

To all NWB members,

I am circulating this message in order to prevent any misunderstandings or misconceptions regarding the reasons Glen and I have taken the action we have. We have delayed making any public comment until after the Proms Concert, as it was important, to us at least, that the band kept its focus on its musical performance.

It is with some regret that Glen and I have tendered our resignations from the posts we have held within the band, effective from 24 August 2010. For the information of those who are unaware of our rôles, they were:

1. Trustee
2. Committee member
3. Librarian
4. Webmaster
5. Publicity photographer
6. Bandstand dresser.

These were in addition to the various tasks Glen performed as a band supporter, which she will no longer undertake.

I fulfilled the librarian duties up to the Proms Concert on 4 September, to avoid any difficulties with music availability on the night. I have also offered to maintain the website until an alternative can be provided. However, in the absence of any acceptance of my offer by the committee, the site has been closed and the sponsorship withdrawn.

The reasons for our decision to relinquish our rôles are two-fold.

The first is the recent emails circulated by Jim, Chris, Nicola and Sandra, who levelled uninformed and offensive criticisms at the work Glen and I have been doing for the benefit of members, and at me personally. We were deeply hurt and upset by the comments that were made, and the manner in which they were made, which was in flagrant breach of the constitution and rules of the band, with which we all agree to abide when we join.

Secondly, the committee's abject failure to give us any support, or to make any effort to uphold the constitution and rules, which is a fundamental duty enshrined in the constitution.

My use of the term 'the committee' is intended to indicate the corporate sense and excludes Sarah, who has been most supportive, and those committee members who were not present at the meeting on 23 August (Yvonne and Marie).

From correspondence Glen and I have seen, it is evident that we have been made scapegoats in the rush to appeasement.

Perhaps some background information is important.

Historically, as minutes of meetings show, decisions relating to band uniform (and we have had three different uniforms to date) have always been taken by the committee, without reference to band members. Therefore the critical emails from Jim, Chris, Nicola and Sandra came as a complete shock to us. Even more so, as one of the critics was a committee member at the time each of those previous decisions was made.

The addition of a suitable waistcoat to the band's uniform has been a matter of debate for more than 2 years. Other, more pressing, matters have been given higher priority, but these have been dealt with over time.

The subject of band uniform was again raised at the last AGM.

All the matters raised at the AGM were discussed at the first meeting of the new committee.

After a full discussion, the committee tasked Glen and me with finding a source of suitable waistcoats, at an affordable price. We put a considerable amount of effort into this and were eventually successful in being able to source good quality, made-to-measure garments at a third of the cost someone like *****'s would charge.

The committee was kept fully informed of our progress at all times and at no time did we exceed our instructions. The action we took to enter into a contract for the waistcoats to be made was on the instructions of the committee.

The maxim "least said, soonest mended" is only useful if it is applied before anything is said in the first instance. It has no retrospective value. Unfortunately, too much has already been said to enable us to remain silent.

Glen and Geoff

5 September 2010