

Fishburn Academy Band

Annual Report for the period ended 31st October 2021

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

Suspension due to Coronavirus

Fishburn Academy Band was suspended due to Coronavirus in March 2020. The suspension was reviewed in October 2020 and remained in place. Given the low numbers and limited resources, the band was not in a position to move operations on line but the decision was kept under review pending the opportunity to restart in person.

During this period some players formally resigned, some stopped paying subs until the future of the band became clear and most found it difficult to continue to practice without the routine of lessons or rehearsals.

Sadly, in July 2021 the George Nicklin, the Bandmaster and Teacher, permanently retired and the Treasurer, Nigel James, resigned, both due to very poor health. George was key to the functioning of FAB and will be difficult to replace. Nigel's departure left just Andrew Wilson and Tony Hood fulfilling the roles of Trustees and committee posts.

In September 2021, following the school holidays and as Coronavirus cases and restrictions were starting to ease, the decision was taken to attempt to restart FAB with in person rehearsals.

FAB re-start Sept 2021

Following an email exchange between Andrew Wilson and Mal Usher (secretary of the Fishburn Band) on the 7th September 2021, Andrew contacted the FAB mailing list to establish who was still interested in playing. This resulted in the following FAB members wanting to continue:

Cornets : Ellen
Flugel: Julie
Tenor: Chrissie and Robyn
Euphonium: Freya
Trombone: Tony
Bass: Andrew

Through Mal, the Senior Band also showed an interest in supporting each section and conducting rehearsals. Without this experience and support, the remaining 7 members would not have been able to run an effective rehearsal or practice.

Unfortunately most of the younger players had been unable to remain motivated and had decided to leave FAB. Andrew personally visited these families to collect any instruments, books, or music and to say farewell. All of the returned assets were deposited in the Fishburn Band-room for safekeeping. A few instruments had already been returned to Fishburn School (where brass lessons had been held) and these are still held there.

The FAB mailing list was also updated in line with everyone's preferences.

Teaching

Given George's departure and the period of suspension, no lessons were given by FAB in this period.

Rehearsals

FAB held a total of 4 rehearsals in Sept and October, each with most of the remaining FAB members and various senior band musicians. Each rehearsal was lead by an experienced member of the senior band with Abi, Dave and Ceri taking turns with the baton.

Everyone agreed that it was great to be back in the band room and playing again, although playing standards had declined during the extended absence.

The first three rehearsals (27/9, 4/10 and 11/10) were held at FAB's traditional time of 7pm on Mondays. At the suggestion of the Senior band this was moved to 5pm to 6pm (and then 4:45 to 5:45) on Sundays, immediately before the senior band rehearsals to minimise travel to the band room.

The last two rehearsals at the end of October were cancelled due to availability (covid and half term) and the band room being needed for main band sectional rehearsals.

Links with the Senior Band

The restart of FAB actually strengthened the links with the Senior Band and led them to step into musical roles needed to support the band.

Committee

Given the suspension, FAB did not hold and committee meetings, with essential business being conducted by email. This report and the accounts have been prepared by Andrew Wilson and reviewed by Tony Hood.

Grants

None in this period

Performances

None in this period

Acknowledgements

George Nicklin has been the cornerstone of FAB since its inception and had previously taught countless musicians through his involvement in other bands. On behalf of FAB and all the people he has inspired through the years, I thank him for his tireless work as our teacher and bandmaster.

I also need to thank my fellow trustee, Tony Hood for his ongoing support and Malcolm Usher and other members of the senior band for their time and the use of the band-room and other resources.

The Future

Before Coronavirus Fishburn Academy Band was already at a point where it needed stronger support to take the band forward for the next five years. With the suspension and only a few members remaining this position has only been weakened. Following the restart, FAB is promoting itself locally but the next year will be critical to the long term future of the band.

Andrew T Wilson

FAB Chairman, July 2022

**Fishburn Academy Band
Receipts and Payments Account
Period Ended 31st October 2021**

	2021
Receipts	£
Voluntary Income	-
Subscriptions	552.50
Grants Received	-
Band Fees - Concerts	-
Fundraising - Christmas Carol collections.	-
Total Receipts	552.50
Payments	
Charitable Activities	-
Bandmaster and Teacher Fees	-
Room Hire	-
Instrument Hire	-
Instrument Repairs	-
Instruments Replacements	-
Event Costs	-
Website	91.07
Bank fees	-
Total Payments	91.07
Net Surplus for period	461.43
Funds brought forward	3237.89
Funds carried forward	3699.32

Statement of Assets and liabilities as at 31st October 2021

Cash Funds

Bank Account	3699.32
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Net Funds	3699.32
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