

Crystal Palace Band
Annual General Meeting: 1st April 2009
Minutes

Present

Carol Maher, Margaret Larkin, Martin Garnett, Tom Whittaker, Joan Whittaker, David Charlesworth, David Maher, Nicci Maher, Chris Maher, Ian Whittaker, Roger Morton, Brian Cowlin, Clare Lipscombe, Mike Weiler, Adam Payn, Simon Suter, George Macfarlane, Marc Gourd, Maurice Gourd, Maggie Stallybrass, Kirsty Gibson, Louise Kennedy, Rachel Bleach, Andrew Lipscombe, Mike Gray, Mike Burton, Richard Lovett, Helen Stallybrass.

Apologies for absence

Dave Howell, Basil Preuveneers, Phil Parsonage, Tom Fairclough, Tim Harrison, Toby Andrews, Julie Pilgrim

Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Thanks to Helen for her help with this.

Property master's report

- A new drum kit has been purchased this year.
- A new system for keeping track of band jackets has been introduced which will enable the property master to keep track of all property in each person's care.
- Some minor repairs need to be done to some of the instruments. There are also cases that need to be replaced or repaired.
- A number of the "missing" instruments have been located.
- Band members were reminded that if they use a gig bag rather than the issued hard case, any damage incurred to the instrument is their responsibility and not that of the band.

Treasurer's Report

- The band's takings are up £1800 up on last year, ignoring the depreciation of instruments. It has been a very good year.
- There is no reason to raise subs. This was proposed by Maggie Stallybrass and seconded by Kirsty Gibson. Motion was carried with no objections.

Secretary's Report

- Rachel is still negotiating jobs for the summer season and urges the band to keep checking the website.
- A coach is being booked to take the band to the Weston Super Mare contest. This will be a 53 seater and any supporters or B Band members are more than welcome to travel with the A Band on the coach.

Publicity Officer's Report

- Adam wants to thank all those who helped with the notice board as well as all those who have helped with the percussion in the last year.
- Adam will be stepping down from the role of publicity officer.

B Band

- The B Band is up to a steady membership of 23 players and has managed to play concerts with no A Band deps.
- The band is looking at playing about 8 jobs this year.

- As yet there has been no contest success. We wish them all luck for the contest at Hove on Sunday.
- The top priority for the next year will be finding a replacement for Ian Whittaker. Thanks go to Ian for all his efforts and enthusiasm in keeping the band running.
- The ambitions of the band are outstripping the rehearsal time. The band is now looking into the possibilities for finding more rehearsal time.
- The B Band feel that they would like to develop their relationship with the main band and think that perhaps carrying out workshops etc. later in the year would help to encourage younger members.

Librarian's Report

- People are mainly looking after their pads. There have been no significant losses.
- The band has spent over £500 on music this year.
- Richard is still looking to acquire some more filing cabinets and to move the music out of his loft. He will need help later in the year to do so.

B Band MD

- The B Band is making progress although there are still some significant gaps in the line-up, particularly solo cornets. The band may be looking for help from main band players for jobs.
- Thanks go to Adam for filling in for Ian as conductor at times this year and for opening up the museum each week.
- Ian would like to thank the B Band for all their efforts and wish them the best of luck for the future.

MD's Report

- Mike Gray thanked the band for their efforts at the contest.
- Players were asked to try to attend as many rehearsals as possible and to try to be punctual.
- Efforts are to be made to organise a concert with the Wessex Male Voice choir. It may not be possible this year as the choir is very busy but hopefully next year.
- Mike thanked Richard for all his help with the music.
- Players were urged not to tell Mike if they can't make a rehearsal or concert. Instead they should tell the fixer.
- Thanks must go to Simon for a great job on solo cornet.

Chairman's Report

- Thank you to Roger Morton for keeping the website up to date and running smoothly.
- If anyone has ideas for changes that could be made to the band please present them to the committee
- Also if anyone has contacts for possible gigs please pass them on as some of the band's regular engagements are not certain to happen.
- Players were reminded to try to attend as many gigs as possible. If you cannot attend please tell someone in good time. Also try to make sure that everyone (and all the kit) has a lift. The sandwich board need mending in time for the summer.
- The band needs to recruit percussionists for both the main band and the B band. Any ideas/suggestions would be welcome.

Election

All positions were elected with no opposition.

Property Master: Carol Maher N. Helen Bowstead Stallybrass S. Kirsty Gibson

Librarian: Richard Lovett N. Maggie Stallybrass S. Kirsty Gibson
Ex Officio: Adam Payn N. Mike Burton S. Mike Weiler
Fixer: Dave Howell N. Helen Bowstead Stallybrass S. Roger Morton
Publicity (not Palatians): Claire Lipscombe N. Roger Morton S. Adam Payn
Treasurer: Roger Morton N. Maggie Stallybrass S. Chris Maher
Secretary: Rachel Bleach N. Helen Bowstead Stallybrass S. Carol Maher
Assistant Secretary: Helen Bowstead Stallybrass N. Kirsty Gibson S. Ian Whittaker
Chairman: Andrew Lipscombe N. Helen Bowstead Stallybrass S. Maggie Stallybrass

Any other business:

- Palatians: Carol would like to pass this job onto someone else as she does not have time at the moment. Claire said she would not be able to commit to it. Andrew suggests spring and autumn editions rather than quarterly. Helen and Richard both indicated they would be happy to do it provided that they had help.
- Band Trip: Richard hasn't made much definite progress as yet but quotes have come via Ray (Kiddles) for the coach, ferry and a possible hotel. Hotel inc. breakfast for 3 nights is estimated at £109 per head and overall estimated price is around £160 per head. The band is trying to be a part of the Antwerp music festival as well as include a trip to a local brewery. More definite commitment will soon be needed from those who would like to go.
- Contests: Roger Morton asked whether there was any way to reduce the long wait between draw and play. Andrew suggested that if anyone had any practical suggestions we could send them to SCABA. Richard supported this idea. Maggie suggested that perhaps the trip to Stevenage would be improved if we took a coach and made it into a day trip.
- Folkestone: Mike Weiler is worried that the band under rehearses the concerts in the run up to Christmas in favour of rehearsing for Folkestone. He suggested that perhaps we should limit contesting to the spring. Dave Maher agreed and pointed out that the band does concerts better than contests. Contests may be good for the band but we need to decide what the focus of the band is. Andrew suggested that the band review what people's opinions on competing at Folkestone later in the year. Maggie suggested that we take the best of both worlds and look into perhaps doing an entertainment contest in the autumn. This might allow the band to continue what we do over the summer as well as get the improvement in the band that contests provide.
- Training Weekend: Helen suggested that the band all go away for a weekend of ensembles, workshops and concerts with band trainers. This would be new territory for the band and Andrew asked what people think. Perhaps there should be a survey of opinion? Maurice thinks that a weekend like this would benefit the B Band.
- Joint Concert: Simon suggested that the band could do a joint concert with a school band or choir to try to get kids involved in brass bands. David Charlesworth thinks that the B band would be very receptive to getting more kids involved. Some players would need help as they play trumpets not cornets and the trombones read bass clef.

Andrew Lipscombe as Chairman closed the meeting at 21:45.