

Chairman's Report

Kirkby Stephen Silver Band AGM 2018

1. My main aim in my first year of chairmanship has been to restore calm after a turbulent few years in the committee. I thank my fellow committee members in contributing to this restoration.
2. Our 1st major issue of the year was the lack of cornet players for the 2017 Autumn Concert, which resulted in us cancelling it. Subsequently David Precious proposed to the committee that a better use of resources would be for him to return to the cornet front row and Ian Simkins to conduct once more. Ian agreed and the committee duly made this change to our playing resources. In further changes Ian asked some players to swap instruments to ensure a better cover of important parts
3. We have fulfilled our normal routine of playing events and gave a successful Spring Concert in April.
4. The committee has dealt with a range of "back-office" functions (maintenance, library and instruments)
5. But the major issue we need to address is players. In my view we should pursue 3 main answers to this issue
 - a. Grow our own players
 - b. Do, and publicise we're doing, interesting and enjoyable sounding things
 - c. Behave in ways that are appealing to others in practices and performance
6. To those ends we have already overhauled the beginners sessions – Ian proposed a systematic stricture for music and brass playing to be used with beginners, which the committee endorsed last summer. He, Pauline Ockenden and I now run beginners and we currently have 5 children and 1 adult going through, with plans to expand.
7. We have also arranged a workshop at Kirkby Stephen Primary School to work with the Year 5 class and run a brass instrument assembly, in the hope of encouraging some more children to join us
8. We will be looking to take part in more opportunities to showcase the band and its role in providing opportunities for everyone to participate in music in the town – we have for example been asked to be part of Kirkby Stephen Community Arts Fun Palace event in October
9. The committee will be discussing how to improve our appeal to new people joining us, eg. Talking less in performances, being more helpful to the conductor and bandmaster etc.

John Ockenden

Chair

Kirkby Stephen Silver Band

25/6/18