

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1138309

Details

Other names	BICC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07129908
Registered	2010-10-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	17 Montalbo Road Barnard Castle DL12 8BP
Phone	07875 113636
Email	nstevens59@hotmail.com
Website	www.brassinconcert.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CHARITY IS TO ADVANCE THE ART OF BRASS BAND MUSIC IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY THE ORGANISING OF CONCERTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLAYING OF BRASS AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

Activities: To advance the education and appreciation of the art of Brass Band Music in particular, but not exclusively by the organising of concerts/contests and opportunities for education and training of young people in playing of brass and percussion instruments.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£113,297	£112,783	-	-
2024-02-29	£96,700	£101,864	-	-
2023-01-31	£96,208	£86,512	-	-
2022-01-31	£107,540	£61,666	-	-
2021-01-31	£249	£8,629	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kenneth Crookston		2025-07-31
Michael Dennis Kilroy		2025-07-31
NIGEL CHARLES STEVENS		2020-01-17
Sarah Baumann		2025-07-31

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1138309

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07129908 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1138309

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025
FOR
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

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THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

TRUSTEES	P R Beere Ms F Johnstone (resigned 18.4.24) H A Stephenson N C Stevens Ms M Bedford
REGISTERED OFFICE	17 Montalbo Road Barnard Castle Co. Durham DL12 8BP
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	07129908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1138309
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Gibson Booth Limited 12 Victoria Road Barnsley South Yorkshire S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Brass in Concert Championship is a charitable, brass band music festival and youth brass development organisation based in the North East of England at our resident auditorium of The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, formerly known as The Sage Gateshead. As at the end of the period the Brass in Concert organisation has successfully delivered 47 annual festivals and over recent years has expanded its mission through a relationship with Newcastle and Northumberland music hubs (Music Partnership North) to deliver a growing number of elementary youth brass educational projects.

The festival is widely considered the most prestigious brass band entertainment festival in the World and remains dedicated to supporting and promoting brass banding activities through showcasing the finest and World's highest ranked brass bands.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The financial period 2024-25 was again a period where the board focused on the fast-changing landscape of brass band contests and events and how we as an organisation and charitable entity should respond to the evolving requirements and needs expected by our audiences, brass musicians, sponsors, and partners. Finding a balance between what has undoubtedly been the very successful festival delivery model of the past and maintaining the culture and heritage of the festival whilst also embracing the right exciting new opportunities to safeguard this unique and vital part of the Brass Band calendar and ensuring it remains relevant and structured in both artistic, governance and financial terms for the long term has been central to our thinking and decision making throughout the period.

Our careful consideration of the drivers that affect the decisions of our loyal but increasingly cost-conscious stakeholders who are still clearly sensitive to the rising cost of living, operational costs for the bands and commercial expenses for our sponsors has been essential. As stated in last year's report, the much higher hotel and travel costs to come to weekend festivals such as Brass in Concert has influenced audiences in being more choosy on which brass band events they will attend and our audience survey data is showing that patrons are evaluating which events are giving them the best experience for their money. From an audience perspective we have therefore made decisions in 2025 that focus on all aspects of their experience. From catering facilities to the schedule of the weekend and the artistic content, we continue to review each component from the audience's perspective.

Similarly, the competing bands now have to consider the high costs of attending and performing compared to the other concerts and contests in their diaries whilst also recognising the enjoyment and satisfaction their playing members are getting from each performance. They are, in entertainment industry terms, "the stars of the show." For the Brass in Concert board this has meant that we are continuously looking for ways to ensure that coming to the festival is not only memorable but aspirational for our performers both at the youth and elite level.

Finally, our sponsors and funders also face many commercial pressures and options as to where they should place their brand, services, or support funding. To respond to this, we have ensured that sponsors are engaged on a true win-win basis ensuring we as a board are committed to regular dialogue with them on any and all activities that make Brass in Concert the right place for them to invest their resources. World of Brass (SATCoL) our principal partner, The Banks Group and Yamaha Music once again were front and central to our delivery and financial stability in 2025.

The results of all the above and the resulting decisions the board has made ensured that 2025 was again a very successful year in the planned positioning of the event in terms of its future, it being seen as a flagship event in our sector and the steps we have taken to give it a firm foundation on which to build for the future.

The evidence for this may not be seen at this point in the bottom-line financials, which show a broadly neutral year, but the board strongly believes the other measures that are vital to the health of the charity show resilience in a very difficult market. Our ticket sales remain incredibly strong; our sponsors remain committed to long-term partnerships and the bands that perform are showing increasingly that Brass in Concert is an event they want to perform at and be a part of.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our educational projects and activities underwent a complete change of direction in 2025 as the decision not to continue with our Aspire programme took further effect. We had evaluated there was a greater need and legacy opportunity in reviving Youth Brass in Concert as the UK's only entertainment contest for elite youth bands. It has also meant changing our focus by utilising our partnership with Brass Bands England to fund building resources that could be used on an ongoing basis in schools as teaching aids in brass instrument tuition rather than Brass in Concert arranging performance activities at the festival itself. This change in strategy and the outcomes from the financial period being reported are still under review by the board.

In specific terms all this translates to the festival being shaped with an ongoing pause in presenting a gala concert which is commercially high risk. We do, however, remain open to future creative formats for a gala concert that could be financially viable on a case-by-case basis. The Championship remains the highly successful centre piece for the weekend and the resurrection of Youth Brass in Concert on Sunday is proving to be a cornerstone of the weekend and vital for the longer-term future of brass banding in the UK. It is important to note that Youth Brass in Concert is only made possible through the close partnership we have with Glasshouse International Centre for Music who have helped to make this commercially and financially viable.

