme needs a break this summer for his recovery.
  + Front row cornets – Danny is only with us in the week so we need weekend gig cover.

**FINANCES**

* David advised the committee that having subsidised the new band softshell jackets and the Christmas concert and the fact that concert fees will be down this year (to April) our total income will be £12,400 with costs running at about the same amount.
* David has made savings on the band insurance. Rachel advised that our affiliation with Brass band England should get us a further 5% reduction the insurance. David will look into this.
* We need to check with Graham Lunn to see if he needs to charge the band for use of the church. David feels that we should probably pay £50 per use. We did play a concert for free which could be used against payment; however, there will come a point when we should start paying again. David to speak to Graham.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Meeting with the Museum chairman**

* Meeting to be arranged with Alexander (chairman of the museum). Tom, David and Rachel to attend this meeting.
* Need to determine our priorities for this meeting.
* David suggested that the first meeting should be about finding out what their plans are for the museum and how we fit into this. They also need to know where we are as a band and that we are considering other rehearsal options.
* We should go in with small list of requirements; access, sound proofing, cleanliness, and try and tackle these first. Question is – are we going to ask them to pay or are we willing to pay for some of these requirements.
* Rachel to send a meeting request email to Alexander Pearce, Chair, Crystal Palace Museum.

**The Museum undercroft**

* Richard would like to get all the music out of his loft and put five cabinets in the undercroft in which to store this music.
* Is there any objection to us getting rid of the old display panels in the undercroft? Dianne to check with Ken.
* Need to set a date to get the band to clear out the undercroft.
  + Take out sellable instruments
  + Organise date for band to clear out the undercroft – in summer with a BBQ.
  + Need to decide if we need a skip or whether we can use cars.

**Acoustics in the museum**

* Bob to get people who play in both bands to bring a duvet / old curtains to cover the glass cases. Bob to organise for 2 weeks’ time (30 January) to trial putting covers over the cabinets to see if this helps with the acoustics.
* Can we speak to a university who might have acoustic students to come and help us with our acoustics. This could be a project for them or we could pay them.
* To be discussed with Ken/Alex at the meeting to be arranged by Rachel.

**Committee sharing responsibility for gigs / rehearsals**

* We need to have a plan for transporting the kit when we have timps. At the beginning of the summer a plan to be drawn up around percussion transportation so that it isn’t the same people doing for each job.
* If needed, making sure Mike has a lift to gigs.

**Contests**

* L&S Counties Area Contest at Stevenage in March.
* Do we want to do a competition before this; SCABA contest in Crawley or the Oxford competition. They are both on the same weekend – 24/25 February.
* We could hold a weekend workshop instead where we work on the test piece rather than go to the contest – 24 February - band to be asked on Wednesday.
* Sectionals to be organised prior to the Stevenage contest.

**Butlins**

* If we go a different restaurant will be booked for 6pm.
* It was thought that a few lessons could be learnt for Butlins / other contests next time
  + - Record the band playing the piece next time a couple of weeks before we play.
    - We should have listened to the piece played by an orchestra beforehand.
    - Have a day to work on the piece / a workshop
    - Wychavon Contest, 3 November 2019 – do we want to do this? Would we want to do this instead of Butlins. Band to be asked.

**Chairs**

Do we want to think again about purchasing new chairs? To be discussed at the next meeting.

**Publicity**

Is there anyone in the band who is able to help with more publicity? It would be great to make better use of social media / local groups to attract new members / get more local jobs / get more local support. Band to be asked at the AGM.

**Christmas Concert**

* Do we want to do a Christmas concert / entertainment concert again this year
* It’s a good opportunity to get both bands together and for each band to hear each other.
* Most people enjoyed the Christmas Concert.
* Would Graham’s church want to host again?
* We could do a concert in November so more entertainment less Christmas.

**Rehearsals**

* Too much background talking in rehearsals in both bands.
* Need to be stricter on the break. Only 15 minutes.
* The committee to lead on both of these things.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm.

Date for the next meeting: **Tuesday 26 March 2019**

Date for AGM – **Wednesday 24 April 2019**

**Thank you to David Charlesworth for hosting.**