



North Swindon Big Band AGM 2022

Chairman's Report

Last Year.

Last year was both rewarding and surprising from The Band's perspective. Rewarding, since Covid, though not eradicated, was at a level to enable rehearsals and indeed engagements to be taken on, similar to pre-covid times. The surprise came with the announcement made in June, that our MD, David Baker was to leave at the end of August 2022. The statement resulted in the committee having to look at and understand what David had done for the band. It was when we analysed the sheer amount of work that David was doing, we realised that the volume of work needed to be shared out to other band members as much as possible.

In order that a new MD could be approached it was a condition, imposed by the committee, that the support mechanisms needed to be in place, so that the next MD did not need to be concerned with non-MD tasks and could concentrate on the more customary aspects of being an MD. Without the assurance of support from members, The Band was in danger of being wound up.

We should all be aware that David Baker despite his impending departure, continued both prior and after his announcement, to do so much work. Despite him no longer enjoying the role of MD he was good enough to give ample notice to allow the committee to prepare for his departure. He was not prepared to be a regular playing member in order that his replacement as MD could take full control without his interference. He is prepared, if needed, to be a dep however.

The other members of your committee, namely Karen Cordon and Ken Emerson also deserve your thanks. Ken for his role as treasurer but also as the sound engineer for the many gigs that we have had this year. As well as providing our excellent committee meeting minutes, Karen ensured we had a significant number of gigs in contacting so many of our contacts and progressing leads. Whilst not part of my brief I will single out the joint concert carried out with The Cast of Stage Struck. It was most satisfying to raise over £2,000 for Alzheimer's charity and to be part of something new for The Band.

Band Comings and Goings were as follows:

Comings

We are pleased that Jane Osborn on trombone and Pauline Richings on female vocals have joined us and trust that they continue to enjoy their time with us.

Goings

Dave Maguire on trombone and Beryl Maguire on female vocals left us followed later in the year by David Baker as our outgoing MD.

This Year and Beyond

I am stepping down as Chairman in the hope that I can be of more practical use on the technology aspects in support of our new MD. As such it is for my successor to take on the role and to help shape the future of The Band. What is important is that The Band continues to flourish under the new MD. It is further hoped that the ravages of Covid are swept away allowing The Band to continue playing unimpeded. It is important that the new MD is given The Band's full support.

Graham Frampton – Chairman.