

Annual Report of the St Helens Youth Brass Band 2019-2020

Musical Directors Report

I write this report at a challenging time for our organisation and indeed all of our members.

Since the last AGM we have still had a fantastic year and I continue to champion the excellent work of all of our members, hardworking committee and trustees.

The standard of the band continues to improve and indeed we successfully attended a competition in January. Although we did not place as we would have liked, it was a fantastic achievement for the band and all tutors who worked with us on preparation commented on A bands excellent approach to the music and of course their fantastic attitude. We continue to enjoy strong links with our alumni, many of whom have continued to support us upon leaving for university and this year may well be welcomed back into the band for the National Youth Brass Band championships should they go ahead. A highlight of this year must be the socially distanced alumni recording of 'The Saints'. I thank this year's leaving players for their hard work and dedication and promise that their contribution to the life of the band will be celebrated when we can do that properly.

We continue to encourage our members into local brass bands as well as national organisations. I am pleased to report that we retain two members in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, but we also have a further two members now in the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain. This bodes well for the future; I encourage them to be ambassadors for our organisation and to encourage their peers.

The main concert event of the year, which is always a highlight, was 'Brass Explosion!'. I personally felt this may have been the highest standard all three bands had achieved in the most recent past with an ever increasing and appreciative audience in attendance. I commented afterwards it was the best Christmas concert we had performed over my tenure.

In the new year it soon became clear our activities were to cease in order to guarantee our members safety and comply with all government guidelines. Initially our main concern was how to continue our activities to offer our young people a focus and social outlet during 'lockdown'. A further concern was then our musical development and ultimately how the organisation could remain financially solvent with no concerts or carolling to provide income.

I am indebted to our Chair, Suzanne, for her work on an Emergency Arts Council bid. Being granted the entire amount which we applied for has enabled us not just to survive but thrive. Our core aims were safeguarded, and we have been able to offer our young people more musical opportunity than ever. We have also been able to expand our reach further than our members and impact the wider community, embedding our work where it is needed most. This in turn has bolstered our membership. We have supported our existing relationship with our freelance tutors and perhaps most importantly have formed a brand-new band in 'pBand'! We have offered: lessons, compositions, masterclasses, junk percussion sessions and more. There are far too many activities to list here. We are now more than a youth brass band and I look forward to continuing the expansion of our musical objectives.

I welcome all of our new members at the start of their journey with us and hope it will be a long and fruitful experience. I also welcome our new relationship with the Three Saints Academy trust with whom we are offering a short-term project of group lessons. I hope many of these young people will also choose to join us.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee, parents and band members for their continued handwork and support. Particularly Suzanne, Colette, Amanda, Karen, Gareth and Jenny. I am proud to be associated with an organisation with volunteers who work as hard as ours. All are welcome at St Helens Youth Brass Band and we have a bright future ahead of us. I encourage us to look to a positive future moving forward with purpose and innovation to bring the life changing benefits of music to all.

Jay Hall
Musical Director
St Helens Youth Brass Band

Chairs Report

What a first year as Chair of this organisation! I was delighted to take up this role, knowing both the legacy and the ambitious hopes for the future of the band. I had not foreseen what has become almost a paradox for the band. A time when the opportunity to be a band in the way we knew it became impossible and yet a time when being a band had more opportunity in many ways than we could have ever imagined.

It is then, with genuine gratitude, that I add my thanks to all of our playing and supporting members of the band for everything everyone has done to stay so committed through this time. For the hours of work that have been offered, paid and unpaid, to the organisation from so many people. For the grace you have afforded us in the busiest of times, when we have wrangled with new technology and the pressures of life on time and organisation. For being

so visibly excited to get as many of our young people as possible back playing last week. I am so sorry that we had no windows to open to let as many as possible listen in the carpark!

As we move forward we now have a working model of how to do some band rehearsals in a covid-secure way. One thing that has become clear this year is that we have to make plans and be ready to change them at short notice. We expect therefore that the next few months will continue to have plans made and changed as local and national restrictions change. We are committed to getting back to as much live rehearsals whenever we can but we will prioritise the safety of our members and ensuring that those who cannot attend yet can still be part of the band.

So as we close this year, which is a few months beyond the end of our financial year we are hopeful of a better year in 2021 and look forward to hopefully welcoming more new members and enjoying some great musical experiences together ... with of course the biggest hope being a concert when it is possible.

Suzanne Matthews
Chair

Treasurers Report

This year, unfortunately, Karen Bate has taken the decision to resign from the post of Treasurer due to personal reasons. We want to offer our formal thanks to Karen for her work as treasurer before this. Karen has a long history and passion for brass banding and she enthusiastically entered into this role.

