



Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Association of Brass Band Adjudicators

St. Wilfred's Church Hall, Church Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 8LE and via Zoom

Sunday 19th January 2025 10.30am

1. The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to all at 10.30am.
2. The minutes of the 2024 AGM were agreed to be a true record and there were no matters arising.
3. Annual Reports

All reports from officers were received with thanks with no questions arising.

4. BB was elected as Chair for 2025.

5. Following due process, Officers for 2025 remain as per 2024, namely;

Secretary: Nicholas Garman

Treasurer: Chris King

Development Programme Leader and VC: Martin Heartfield

PRO: Christopher Bond

6. Following due process, Executive Members remain the same for 2025 as for 2024, namely;

Stephanie Binns, Alan Duguid, Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale, Stan Lippeatt, David Ashworth

Members whose 2 yr term concludes at the AGM in 2026 are; DA, SB, AD

7. Following due process, the auditors remain the same for 2025 as per 2024, namely; Derek Broadbent and Alan Widdop

8. A minute's silence was held for those who had passed away since the last AGM, especially those within the banding community and with special mention of AoBBA's former President, David Read.

NG proposed a new President should be nominated.

A discussion followed on the role of 'President' and the possibility of creating a Vice President position. An agenda item on this will be added to the next Executive Committee meeting and roles defined. The findings will be circulated to members for suggestions of names to fill these positions. The Executive will discuss these further and then invite candidates to the positions.

8. A discussion on increase to subs was held. The membership were broadly in favour but sought clarification for the purpose of increase which the Chair, DPL and Treasurer provided. Whilst an agreement was reached of an increase of £5 effective Dec 2025 (new rate: £35), the Executive were

charged with providing a financial plan for the next three years at the AGM in 2026 showing savings, costs, increased spending and how these benefitted members. A further review will be held on subscriptions at the AGM 2026.

9. MH updated the members on the work ongoing within the Contest Controllers Forum. MH was thanked for his work on this.

10. HDT updated the members on responses from the questionnaire sent out in November. The Executive will use the responses to target three main areas of development of AoBBA over the next 12 months. HDT was thanked for her work on this.

11. BB proposed an external review, as per the document sent out ahead of the meeting. A discussion followed about the detail of this proposal. The initial proposal was voted down but the membership asked the Executive to provide a three year plan of action for the association, which *could* involve an external review in the third year. The first year will be based on the internal review as per the item above. The Executive will discuss plans for year two and three in due course.

11. NG proposed, on behalf of one member not able to be present, that 'touting' for work be added to the Code of Conduct as reason for disciplinary procedures to begin. This follows an instance where an adjudicator had, following a contest performance, asked a band if they could work with them. NG pointed out that so far, the membership had been reminded every year that contacting organisers to ask to be booked to adjudicate is, at best, poor form but it was agreed that this should now be formalised as being against the Code of Conduct.

A discussion followed about careful wording and not blocking members working with bands. It was agreed that this was different to the explicit example given.

As this would be a change to the Constitution, and the membership were broadly in favour of the proposal, a suggestion of the exact wording will be circulated to the membership for approval, not only for Executive decision.

NG will write to all in due course.

12. MF introduced the idea of Australian (and NZ) Federations to become satellites of AoBBA. A brief discussion followed on the practicalities of this but it was agreed that AoBBA is not UK exclusive – indeed, we already have members residing across the globe. The Executive will discuss in more detail how outreach can be increased.

13. DB asked a question regarding adjudicating percussion, particularly at lower section contests. Our PAC code clearly states that adjudicators should ask themselves 'Do we hear what we see'. NG pointed out that more lower sections pieces (especially recent compositions by two members, AP and CB), contain optional percussion parts. In this case, bands cannot be penalised for missing optional parts. It was also agreed that a performance is assessed holistically.

The meeting was closed at 11.40am and followed by the CPD sessions as per previous documentation. NG will update the membership when documents related are available on the website. The afternoon session, with analyses of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th section pieces from an adjudicators point of view followed lunch.