Box office sales were again excellent with approximately 1,500 in attendance for the Championship and 600 enthusiastic attendees for Youth Brass in Concert.

The audience feedback process again delivered a good response rate that continues to give us improved data on which to continue to design and build the festival components, marketing approach and channels to ensure further success for the festival in the future.

We continued to develop the new element of the festival introduced in 2022 of a festival party enabling players and audience to mingle and socialise and this increasingly gave a much more interactive setting for the formal results ceremony on the concourse areas where the musicians congregate.

The seeded draw for the Championship continues to successfully stabilise audience numbers in the auditorium throughout the day.

Finally, and significantly of note is the board's decision that for reasons of long-term risk reduction, financial underpinning, and long-term growth, that it is essential to look at a major review and overhaul of the governance of Brass in Concert Championship Ltd and the associated registered charity. This extends to the composition of the board and its close affiliation with Brass Bands England. The board has looked to engage suitable legal and financial advisors to support this review and has commenced discussions with Brass Bands England on the scope and rationale for it. It is planned that this review will be complete in a timescale to ensure that any resulting decisions and actions from it can be put forward as motions to the AGM for this accounting year.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Brass in Concert Championship continues to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to entertain and display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high-quality original and arranged brass band music.

This is achieved through creative and inspiring programmes and presentations reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre, designed to appeal to both the general listener and enthusiasts of the discipline alike.

Our Youth and Education activities are progressively being designed to showcase all that is good in live music and deliver and support opportunity for young people to have the right to sample and learn a brass or percussion instrument regardless of background albeit the focus has changed in the period from live performance to in class education support.

We have continued to mature our connectivity with Brass Bands England (BBE) and successfully renewed and utilised the support services partnership for the delivery of project and event management, marketing, and artistic advisory to Brass in Concert. This partnership agreement has been duly approved by the board and authorised by the CEO and all financial implications have been included in the 2024/25 accounts and 2025/26 budgets by our Finance Director.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

It continues to be challenging to develop an event which can break even and start to generate surpluses to invest in the festival further. Since the pandemic we have continued to trial various options to find the most effective way forward, both artistically as well as financially. As stated in the final paragraph of the above "Objectives & Activities" the board has taken steps in terms of a significant governance review to secure the festivals long term future. The board recognise that this is a critical step in being able to continue the development of the festival and to facilitate a multi-year approach looking at all the funding sources available to us.

Grants received

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support through the awarding of grants in the year:

- The Barbour Foundation
- The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust
- The Durham Freemasons Charity
- The Joicey Trust
- The Sir James Knott Trust
- The William Webster Charitable Trust

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The reserves that we have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £25,000. An appraisal of the Reserves plan will be beneficial alongside the overall Governance review which is in progress. We intend to use the reserves to invest in and develop the Brass in Concert Festival event over this time frame. The Board annually reviews the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Changes to the Board of Trustees

There has been one change to the Board of Trustees in the year. Fiona Johnson resigned on 18 April 2024.

Governance

The board has continued to hold both trustee and operational meetings online during this financial period, agreeing that it delivered excellent results in conducting business effectively and in terms of cost savings. On-site meetings at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead (formerly known as The Sage Gateshead) were limited to two occasions in the period.

In Conclusion

This period was again notable for the continuing successful delivery of the Brass in Concert Championship, and Youth Brass in Concert at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead. This was only made possible through the strengthening of the partnerships in place with our sponsors (World of Brass, Banks Group, Yamaha Music) and our delivery partner (Brass Bands England).

The board has worked diligently throughout this financial period to continue the progress made in 2024 and it looks forward to managing another very successful 48th Brass in Concert in 2025 whilst also initiating a sub committee to evaluate a broader festival for the event's 50th anniversary in 2027.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 31 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



N C Stevens - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Brass In Concert Championship ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 28 February 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



Scott Mell

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

Date: 1 August 2025

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Year Ended 28.2.25 Total funds £	Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes				
Donations and legacies		9,598	7,000	16,598	11,390
Other trading activities	3	96,568	-	96,568	85,308
Investment income	4	131	-	131	2
Total		<u>106,297</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>113,297</u>	<u>96,700</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Provision of events		110,071	2,712	112,783	101,864
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(3,774)	4,288	514	(5,164)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		27,935	-	27,935	33,099
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>24,161</u>	<u>4,288</u>	<u>28,449</u>	<u>27,935</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**BALANCE SHEET
28 FEBRUARY 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	28.2.25 Total funds £	29.2.24 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	601	-	601	-
Cash at bank		27,755	4,288	32,043	30,197
		28,356	4,288	32,644	30,197
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(4,195)	-	(4,195)	(2,262)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		24,161	4,288	28,449	27,935
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		24,161	4,288	28,449	27,935
NET ASSETS		24,161	4,288	28,449	27,935
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	8			24,161	27,935
Restricted funds				4,288	-
TOTAL FUNDS				28,449	27,935

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 28 February 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET - continued
28 FEBRUARY 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 31 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N C Stevens', written in a cursive style.

N C Stevens - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The reporting period is 12 months to 28 February 2025. The comparative figures relate to a 13 month period from 1 February 2023 to 29 February 2024. Therefore the comparative figure are not wholly comparable to the new period.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Significant judgements and estimates

No judgements have been made in the process of applying the below accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 28.2.25 £	Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 £
Ticket and programme sales	59,366	55,183
Media and advertising	1,400	2,075
Sponsorship and streaming	25,796	25,280
Hotel/catering sales	7,243	-
Prize donations	1,500	1,500
School hub match funding	-	300
Coach parking	163	70
Performance lighting	1,100	900
	<u>96,568</u>	<u>85,308</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 28.2.25 £	Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 £
Deposit account interest	<u>131</u>	<u>2</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 28 February 2025 nor for the period ended 29 February 2024.