We have made some significant improvements for the future to ensure that we have easily understandable financial records that are fully compliant with running a charity and being accountable to any grant making bodies. We opened a new bank account with Co-operative Banking as our previous bank could not move our account to one with any online functionality. The Co-operative bank has offered as a much more suitable online solution with over the counter banking available to us in any local post office. We have also moved our accounting to an online, cloud based accounting package and we have begun the use of cloud based google drive for band emails and document storage. This means that all of our records from September 2020 will now be electronic and available for the trustees to view and run reports at any time. We have also moved to, where possible, online and card transactions wherever possible going forward so that we can easily track our money.

The pandemic has served, as for many charities, to throw into sharp relief the stress lines and vulnerabilities of our organisation. Our subscriptions do not in any way cover the essential running costs of the band. We have relied heavily on money made through fund raising events such as busking and concerts. We have seen this income disappear and do not expect to see it return to its previous levels for at least another 12-18 months.

The attached 2019-2020 accounts summaries will show that we have a large amount of money in our account on 31/08/20. I need to draw your attention to this being largely due to the Arts Council Emergency Funding which has been strictly time limited. So this money will have been spent by the end of December, with no option to extend its use.

We have also been fortunate to be awarded recently a grant from Jacks Supermarket of £400 towards new music and from Rainhill Rotary of £300 for equipment and £1500 from The John Laing Charitable Trust towards the purchase and storage of class sets of Pbuzzes to expand the work of the pBand and increase members to the organisation.

We are incredibly grateful for every grant we receive and will be applying for more grants in 2021. However, most grants will pay for new projects or in some cases capital costs eg instruments. But very few will provide funding for covering the ongoing running costs of existing work.

We hope to implement a reserves policy of holding at least a term of money in reserves to ensure the band can continue under any unforeseen circumstances ie c. £3-4000.

As we know that busking and concerts will still be unknown quantities for the coming year we are also going to need some help in some general fundraising to ensure that the band finances remain healthy until such a point as we can get back to more normal operations.

We will therefore continue to fundraise locally and apply for grants especially covid emergency grants until we are at a time when we have secure income that more than covers our outgoings.

We are reluctant to increase the cost of subs again next year as we are committed to making the band as affordable as possible for everyone. Therefore the more members we have the better our stable financial base will become so please do spread the word as much as you can that it is now possible to join the band from the age of 4. The pBuzz course will remain free and therefore only a £15 pBuzz is needed for a young child to begin learning and then join the pBand. Could you think of someone you could gift this to for a birthday present perhaps?

The financial position we are in is much healthier due to the arts council grant, but we have some work to do in the next year to keep this trajectory positive.

Suzanne Matthews

Chair

Elections

The following people have offered to stand for roles this coming year and have been duly nominated and seconded.

Chair	Suzanne Matthews	
Secretary	Amanda O'Hanlon	
Treasurer	Gareth Evans	
Committee	Gareth O'Hanlon	Safeguarding Lead
	Helen Melling	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
	Jenny Marsh	Music Librarian
	Helen Tickle	Instrument Librarian
	Colette Wilson	
	Ruth Breen	
	Guy Francis	

Profit and Loss

St Helens Youth Brass Band

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Account	2020
Turnover	
100 Club	716.00
Brass Explosion	2,006.00
Busking	5,295.79
Fundraising	278.94
General Donations	2,888.89
Instrument Hire	115.13
Just Giving	1,190.48
Membership and Subscription Fees	3,587.78
Tuck Shop	535.91
Uniforms	(87.00)
Arts Council Grant (restricted funds)	31,343.00
Total Turnover	47,870.92
Cost of Sales	
Conductor Fees	6,793.70
Music	144.30
Total Cost of Sales	6,938.00
Gross Profit	40,932.92
Administrative Costs	
Cleaning	0.79
Competition Fees	150.00
General Expenses	79.44
IT Software and Consumables	122.19
Postage, Freight & Courier	7.32
Printing & Stationery	600.53
Rent	2,614.97
Staff Training	150.00
Subscriptions	109.53
Telephone & Internet	60.00
Arts Council Grant (restricted funds spending)	16,172.75
Total Administrative Costs	20,067.52
Operating Profit	20,865.40
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	20,865.40
Profit after Taxation	20,865.40



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
St Helens Youth Brass Band

**On accounts for the year
ended**

2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1009301

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2019.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

S Atterton

Date:

25/7/2021

Name:

SARAH ATHERTON

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW

Address:

22 WINDLE GROVE

ST HELENS

WA10 6HW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.