

MIDLANDS REGIONAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 9 NOVEMBER 2024 AT STONEBROOM COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT:	Mick Veasey	Vice Chairman
	Lesley Bentley	Secretary
	Marie Smith	Treasurer

David Newman, Steve Plant, Barbara Dunscombe, Robert Stansfield, Mike Allcock, Sheila Walton, Sarah Timms, Mike Wildman, Ann Street

Also in attendance were local association representatives: Matthew Wilkins, Ratby Co-op(Leicestershire), Clare Pope, Gresley(NEMMBA), Jane Rutter, Ireland Colliery(NEMBBA), Sharon Stansfield, Long Eaton (NEMBBA), David Renfrew, Glossop Old(High Peak), Alex Gibson, Newark Town(NEMBBA)

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 11 November 2023 had been distributed beforehand to the committee. Mick read them out for the benefit of the local association representatives. The minutes were proposed as a true record by Barbara, seconded by Steve and accepted by the committee.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 re 4.4 - Non receipt of money from Kapitol to be discussed at the committee meeting following the AGM.

4. Officers' Reports

4/1 –Vice Chairman – Firstly we said goodbye to John Slater who had been chairman for over 40 years. Then we talk about the contest at Corby. I thought it was a good venue to operate the contest, all being on one level, good band assembly and catering. It was also great to have trade stands. The contest flowed very well. The downside was the problems that were caused by the bandsmen themselves, smoking and inconsiderate parking. This gave us a huge clean up bill together with a security bill. The complaint we had from the school included a clean up bill. This was not us. Thank you to Lesley who managed to use her charm and secure the venue for the following weekend. In general the comments I received during the contest and afterwards were positive. The other downside is the location. This has been a problem since we moved from Burton. There doesn't seem to be a suitable venue in the centre of our area. I would like to thank all the committee and helpers over the two weekends. Without all the help we would not be able to run a successful contest. Here's to 2025.

4/2 - Secretary – I have to report another Area Contest marred by the behaviour of a few members of Bands taking part. As I reported last year we were faced with a hefty bill to enable the 2023 second day to go ahead at The Corby Cube, otherwise we were facing cancellation. So after holding the Contest at the Corby Cube for 2 years they suggested we find an `alternative venue`. We were very late finding another venue to accommodate us for 2024 but were guided by Alex Parker (BBE) to the Corby Business Academy where he had successfully run Youth Championships. The Regional Committee has finally paid the damage costs incurred at the Academy and are not invited to return.

As you all know we are now back at The Civic Hall in Bedworth for 2025 on the 8th 9th & 15th March. This hasn't been all plain sailing as the new consortium who have taken on the Civic Hall with a 20 year lease from Nuneaton Borough Council, had several issues to sort out. Hopefully they now have everything in hand and I do hope we can have an Area Contest next year without any issues. An awful lot of hard work by unpaid volunteers goes into running these Championships, this clearly isn't appreciated by some.

A big thank you once again to the committee who worked so hard to make this year's Area Contest a success over the 3 days. To Marie for all her additional help over this year, despite her health problems, but also for her dedicated years of service to the Midlands Region, a big, big thank you from all of us Marie. Also an extra thank you to Barbara as always for organising refreshments at our meetings. We have always relied on Nick Smith for his organising skills moving the Bands and this year was no different, a big thank you to Nick who was there on all 3 days, from early until late and thank you to all friends and relatives who turned up and willingly gave their time to enable the smooth running of the Contest.

I must mention John, our late Chairman. As Regional Secretary I have worked with John for the past 18 years. During that time we have had some small differences of opinions, but always lots of laughs. John has been a guiding hand for as many years as most of us can remember and is very much missed. Thanks for the memories John.

4/3 - Treasurer – Marie presented a detailed explanation of the income and expenditure for the 2024 contest and was happy that there were sufficient funds to proceed with the 2025 contest, despite the unexpected extra costs which had to be paid by the committee for security and damage. Marie gave a report - As like any year thank you everyone for your help. Being on time with invoices, claims etc. I do my best to have the answers. The auditors as per normal nearly gave me a heart attack, but all is well thankfully. Thank you Barbara and Sarah, a thoroughly good job done. You will see as it is my last time to present the accounts I have done them by hand as a reminder of how it was in 1996ish. I have written a letter to the Chair so that it may be used for the bank etc. Well it's farewell from your Must Have A Receipt Treasurer. Many many thanks.

Marie was inducted as a Life Member on the committee in recognition of her service.

4/4– Auditors – As Ann was unable to attend, the audit of the statutory records was made by Barbara and Sarah on 19 October 2024. There were no issues found.

4/5 –Trophy officer – No report.

5. Election of Officers

	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Barbara Dunscombe	Mick Veasey	Lesley Bentley
Vice Chair	Mick Veasey	Sheila Walton	Robert Stansfield
Secretary	Lesley Bentley	Sheila Walton	Robert Stansfield
Treasurer	Mike Wildman	Mick Veasey	Lesley Bentley
Minute Secretary	Ann Street	Sheila Walton	Barbara Dunscombe
Trophy Officer	Roger Poulter	Barbara Dunscombe	David Newman

All the above were accepted by the committee.

6. Officers' and Helpers' Expenses

Mick proposed that expenses remain the same at 25p per mile, seconded by Barbara. Accepted by the committee.

7. Correspondence

None received.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.33am.

Appendix further to the meeting:

A1 - query from Alex Gibson, Newark Town asking if the perpetrators of the damage at Corby Academy and Corby Cube had been identified. Lesley explained that unfortunately it was not possible to positively confirm who it was.

A2 - query from David Renfrew, Glossop Old regarding adjudicator error at the last contest. Lesley explained how this had been dealt with after the contest which had been accepted by the band secretary. Further complaints needed to be directed to ABBA.

A3 - Clare Pope, Gresley expressed thanks to the committee and will pass on to the band the hard work the committee do on their behalf.

Chair.....Date.....