Trustees' expenses

The reimbursement of trustees expenses during the period was £3,185 (2024 - £1,107).

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	28.2.25	29.2.24
	£	£
Other debtors	601	-
	<u>601</u>	<u>-</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	28.2.25	29.2.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	476	512
VAT	174	-
Accruals and deferred income	3,545	1,750
	<u>4,195</u>	<u>2,262</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.3.24	Net movement in funds	At 28.2.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	27,935	(3,774)	24,161
Restricted funds			
Durham Feemasons	-	4,288	4,288
	<u>27,935</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>28,449</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>27,935</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>28,449</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	106,297	(110,071)	(3,774)
Restricted funds			
Durham Feemasons	7,000	(2,712)	4,288
TOTAL FUNDS	113,297	(112,783)	514

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.2.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 29.2.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	33,099	(5,164)	27,935
TOTAL FUNDS	33,099	(5,164)	27,935

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	96,700	(101,864)	(5,164)
TOTAL FUNDS	96,700	(101,864)	(5,164)

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted funds

Grants were received from Durham Freemasons Charity in order to help youngsters within the province of Durham to achieve their potential through education and training. At 28 February 2025 £4,288 was unspent.

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year £1,000 (2024 - £1,000) was paid to Aruba Blue Limited in respect of financial management services. Ms M Bedford, Trustee, is also a director of Aruba Blue Limited

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1138309

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07129908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1138309

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024
FOR
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Gibson Booth Limited
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THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

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THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

TRUSTEES

P R Beere
Ms F Johnstone
H A Stephenson
N C Stevens
Ms M Bedford

REGISTERED OFFICE

17 Montalbo Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8BP

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 07129908 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1138309

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 February 2023 to 29 February 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Brass in concert championship is a charitable, brass band music festival and youth brass development organisation based in the North East of England at our resident auditorium of The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, formerly known as The Sage Gateshead. As at the end of the period the Brass in concert organisation has successfully delivered 46 annual festivals and over recent years has expanded its mission through a relationship with Newcastle and Northumberland music hubs (Music Partnership North) to deliver a growing number of elementary youth brass educational projects.

The festival is widely considered the most prestigious brass band entertainment festival in the World and remains dedicated to supporting and promoting brass banding activities through showcasing the finest and World's highest ranked brass bands.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The financial period 2023-24 was a pivotal period in providing us with much needed new and more detailed financial data, audience feedback and advice gathering from our strategic partners on how the festival should be structured in a post pandemic World, a World in which the event management community more generally has unanimously confirmed is a very different landscape to what the event and entertainment industry had experienced pre Covid.

Audiences are booking later, are significantly more conscious and sensitive to the rising cost of living which has seen much higher hotel and travel costs to come to weekend festivals such as Brass in Concert. Meaning the detailed timing of our festival components have to be carefully planned for those who wish to travel to the festival and back home on the same day.

The moving of our flagship element of the festival, the Brass in Concert Championship, to a Saturday from its traditional Sunday due to increasing demand from the competing bands for this also has had an ongoing impact on the shape and planning of the festival which is still being worked through in terms of commercial and risk management.

Linked to this, in 2023 the board of trustees agreed that it was important to try to reintroduce the Gala Concert as an element of the festival. Ticket sales did prove difficult, however, and we were forced to look at educational discounts and heavier marketing costs to get to the lower levels of our targeted Income and Sales. Despite this the concert was an artistic success, delivered some clear educational benefits that we had not originally considered and on balance suggested that the gala concert is an achievable objective with the right artists suited to a very targeted audience. This element of the festival will be paused in 2024 with the ambition to bring it back in 2025, giving us time to consider the right format for this important festival component.

On the educational programme front we continued to demonstrate in 2023 our commitment to young people with a newly branded outreach and education programme, Aspire. Delivered by our partners at Brass Bands England, Aspire brought together over 250 young people from schools in Northumberland, Newcastle and Durham to take part in educational workshops in an exciting brass day at The Glasshouse on Friday 17 November, to kick-start the Brass in Concert Festival. Aspire proved to be once again well attended, educationally expertly delivered and achieved all its objectives.

That said the board were faced with some difficult decisions post festival in accepting that from a funding perspective and with an eye to sensible risk management there was a strategic choice to be made as we move into 2024 as to whether we continue with our Aspire programme or decide if there was a greater need and legacy opportunity in reviving Youth Brass in Concert as the UK's only entertainment contest for elite youth bands.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Based on our board trustees with expertise in this field and input from our advisors at Brass Bands England the decision has been taken to dilute (not cease) our activities relating to Aspire and to relaunch Youth Brass in Concert. This important change to the festival lineup was only made possible through the close partnership we have with Glasshouse International Centre for Music who have helped to make this commercially and financially viable.

Despite the financial challenges in the financial period we presented the Brass in Concert Championship with 11 World class bands competing on Saturday 18th November 2023. Box office sales were again excellent with approximately 1,400 patrons in attendance.

For the first time we launched a formal audience feedback process which we got a good response rate to, and this provided us with a platform for a further expanded survey to be developed in 2024. This has given us significantly improved data on which to continue to design and build the festival components, marketing approach and channels to ensure further success for the festival in the future.

We continued to develop the new element of the festival introduced in 2022 of a festival party enabling players and audience to mingle and socialise in the concourse areas and we built on this concept in 2023 by moving the formal results ceremony from the main auditorium into the concourse areas where the musicians congregate. This proved to be an incredible success and one that showed the board that although breaking with long held tradition is very difficult, carefully managed change can be extremely positive.

