

## President's Report

Like previous years, 2025 has been a busy one. 75 events took place up to the year ended 31 March – concerts, contests, street parades – all well supported by playing members and associate members alike.

Of particular note is the Art Deco Concert where for the first time we advertised in the official Art Deco booklet. This, together with the ability to pay by electronic means, immensely lifted the sale of tickets. Special thanks to Penny Madden and Amanda Laird for making both of these initiatives possible.

All playing band members now have a bucket hat to help protect faces and ears in the summer months. Other uniform improvements include new socks, jackets and waistcoats for those who needed them and a polo shirt embroidered with the band logo is also available to all members.

Still on the uniform front, the Tabard Theatre benefited from a clean out of old uniforms, making room for our current supply to be properly stored.

We continue to have a strong relationship with the HB Caledonian Pipe Band, several times performing together. Their members have also been very helpful with such things as instrument maintenance.

Towards the end of last year, your band implemented a formal Strategic Plan which included the following objectives:

- Establish and maintain a structured, sustainable teaching and recruitment system so that the Band has strong management and membership
- Encourage and support playing members to be involved in ongoing development and improvement of the Band's music
- Provide all members with a positive membership experience
- Be actively involved in its community by participating in all significant events and parades, staging concerts and performing for community organisations

Whilst your Committee developed action plans to work through to meet each of these goals, inevitably it has been the day to day management of the band which has taken focus, rather than governance. This is an area for emphasis and attention in the year ahead.

That said, a structured tutoring regime has been introduced, opportunities for development are available for players, workshops have been held and more social events take place.

Succession planning is also top of mind. Whilst musical leadership has changed hands this year, the same people cannot continue to run all other aspects of your Band.

Finishing on a positive note, the attendance and fun had at practice and parades is clearly evident, a true sign of a successful Band.

Thanks as always to the Committee – Nick, Andy, Kerry, Richard, Aaron and Amanda, your dedication is appreciated. Thanks also to you all for your support.

*Julie*