

Fishburn Academy Band

Annual Report for the period ended 31st October 2019

Chairman's report: The fifth year of Fishburn Academy Band

Teaching

Fishburn Academy Band is continuing with its prime objective of teaching brass instruments to young people in the village and surrounding areas. Through the year George Nicklin has continued to teach a group of children at Fishburn Primary School, a number of whom are playing with the band at rehearsals.

After a period where there was a high initial uptake from the pupils at the school but a sharp early drop off, that limited the number who progress to a good level, teaching has concentrated on a smaller cohort of stronger and more committed pupils. This approach is paying off with the progression in this group. George Nicklin's commitment to teaching at the school and in the evenings at the band room continues to be vital for the future of the band.

Rehearsals

After a number of players moving on to senior bands last year, the numbers at Monday night rehearsals have been a little low through this year. There is still a core of players and a few new players from the school and elsewhere have joined the band through the year. Each section has players of a range of abilities and the band has been building its repertoire from the music bought in the previous years.

Links with the Senior Band

Malcolm Usher continues to support the cornet players at most rehearsals, ensures that FAB always has a space to rehearse and helps the organisation in other ways. FAB were also supported by a number of the senior band players at the performance in June. There is an intention for FAB and the senior band to build on these links in the future.

Committee

At the last AGM, the band were not able to elect a full committee following earlier retirements and resignations due to players moving to senior bands. The post of secretary was still covered by the Chairman but the absence of a Treasurer was limiting the bands ability to operate financially. I'm pleased to report that Nigel James volunteered as Treasurer in June 2019 and within a few months, the accounts were in order and the bank accounts accessible. The bank mandate was updated to include the Treasurer, Chairman and a Trustee to make access more robust.

There have been few meetings and limited progress with actions.

This needs to change for the band to be able to progress.

Grants

The Chairman applied for a second AAP Grant for the 'It's up 2 U' vote on the 3rd November 2018. The FAB application was the last grant to be funded at the vote, securing £3406 which was spend on 6 new instruments (2 Cornets, 2 Tenor Horns and 2 Baritones) and new music.

Performances

There have been few concerts this year but this included a successful series of Christmas supermarket performances and a summer performance at the Sedgefield Farmers Market in June.

With more support running FAB we should be able to arrange more performances each year.

Acknowledgements

As well as a big thank you to all the players for attending each week and the parents contribution to get the younger players there on time, my thanks go to the following for their special contribution to the band.

George Nicklin for his tireless work as our teacher and band master.

Fishburn Primary School for their support for brass lessons at school.

Fishburn Band for the use of the band room and other resources.

Malcolm Usher for supporting the back row cornets and ensuring that we have space to rehearse when the main bands need the band room.

The Future

Fishburn Academy Band is at a point where it needs stronger support from the parents of the younger players who will be able to take the band forward for the next five years.

Andrew T Wilson

FAB Chairman

8th March 2020

Fishburn Academy Band AGM

12/3/2020

Treasurers Report

November 2018 to October 2019

Opening Balance 1/11/18	£2,625.59
-------------------------	-----------

Balance as of 31/10/19	£2,861.96
------------------------	-----------

Income Received	£5,861.36
(Including a grant of £3,406 for Instruments)	

Expenses Paid	£5,624.99
(Including Purchase of new Instruments)	

Overall Gain	£236.37
--------------	---------

NA James

Treasurer