The seeded draw for the Championship was adopted as standard in 2023 in that it has now proven successful at stabilising audience numbers in the auditorium throughout the day. The use of the European Brass Band Championships live stream, this year in Malmo (Sweden), as a mechanism to get high publicity for the festival as part of the draw was once again adopted.

In terms of the overall evaluation there is still much for the board to consider, and many critical decisions are still to be worked through in 2024. There is a clear and undeniable tension between the increasing and much heralded success of the festival and the changes, modernisation and professionalization the board have made, by the sector press, the artists (the bands) and its loyal audience, rubbing against the difficulties in continuing to deliver the festival to its financial targets. This in a climate of high inflation for our cost base and higher costs of living for our audience.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Brass in Concert Championship continues to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to entertain and display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high-quality original and arranged brass band music.

This is achieved through creative and inspiring programmes and presentations reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre, designed to appeal to both the general listener and enthusiasts of the discipline alike.

Our Youth and Education activities are progressively being designed to showcase all that is good in live music and deliver and support opportunity for young people to have the right to sample and learn a brass or percussion instrument regardless of background.

The formal partnering and service agreements that we began to put in place in 2021 are now maturing with our strategic partners to ensure the ongoing success of the festival. These relate to Music Partnership North (MPN) where the now signed agreement formalises the scope and operating arrangements of the partnership on Educational projects.

Similarly with Brass Bands England (BBE) we have now formalised and successfully utilised the support services partnership for the delivery of project management, grant writing, marketing and artistic advisory they provide to Brass in Concert. These partnership agreements have been duly approved by the board and authorised by the CEO and all financial implications have been included in the 2023/24 accounts and 2024/25 budgets by our Finance Director.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

It continues to be challenging to develop an event which can break-even and start to generate surpluses to invest in the festival further. Since the pandemic we have continued to trial various options to find the most effective way forward, both artistically as well as financially. There is clearly a need for the board to take a more strategic stance with clearer ownership within the board for funding. The board recognise that this is a critical step in being able to continue the development of the festival and would need to be a multi-year approach looking at all the funding sources available to us.

Grants received

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support through the awarding of grants in the year:

The Barbour Foundation

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

The Foyle Foundation

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The reserves that we have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £25,000, rising to £40,000 over the next 10 years. We intend to use the reserves to invest in and develop the Brass in Concert Festival event over this time frame. The Board annually reviews the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Changes to the Board of Trustees

There have been no changes to the Board of Trustees in the year.

Governance

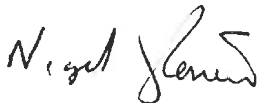
The board has continued to hold both trustee and operational meetings online during this financial period agreeing that it was continuing to deliver excellent results in conducting business effectively and in terms of cost savings. On-site meetings at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead (formerly known as The Sage Gateshead) were limited to two occasions in the period.

In Conclusion

This period was again notable for the continuing successful delivery of the Brass in Concert Championship and its associated Educational Programme at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead. This was only made possible through the strengthening of the partnerships in place with our sponsors (World of Brass, Banks Group, Yamaha Music) our Educational Project partner (Music Partnership North) and our delivery partner (Brass Bands England).

The board have worked diligently throughout this financial period to continue the progress made in 2023 and to look ahead but it is clear that new trustee recruitment is required in the forthcoming year to ensure we have a balance of skills and experience around the board table relevant to events management and development and to provide for adequate succession planning. A strategy for the recruitment has been completed which will target potential trustees with backgrounds in Event Marketing, Digital and Social Media Management and Event Project Management as key requirements.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



N C Stevens - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Brass In Concert Championship ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the period 1 February 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



Scott Mell

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

Date:24 June 2024.....

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

		Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 Unrestricted funds £	Year Ended 31.1.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Donations and legacies		11,390	22,249
Other trading activities	3	85,308	73,959
Investment income	4	2	-
Total		96,700	96,208
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Provision of events		101,864	86,512
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,164)	9,696
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		33,099	23,403
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		27,935	33,099

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET 29 FEBRUARY 2024

		29.2.24 Unrestricted funds £	31.1.23 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes		
Debtors	6	-	1,298
Cash at bank		<u>30,197</u>	<u>35,656</u>
		30,197	36,954
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(2,262)</u>	<u>(3,855)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>27,935</u>	<u>33,099</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		27,935	33,099
NET ASSETS		<u>27,935</u>	<u>33,099</u>
FUNDS	8		
Unrestricted funds		<u>27,935</u>	<u>33,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>27,935</u>	<u>33,099</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 29 February 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 29 February 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

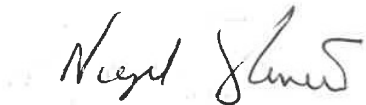
The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET - continued
29 FEBRUARY 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N C Stevens', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

N C Stevens - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

1. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The reporting period is 13 months to 29 February 2024. The comparative figures relate to a 12 month period to 31 January 2023. Therefore the comparatives figure are not wholly comparable to the new period.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Significant judgements and estimates

No judgements have been made in the process of applying the below accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 £	Year Ended 31.1.23 £
Ticket and programme sales	55,183	45,854
Media and advertising	2,075	1,975
Sponsorship and streaming	25,280	22,780
Prize donations	1,500	1,500
School hub match funding	300	500
Coach parking	70	100
Performance lighting	900	1,200
Rehersal room hire	-	50
	<u>85,308</u>	<u>73,959</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Period 1.2.23 to 29.2.24 £	Year Ended 31.1.23 £
Deposit account interest	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 29 February 2024 nor for the year ended 31 January 2023.

Trustees' expenses

The reimbursement of trustees expenses during the period was £1,675 (2023 - £1,569).

