



Bold as Brass Contest

Aims and Rules

Introduction

This document serves to establish the purpose of the Bold as Brass Contest (BaBC).

By making clear what we aim to achieve from the event, we are able to set the rules accordingly and ensure that they align with the overall spirit of the event. Establishing a set of aims from the outset means that we can assess to what degree these have been met each year and implement any necessary changes for future events. These aims will serve as the basis for decision making and will be shared with all stakeholders and participants to ensure transparency.

The event will be run in accordance with Arts Council England's Seven Quality Principles. These Principles will inform how we plan and review the event and will ensure that it is inspiring, inclusive and innovative.

Aims

Quality Principles

- 1. The BaBC will be a high-quality National event, which promotes a standard of excellence and innovation at all levels.**
- 2. The BaBC will remain true to the brass banding tradition.**
- 3. The BaBC will be exciting, inspiring and engaging to young people and adults.**
- 4. The BaBC will maintain a positive and inclusive environment, rejecting discrimination in any form.**
- 5. The BaBC will promote brass banding to children and young people as widely as possible.**
- 6. The BaBC will encourage personal progression (both musically and generally) within a friendly banding environment.**
- 7. The BaBC will foster a sense of belonging and ownership in the musicians.**

Additional Aims

- The BaBC will aid player creation to ensure future resilience of brass banding at adult level.
- The BaBC will encourage participation and reward excellence.
- The BaBC will be held in an inspiring venue at the National Coal Mining Museum.
- The BaBC will engage with its venue's local population, both within and outside of the brass band community.
- The BaBC will be run to the highest possible professional standards.
- The BaBC will be run without bias.
- The BaBC will promote modern banding whilst embracing the art form's cultural heritage.
- The BaBC will seek to stay relevant to competitors via regular feedback.
- A sense of occasion about the entire day will be fostered, with bands people encouraged to attend for the duration of the event.

Competition

The Contest Structure

The aim of this event is to offer a modern reinvention of the traditional march and hymn contest. The National Coal Mining Museum site lends itself to this without the need to close any public highways. There is also a large outdoor space at the pit head which will provide an amphitheatre with audience seating space.

Bands will be expected to perform a march taking no longer than 6 minutes. As a change for 2025 after consulting bands who have participated in previous years, this march can either be performed standing or sitting and will take place at the pit head. This does not necessarily need to be a traditional march.

This section of the contest will have one adjudicator judging the presentation of the march. The judge will rank bands from first to last without any ties. For the purposes of this contest, a 'Traditional March' will be considered to be a contest-style march or similar. The contest controller's decision on any disputes over this shall be final.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Best March Presentation.
- Highest Ranked March Overall.

At the end of this march, bands will be expected to perform a 20-minute set of music. This performance will have access to chairs and music stands, although there is no obligation to use either. There will be open adjudication, with one judge responsible for the musical assessment of the performances and one assessing the entertainment value. The two

judges, working independently, will each rank all performing bands in the same manner as the March Contest, with any ties settled by the higher place being awarded to the band(s) finishing higher on musical quality.

The prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Best Solo or Group Feature.
- Most Entertaining Performance.

There will be prizes for combined scores across the two competition elements as follows (higher overall performance in the 'entertainment' category will be used to settle any ties):

- Best Overall Performance.
- Best Overall 3rd or 4th section band.
- Best Youth Band (aged u18 with up to 4 adult helpers)

There will also be a people's performance prize, with votes cast on a token system.

Wet Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the contest will still take place outside as the contest performance area is suitably sheltered.

Rules

1. Entries to BaBC shall be limited to brass bands.
2. There will be no registry for the event.
3. Bands wishing to enter as a non-competing band will be able to enter and take part fully, receive written feedback but will simply not be ranked for prizes.
4. The entry fees for each band will be set by the organisers according to necessity and must be paid by a date prescribed by the committee to ensure entry to the contest.
5. There is no limit on the number of players allowed on stage.
6. The contest is open to bands composed of standard brass band and percussion instruments. If any bands wish to use other instruments in their set, they must inform the organiser, who must give their permission for said instrument(s) to be used in advance.
7. The contest will be under open adjudication.
8. The performance time limit for the event will be 20 minutes, from commencement to end of the set inclusive of anything the organiser believes the band is being adjudicated upon (e.g. spoken word, musical notes, video etc.)
9. There will be time penalties applied to each band's that runs over time. The first minute over time will remain unaffected. At the start of every 30 second period over time thereafter, one point will be added to the band's score (e.g. if a band runs 3 minutes and 20 seconds over time, 5 points will be added).
10. Each adjudicator will place the bands in order from first to last, with one point being awarded to the winner and one subsequent point for each position thereafter. In the case of a tie for any other placings, musicality points will be taken over

entertainment points. In the case of one of the bands receiving a time penalty, the original musicality points before the penalty will be used.

11. A list of percussion equipment to be provided by the contest will be supplied to bands in advance of the contest.
12. Bands that wish to use their own percussion must inform the organiser before the day of the contest.
13. Bands must provide an unmarked hard copy of the scores of the chosen entertainment programme for the adjudicators (photocopies allowed).
14. If any band is not ready to perform when requested, then the issue will be resolved at the discretion of the organisers.
15. Any band found to be using inappropriate language, props, or making comments likely to cause offence or be deemed as discriminatory in any shape or form will be liable to be disqualified. Discrimination or behaviour likely to cause offence will not be tolerated. Any disqualification may mean that a band is prevented from entering in subsequent years. This will be at the discretion of the organiser.
16. Results as assigned by the adjudicators are final. The application of all other rules is at the discretion of the organiser. The decision of the organiser is final.