

Treasurer's Report, Surrey Brass AGM, 7 January 2006

The past twelve months have seen the group perform a mix of established concert formats and some new ventures. There have been some varied financial results to these.

Brass Massive was the largest event the Group has attempted to organise in recent times, perhaps even in the group's history. This would not have been possible without the very generous sponsorship from the RC Sherrif Rosebriars Trust, who once again provided an underwriting grant for the day. It was a real plus that this day generated substantial income from both participant and audience takings, and made a significant profit above all expectations. A demonstration that when the group fills a venue it can be financially successful even when staging expensive events with expensive soloists.

Going back in the year Surrey Brass joined forces with the Bourne Concert Band of Woking, and this event proved a success too, with all costs covered, albeit with reduced forces and some borrowed players and kit on our side.

The appearance at the Guildford Festival was a real chance to put our name out in the local area at a prominent event, and the concert was well-supported. We should be proud that our concert was one of the few during the week that actually made a profit, despite being on an unfashionable Tuesday evening. Due to some confusion, the Festival organisers were not expecting us to require a fee (somewhat surprisingly!), although they were generous in covering all our costs for the night. However this does provide us with a lesson to get all fees agreed in writing in advance in future, which I as Treasurer will take responsibility for.

Another new venture was the Brass and Organ concert at Hersham, to which Adrian Warren played a key role in organising. A full and appreciative audience generated a very encouraging positive financial result.

Unfortunately the back end of the year has been disappointing. Our regular film concert in Guildford was poorly attended, and the financial result was a big hit to our funds.

Our Frosted Brass concert at the Landmark Centre, historically a cash cow that bank-rolled our entire year, saw attendances fall again. Final figures have yet to be received, but the net takings from the door are estimated to be around £1,000, compared to £1,400 and £1,600 in prior years.

Going forward it is my recommendation that we think more seriously at the make up of our annual programme. Our Guildford film concert has lost money for some years, and we need to consider whether this remains a viable option for the future. Our Christmas event needs some new ideas to renew its appeal. It is noticeable that the Landmark Centre has had three Centre Managers in as many years, and it is questionable whether they are now as committed to the event as they were previously.

However it is positive that we now have a number of financially viable options, such as the relationships developed in Woking and Hersham, which could be explored again in the future.

At the end of 2006 estimated reserves are around £500, which, whilst giving sufficient funds to cover immediate overheads, does not give much scope for putting on larger events without financial support.