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	29.2.24	31.1.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	1,224
VAT	-	74
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	-	1,298
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	29.2.24	31.1.23
	£	£
Trade creditors	512	97
Accruals and deferred income	1,750	3,758
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2,262	3,855
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.2.23	Net movement in funds	At 29.2.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	33,099	(9,866)	23,233
Foyle Foundation	-	4,702	4,702
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	33,099	(5,164)	27,935
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	33,099	(5,164)	27,935
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	91,700	(101,566)	(9,866)
Foyle Foundation	5,000	(298)	4,702
	<u>96,700</u>	<u>(101,864)</u>	<u>(5,164)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>96,700</u>	<u>(101,864)</u>	<u>(5,164)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.2.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.1.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,403	9,696	33,099
	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	96,208	(86,512)	9,696
	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>

The Foyle Foundation grant of £5,000 was received in the year.
There has been expenditure of £298 in the year.
As at 29 February 2024 the carried forward balance was £4,702.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The terms of the grant allow this to be used against core costs.

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year £1,000 (2023 - £1,000) was paid to Aruba Blue Limited in respect of financial management services. Ms M Bedford, Trustee, is also a director of Aruba Blue Limited

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1138309

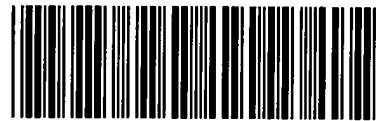
Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07129908 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1138309

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023
FOR
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

TUESDAY



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COMPANIES HOUSE

= GibsonBooth LTD

Chartered Accountants, Business Advisers & Statutory Auditor

12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

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THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

TRUSTEES

P R Beere
D Bennett Trustee (resigned 15.9.22)
Ms F Johnstone
H A Stephenson
N C Stevens
Mrs J Beere Trustee (deceased 23.10.22)
Ms M Bedford (appointed 1.4.22)

REGISTERED OFFICE

17 Montalbo Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8BP

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 07129908 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1138309

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Brass in Concert Championship is a charitable, brass band music festival and youth brass development organisation based in the North East of England at our resident auditorium of Sage Gateshead. As at the end of January 2023 the Brass in Concert organisation has successfully delivered 45 annual festivals and over the last 6 years has expanded its mission through a relationship with Newcastle and Northumberland music hubs (Music Partnership North) to deliver a growing number of elementary youth brass educational projects. The festival is widely considered the most prestigious brass band entertainment festival in the World and remains dedicated to supporting and promoting brass banding activities through showcasing the finest and World's highest ranked brass bands.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The financial year 2022-23 saw further significant progress on the board's multi year phased and risk managed plan to return the festival to its pre pandemic size and scope on 18th and 19th November 2022. That multi year plan was also seen by the board as an opportunity to revisit each component of the festival, to inspect and as necessary change and improve the commercial viability, geographical location (for the Youth components only) and delivery model.

The 2021 festival gave us good financial data and both audience and competing band feedback that informed our plans on how to structure the festival for 2022 and beyond to ensure its ongoing viability and future development.

The two main conclusions from the 2021 festival review that informed our key decisions for 2022 were that:

(1) The move of the main Brass in Concert Championship from its historical norm of a Sunday event to a Saturday delivered:

- Our highest ever box office ticket sales - perceived as a vote from our ticket buying patrons that Saturday was preferable to Sunday for the Brass in Concert Championship
- Clear and unambiguous feedback from the majority of competing bands that they were more likely to accept invitations to the Brass in Concert Championship due to ease of travel and greater social convenience of a Saturday. Thus the risk of "target" highly ranked bands not accepting invitations is significantly reduced.

(2) Holding Youth Brass in Concert and Brass in Concert Championship on the same day was not feasible due to:

- The late finishing time of the Championship which led to reduced audience numbers later in the day
- No room for expansion of Youth Brass in Concert
- The length of the working day for staff and volunteers

Based on the above conclusions, in the financial year 2022-23 we presented the Brass in Concert Championship with 12 World class bands competing on Saturday 19th November 2022. Box office sales were again excellent with approximately 1400 paying patrons in attendance. Feedback from bands and patrons continued to be extremely positive regarding the change to a Saturday.

A festival party was introduced as a new concept and concluding element of the festival, enabling players and audience to mingle and socialise in the concourse areas. This proved a successful new initiative that the board intend to trial further in 2023.

Other new initiatives included a seeded draw for the Championship and a complimentary drink for each competing player. Both these initiatives were well received and the board intend to adopt the seeded draw as standard and review the complimentary drink initiative once ticket sales figures are known for 2023 and an accurate forecast for the financial year 2023/24 is available.

Our education programme was relaunched during October 2022 with workshops at various locations in Newcastle and Northumberland. The project was by far our biggest and most ambitious project to date.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

All 328 students performed on the main stage at the iconic Sage Gateshead auditorium to a near capacity audience of friends, families and local dignitaries. The concert itself was just the culmination in a complex project pulling together brass elementary and intermediate students from across the north east from a diverse range of backgrounds. The workshops that were held before the main event and were created and delivered by the inspirational leadership from one of the UK's finest brass educators and supported by local school and music hub brass teachers.

This was added to by the unique experience of being able to perform in such a prestigious venue. The feedback we have had from the students, their teachers and the parents is that this has gone a very long way to ensuring these students remain motivated to continue learning and practicing their instruments and we know that many of the students have already fed through to regular playing in local community and school bands and other musical ensembles that ensure the future of brass banding and music more generally in the whole geographical area is enriched and secured.

The project was funded through donations from our main sponsors and grants from trusts and foundations. The project cemented our strong partnership with both Music Partnership North (MPN) who project managed and administered the project and Brass Bands England who provided the musical direction and acted as the artistic advisors.

