**Crystal Palace Band - Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 26th March**

**Present**: Tom Whittaker, Richard Lovett, Rachel Bleach, Catherine Tinker, Bob Barnes, David Charlesworth, Dave Howell, Laura Channel, Roger Morton.

**Apologies**: Mike Gray, Nicci Maher, 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 members of the main band who will be affected by the proposed changes to subs.
* Speak with Mike about how to helping to reduce his band admin.

Richard Lovett

* Provide a list of all percussion equipment needed with prices to the committee.
* Investigate a band trip to Antwerp.

Mike Gray

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

Ben Ward

* Organise a Saturday afternoon date to clear out the undercroft (all band members).
* Start the refurbishment of current band instruments.
* Determine with Mike what extra percussion kit we need and put in necessary order.

Rachel Bleach

* To organise a meeting with the Museum to discuss museum layout and storage arrangements.

Cath Tinker

* Chase people on their availability for band jobs.
* Think about a plan for getting percussion to summer bandstand gigs.

Bob Barnes

* Speak to members of the Progress Band who will be affected by the proposed sub changes.
* Look into other ear protection alternatives other than stand barriers – *on hold until a decision is made about moving rehearsal venue.*

Laura

* Speak with Nicci about helping out with social media accounts.
* Post advert for percussions player and front row cornet player on social media.

Roger Morton

* Add requirement for percussion player and front row cornet player on website.

**MATTERS ARRISING:**

FORTHCOMING JOBS, CONTESTS AND CONCERTS

* Other jobs being discussed / confirmed at the moment.
* Waiting to hear from the Crystal Palace Festival. This would be the 16th June.

**PROGRESS BAND**

* PB are looking at creating an unregistered competition for local bands. This would involve establishing a connection with Brass Band England and Making Music.
* PB Tom asked if Progress Band could create a Muzodo account. Rachel has sent Tom the details for him to set up.

**MEMBERSHIP**

* We need a new percussion player and a new front row player to support on gigs. Roger M to add to website.
* Mike Cook is very kindly supporting the flugel position when Dave isn’t available whilst Graeme is undergoing treatment.

**FINANCES**

* This year we have just gone over breaking even.
* We made a profit on the concert this year as not all expenses were claimed.
* David suggested that we should think about applying for charitable status as we don’t operate to make a profit. David suggested that we should put this on the agenda for next year’s committee.
* If we do get charitable status then we may have to pay an accountant to oversee the accounts.

**Changing the band subscription discounts.**

* David would like to make the following proposal re band subs at the AGM -
  + To give a 50% discount to children and people in receipt of universal credit and remove the 50% discount to pensioners.
  + To remove the current 20% discount for two or more members from the same family.
  + To start a 5% discretionary fund to support band members on band trips / paying for accommodation.
* The Committee agreed that this proposal should be put to the band at the AGM.
* David, Tom and Bob to advise those members of the band who will be affected by these potential changes.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Meeting with the Museum chairman**

* Meeting to be organised with Alexander Pearce (Museum Chair) and Ken Kiss. Tom, David and Rachel to attend 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 with small list of requirements
  + Acoustics
  + Key Holders for the museum – can we have more flexibility
  + Storage for our new Postura Plus chairs
  + Area for information about the Crystal Palace Band.
  + Cleanliness of the toilets / kitchen

**Curtains on the boxes**

* Mike feedback is positive but Dave felt it didn’t help.
* Bob suggested getting a more permanent solution maybe that was easier to get on and off the cabinets. Perhaps curtain material with acoustic padding in-between.
* Dave said that putting curtain material over the cabinets makes such a tiny difference that it isn’t worth doing.
* It was agreed that we would speak to the museum about solutions for improving the acoustics like being able to move the cabinets but for now we will carry on putting the curtains on the cabinets for the main band rehearsals.

**Dianne Barker**

* Tom mentioned that Dianne had resigned from the band and that Richard Lovett had agreed to take over as key holder.
* Dave Howell will open the museum for the Progress Band and Richard will close the museum after the main band.
* Rachel has removed her from Muzodo and will remove her from the email list. Bob will remove her from the PB group email.
* Ben to check if Dianne still has a band cornet and, if so, obtain it back. Ben to remove her from the WhatsApp group.
* Cath to remove Dianne from Facebook.
* Advert for another kit percussionist who can read music and who can play tuned percussion. Laura to put this on Facebook. Roger to put this on the website.

**Instrument list**

* David and Ben have been through all the instruments in the undercroft and have put together a list of all the instruments the band thinks they own. It has been put together from a couple of sources so there are some areas where instrument ownership isn’t fully clear.
* Richard said that the Sovereign bass should not be scrapped.
* David said that the undercroft is ruining the instruments and the cases being stored down there. We need a different storage area for the instruments.
* Ben has contacted everyone who had a band instrument and tried to get all instruments returned. David asked whether we should now write off the instruments we can’t locate? We can then use this list for keeping a record of all instruments going forward.
* There has been a form produced for people to complete when they are loaned an instrument. This should help keep track of where all our instruments are.
* Rachel suggested that some of the “missing” instruments may be ones that are actually originally member owned but were insured by the band many years ago for band trips.
* It was suggested that we put serial numbers of the instruments on the cases.

**Band clean-up day**

* David C suggested holding a band day where we all go and clean up / make playable the instruments in the undercroft and clean up the undercroft. A date in the summer with a BBQ – June / July time.
* Also we need to put in industrial grade racking into the band storeroom.
* We could consider getting Phillipe to take away and clean up all of the instruments.
* We could also consider getting members to take home and clean an instrument.
* To be put to the band at the AGM.

**Chairs**

* It was agreed that the Postura Plus chairs should be ordered as long as Museum agree to them being stored – to be discussed at meeting with the Museum.
* We would need to purchase at least 30 at a cost of about £750. The committee agreed to this.

**AGM**

* Tom asked the Committee if they were thinking of standing down from their position. All agreed they were happy to continue if voted in at the AGM.
* David C said all people on the committee should try to make at least occasional committee meetings.
* Bob said that people can hold roles but don’t necessarily need to be on the committee
* Laura said that she could help run the Twitter, Facebook, social media with Nicci if Nicci wants to continue.
* Tom said he’s happy to continue as Chair but is also happy to handover to someone if anyone else would like to be the chair. Everyone agreed that this was also the case for all committee roles.

**Getting percussion to the gigs**

* A plan to be put together for each job of how we get percussion to each job.
* David suggested maybe having a gig manager to organise this. This to be raised at the AGM.

**Publicity**

* Is there anyone in the band who is able to do publicity for the band? 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 the other
* Most people enjoyed the Christmas Concert.
* Would Graham’s church want to host again this year?
* We could do a concert in November so it was more entertainment than Christmas.

**Making Music Day**

* Is this something we should consider for next year? It could be holding an open rehearsal that members of the public could view / join.

**Supporting Mike**

* Tom to speak to Mike about how better we can support him as a committee and reduce any band admin he is currently doing.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm.

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

**Next meeting date to be agreed after the AGM. Cath to send round a doodle.**

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