

RSPBA L & S of E Branch - Music Board representative Report - 29 Nov 2020

Although being in post as Music Board representative following last year's AGM, I have only attended three virtual meetings due to not being added to the distribution list until August this year.

The Music Board has sought feedback from Grade 4B & Novice Juvenile B bands on a new project regarding the 'Introductory phase' of competition Marches to be potentially piloted at a selection of suitable competitions. The suggested Pilot Format: Standing Start whereby bands would form up in the competition circle, come to a halt / attention and then the performance would start. Consultation questions were sent out and the responses to this survey is allegedly one of the best they've had. This was met with positivity from the Bands who responded so this is now moving to the next phase.

The Format Group recently hosted an online conference call with Grade 1 Bands which was well attended. Topics discussed were: draws; MSRs; Medley; Musical content/make up; adjudicator positioning; and trials.

Online competitions have featured in many Music Board discussions. It should be noted that the Music Board are not against online competitions but that there are several aspects which need addressing before a model is put together. In the meantime, while these are addressed, there is an alternative pilot model consisting of two dimensions: development and showcase. The development aspect provides the performer with the ability to submit a performance aligned to the already defined Branch age and sections events. Performance feedback is then provided via a written sheet with sign posting to the resources on the PDQB website and PDQB levels with the opportunity to engage in further study, although this aspect isn't obligatory. The showcase element is provided as a platform to encourage creativity and innovation where performers come together if agreeable to come together to create a musical ensemble.

Due to very limited competition activity this year, the Music Board have not received many grading requests. In addition, the Music Board have reviewed certain policies.

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