Youth Brass in Concert was postponed in 2022 whilst we undertook a strategic review of this element of the festival taking into account its historic audience numbers, ticket and other sources of income, number of competing youth bands, costs to run and our vision for its future etc. Our expectation was to complete that review in 2023 and to relaunch a redesigned and potentially relocated Youth Brass in Concert in 2024. This review will be done in partnership with Brass Bands England.

Similarly the reintroduction of a Gala Concert was deferred until 2023 whilst we gather more data on live event take-up post pandemic, particularly data in our brass band sector and the geography of NE England.

In terms of the overall evaluation of the festival by the sector press, the artists (the bands) and a significant amount of audience feedback the festival was once again heralded a success and the strategic changes to the format appear to have been positive and now form a foundation on which to further build in 2023.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Brass in Concert Championship continues to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to entertain and display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high-quality original and arranged brass band music.

This is achieved through creative and inspiring programmes and presentation reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre, designed to appeal to both the general listener and enthusiasts of the discipline alike.

Our Youth and Education activities are progressively being designed to showcase all that is good in live music and deliver and support opportunity for young people to have the right to sample and learn a brass or percussion instrument regardless of background.

As reported in the Trustees report for the year ended 31 January 2022 a number of initiatives were undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to develop and modernise our core delivery processes and procedures and the board can now report these are now all documented and complete.

The formal partnering and service agreements that we began to put in place in 2021 are now maturing with our strategic partners to ensure the ongoing success of the festival. These relate to Music Partnership North (MPN) where the now signed agreement formalises the scope and operating arrangements of the partnership on Educational projects.

Similarly with Brass Bands England (BBE) we have now formalised and successfully utilised the support services partnership for the delivery of project management, grant writing, marketing and artistic advisory they provide to Brass in Concert. These partnership agreements have been duly approved by the board and authorised by the CEO and all financial implications have been included in the 2022/23 accounts and 2023/24 budgets by our Finance Director.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The reserves that we have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £25,000, rising to £40,000 over the next 10 years. We intend to use the reserves to invest in and develop the Brass in Concert Festival event over this time frame.

The Board annually review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Changes to the Board of Trustees

In line with these objectives and activities the trustees have made the following changes to the board of trustees in the period:

Marie Bedford (FCCA) formally joined the board as the Finance Director after supporting Brass in Concert Championship Ltd in an advisory/project basis since late 2020. Gibson Booth Ltd continued to act as our accountants due to the experience they have of supporting organisations within the brass band sector.

The board was deeply saddened at the passing of Jacqueline (Jackie) Beere in October 2022, a long time Director of the company, wife of our Chairman Paul Beere and the administrative driving force behind the Brass in Concert Championship since its inception in 1977. Tributes were paid to Jackie and her service to Brass in Concert at various points of the 2022 festival but notably by Houghton Youth Band whose musical tributes will be long remembered.

During Paul Beere's absence from the board in 2022 David Bennett (Honorary President) acted as Interim Chairman. The board would like to sincerely thank David for taking on these additional responsibilities during this difficult time.

Governance

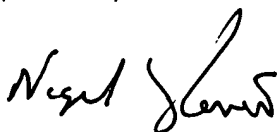
The board has continued to hold both trustee and operational meetings on-line during this financial year agreeing that it was continuing to deliver excellent results in conducting business effectively and in terms of cost savings. On site meetings at Sage Gateshead were limited to two occasions in the period.

In Conclusion

This year was again notable for the continuing successful delivery of the Brass in Concert Championship and its associated Educational Programme at Sage Gateshead. This was only made possible through the strengthening of the partnerships in place with our sponsors (World of Brass, Banks Group, Yamaha Music) our Educational Project partner (Music Partnership North) and our delivery partner (Brass Bands England).

The board have worked diligently throughout this financial year to continue the progress made in 2021 to overcome multiple challenges in terms of much needed modernisation and reform to the way we manage and deliver the festival. We now have significantly better financial management reporting, formal service delivery contracts with our strategic partners which provide professional skills and advisory services to the board. This continues to provide a firm foundation on which to build further sources of funding, build appropriate reserves and ensure we remain connected and relevant to a changing brass band sector.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



N C Stevens - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Brass In Concert Championship ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 January 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Scott Mell

Scott Mell

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

Date: *3 July 2023*

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

	Notes	31.1.23 Unrestricted fund £	31.1.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		22,249	42,998
Other trading activities	2	73,959	64,542
Total		96,208	107,540
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Provision of events		86,512	61,666
NET INCOME		9,696	45,874
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		23,403	(22,471)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		33,099	23,403

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET 31 JANUARY 2023

	Notes	31.1.23 Unrestricted fund £	31.1.22 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	1,298	7,041
Cash at bank		35,656	20,263
		<u>36,954</u>	<u>27,304</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(3,855)	(3,901)
		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
FUNDS	6		
Unrestricted funds		33,099	23,403
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 January 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

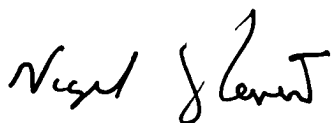
The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 JANUARY 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel J Stevens', written in a cursive style.

N C Stevens - Trustee

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Significant judgements and estimates

No judgements have been made in the process of applying the below accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Ticket and programme sales	45,854	40,352
Media and advertising	1,975	2,085
Sponsorship and streaming	22,780	19,405
Prize donations	1,500	1,500
School hub match funding	500	-
Coach parking	100	100
Performance lighting	1,200	1,100
Rehersal room hire	50	-
	<u>73,959</u>	<u>64,542</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 January 2023 nor for the year ended 31 January 2022.

Trustees' expenses

The reimbursement of trustees expenses during the year was £1,569 (2022 - £442).

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,224	130
VAT	74	6,911
	<u>1,298</u>	<u>7,041</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	97	2,401
Accruals and deferred income	3,758	1,500
	<u>3,855</u>	<u>3,901</u>

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.2.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.1.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	23,403	9,696	33,099
	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	96,208	(86,512)	9,696
	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.2.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.1.22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(22,471)	45,874	23,403
	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>45,874</u>	<u>23,403</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>45,874</u>	<u>23,403</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	107,540	(61,666)	45,874
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>107,540</u>	<u>(61,666)</u>	<u>45,874</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.2.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.1.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(22,471)	55,570	33,099
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>55,570</u>	<u>33,099</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	203,748	(148,178)	55,570
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>203,748</u>	<u>(148,178)</u>	<u>55,570</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, the Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £Nil (2022 - £37,800).

During the year £1,000 (2022 - £1,000) was paid to Aruba Blue Limited in respect of financial management services. Ms M Bedford, Trustee, is also a director of Aruba Blue Limited

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1138309

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07129908 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1138309

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022
FOR
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

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Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	17 to 18

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

TRUSTEES

P R Beere
D Bennett
Ms F Johnstone
H A Stephenson
N C Stevens
Mrs J Beere Trustee (appointed 26.1.22)
Ms M Bedford (appointed 1.4.22)

REGISTERED OFFICE

17 Montalbo Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8BP

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 07129908 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1138309

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Brass in Concert Championship is a charitable, brass band music festival and youth brass development organisation based in the North East of England at our resident auditorium of Sage Gateshead. As at the end of January 2022 the Brass in Concert organisation has successfully delivered 44 annual festivals and over the last 5 years has expanded its mission through a relationship with Newcastle and Northumberland music hubs (Music Partnership North) to deliver a growing number of elementary youth brass educational projects. The festival is widely considered the most prestigious brass band entertainment festival in the World and remains dedicated to supporting and promoting brass banding activities through showcasing the finest and World's highest ranked brass bands.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The financial year 2021-2022 saw a return of the live festival on 20th November 2021 following a Covid driven cancellation in 2020 and a replacement digital event of performances from previous festivals. In view of the still fluctuating and dynamic factors relating to the pandemic which were still being experienced in Europe throughout the planning phase of the festival the trustees took an increased risk managed approach to the scope of festival activities that would be delivered in 2021. The board were also constantly monitoring the covid restrictions at large entertainment venues that were in place in England and in joint discussions with Sage Gateshead concluded that a significant amount of extra volunteer resource was going to be required to manage the safety protocols Sage Gateshead had put in place. These were recruited from existing Brass in Concert partner organisations and other affiliated brass bands in NE England.

To minimise our risks in respect of possible lower ticket sales or enforced event cancellation the trustees consolidated the festival into a single day, compressing the Youth Brass in Concert and Championship into that one day rather than the normal 2 days.

The elementary education programme was similarly simplified and compressed and held in advance of the festival with a smaller than usual number of participating schools in the North East area with no Sage Gateshead attendance but with filmed footage of the school workshops broadcast at the Brass in Concert event on 20th November. The education programme was completed jointly with three of our existing partners (World of Brass/World of Sound) who provided video editing services, Brass Bands England who provided musical direction and recording services and of Music Partnership North who facilitated the links with the schools and provided project management support.

For the main festival at Sage Gateshead ticket sales did not follow the historic sales pattern with many customers choosing to buy much nearer the event. This has been an entertainment industry wide effect following the pandemic. However, by the festival date ticket sales were surprisingly high with over 1400 people in attendance, representing a higher attendance than in 2019 or 2018.

In terms of the overall evaluation of the festival by the sector press, the artists (the bands) and a significant amount of audience feedback the festival was heralded a success particularly when considering the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Brass in Concert Championship continues to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to entertain and display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high-quality original and arranged brass band music. This is achieved through creative and inspiring programmes and presentation reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre, designed to appeal to both the general listener and enthusiasts of the discipline alike.

Our Youth and Education activities are progressively being designed to showcase all that is good in live music and deliver and support opportunity for young people to have the right to sample and learn a brass or percussion instrument regardless of background.

As reported in the Trustees report for the year ended 31 January 2021 a number of initiatives were undertaken in 2020 to develop our core processes and procedures and the re-opening of the festival this year gave us the opportunity to test these with the following results:

Copyright Monitoring

The revised processes were confirmed as being quicker and easier for our copyright advisor with all identified issues resolved prior to the festival - a marked improvement on 2019.

Marketing

The engagement of the Brass Bands England Marketing Team working in partnership with Sage Gateshead marketing led to significant changes in the channel blend between those targeted at the brass band fraternity and those directed at the general public. Some significant changes in our channel mix particularly moving the weighting heavily towards social media advertising proved very successful and data indicates this was a factor that led to the increased ticket sales.

Trade Sales

Improved marketing packaging and targeting led to a higher uptake than in previous years for advertising and trade stands.

Festival Contest Rules and Regulations

The modernisation and simplification of the Information Packs for bands was a significant step forward in terms of improving communications.

Implement a new accounting software package

This has proven invaluable as the backbone to our financial management and monthly accounts reporting to trustees.

Review its funding sources and commercial arrangements

Discussions have already progressed positively with our existing commercial partners to enter into continuing support agreements and contracts for the next financial periods.

Importantly the board of Trustees has recognised during this last period that more formal service agreements are required with a number of our partners to ensure the ongoing success of the festival.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

These particularly relate to Music Partnership North where there is a need to formalise the scope and operating arrangements of the partnership when we undertake Educational projects. Similarly with Brass Bands England there is an urgent need to formalise the scope and operating arrangements of the support services partnership for the delivery of project management, grant writing and marketing services they can provide to Brass in Concert. These partnership agreements will be drafted in the forthcoming financial year in readiness for them being in place for the 2022 festival and any financial implications will be included in the 2022/23 budgets.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of new Chairman and CEO

In line with the above objectives and activities the trustees have made the following changes to the board of trustees in the period:

David Bennett resigned as both a trustee and chairman and existing board member Paul Beere was appointed chairman. David Bennett agreed to continue to act in an ex officio capacity as Brass in Concert's Honorary President. The board also appointed board member Nigel Stevens as CEO to oversee all aspects of the operational delivery of the company's activities.

Governance

The board has continued to hold both trustee and operational meetings online during this financial year agreeing that it was continuing to deliver excellent results in conducting business effectively and in terms of cost savings. On site meetings at Sage Gateshead were limited to two occasions in the period.

Marie Bedford FCCA continued to act as a financial advisor and treasurer to the board but with the intention of her becoming the Financial Director in the next financial year. Gibson Booth Ltd continued to act as our accountants due to the experience they have of supporting organisations within the brass band sector.

As noted in our Trustee report last year, a VAT error had been identified spanning a number of years, and which was material to the accounts. Discussions with current and former Directors of the error led to the offer of donations to cover the sum. The Brass in Concert Championship are immensely grateful for their support and the debt to HMRC has now been paid.

In conclusion

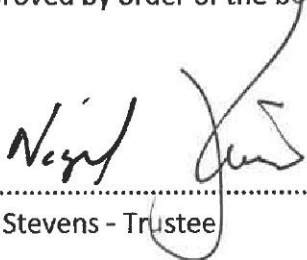
This year has been notable by the very successful return of on Brass in Concert live to Sage Gateshead that was only made possible through the strengthening of the partnerships in place with our sponsors (World of Brass, Banks Group, Yamaha Music) our Educational Project partner (Music Partnership North) and our delivery partner (Brass Bands England).

The stabilising of our finances through the generosity of current and former Directors has meant that we now have a firm foundation on which to build further sources of funding, build appropriate reserves and ensure we remain connected and relevant to a rapidly changing brass band sector.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

Approved by order of the board of trustees on15/9/2022..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
N C Stevens - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Brass In Concert Championship ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 January 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



Scott Mell
FCA
Gibson Booth Limited
12 Victoria Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2BB

Date: 24 October 2022

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

		31.1.22	31.1.21
		Unrestricted	Total
		fund	funds
		£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Donations and legacies		42,998	249
Other trading activities	2	64,542	-
Total		107,540	249
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Provision of events		61,666	8,629
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		45,874	(8,380)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		(22,471)	(14,091)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		23,403	(22,471)

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET 31 JANUARY 2022

	Notes	31.1.22 Unrestricted fund £	31.1.21 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	7,041	1,650
Cash at bank		20,263	8,200
		<u>27,304</u>	<u>9,850</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(3,901)	(32,321)
		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			
		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
FUNDS	6		
Unrestricted funds		23,403	(22,471)
		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>23,403</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 January 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

BALANCE SHEET - continued

31 JANUARY 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15/9/2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
N C Stevens - Trustee

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.1.22	31.1.21
	£	£
Ticket and programme sales	40,452	-
Media and advertising	3,185	-
Sponsorship	7,405	-
Streaming Rights	12,000	-
Prize donations	1,500	-
	<u>64,542</u>	<u>-</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 January 2022 nor for the year ended 31 January 2021.

Trustees' expenses

The reimbursement of trustees expenses during the year was £442 (2021 - £911).

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.22	31.1.21
	£	£
Trade debtors	130	1,650
VAT	6,911	-
	<u>7,041</u>	<u>1,650</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.22	31.1.21
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,401	25
VAT	-	29,896
Accruals and deferred income	1,500	2,400
	<u>3,901</u>	<u>32,321</u>

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.2.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.1.22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(22,471)	45,874	23,403
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>45,874</u>	<u>23,403</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	107,540	(61,666)	45,874
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>107,540</u>	<u>(61,666)</u>	<u>45,874</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.2.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.1.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(14,091)	(8,380)	(22,471)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(14,091)</u>	<u>(8,380)</u>	<u>(22,471)</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	249	(8,629)	(8,380)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>249</u>	<u>(8,629)</u>	<u>(8,380)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.2.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.1.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(14,091)	37,494	23,403
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(14,091)</u>	<u>37,494</u>	<u>23,403</u>

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	107,789	(70,295)	37,494
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>107,789</u>	<u>(70,295)</u>	<u>37,494</u>

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, the Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £37,800 (2020 - nil).

During the year £1,000 (2021 - £nil) was paid to Aruba Blue Limited in respect of financial management services. Ms M Bedford, Trustee, is also a director of Aruba Blue Limited

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

	31.1.22 £	31.1.21 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Trusts and Foundations	4,099	-
Donations	38,899	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	42,998	249
Other trading activities		
Ticket and programme sales	40,452	-
Media and advertising	3,185	-
Sponsorship	7,405	-
Streaming Rights	12,000	-
Prize donations	1,500	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	64,542	-
Total incoming resources	107,540	249
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Volunteer support costs	500	-
Professional services	1,222	1,250
Event costs	26,256	1,960
Travel and accommodation	9,880	1,699
Marketing	2,134	516
Finance costs	524	274
General office costs	3,763	523
Commissions	17,850	-
Irrecoverable VAT	(1,963)	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	60,166	6,229
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,500	2,400

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

	31.1.22 £	31.1.21 £
Total resources expended	<u>61,666</u>	<u>8,629</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u><u>45,874</u></u>	<u><u>(8,380)</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements