



## Membership Survey - March 2017

Welcome to the 2017 scaba membership survey.

The aim of this survey is to look into what you, the bands, think about the benefits scaba could and does offer our members in addition to contests, the way our contesting is structured, and what might encourage more bands to take up membership of the association.

Please note that where a \* appears after a question this indicates that you must give an answer before you can move on to the next page of the survey.

Thank you for your time.

### Membership

#### 1. Which band do you represent?

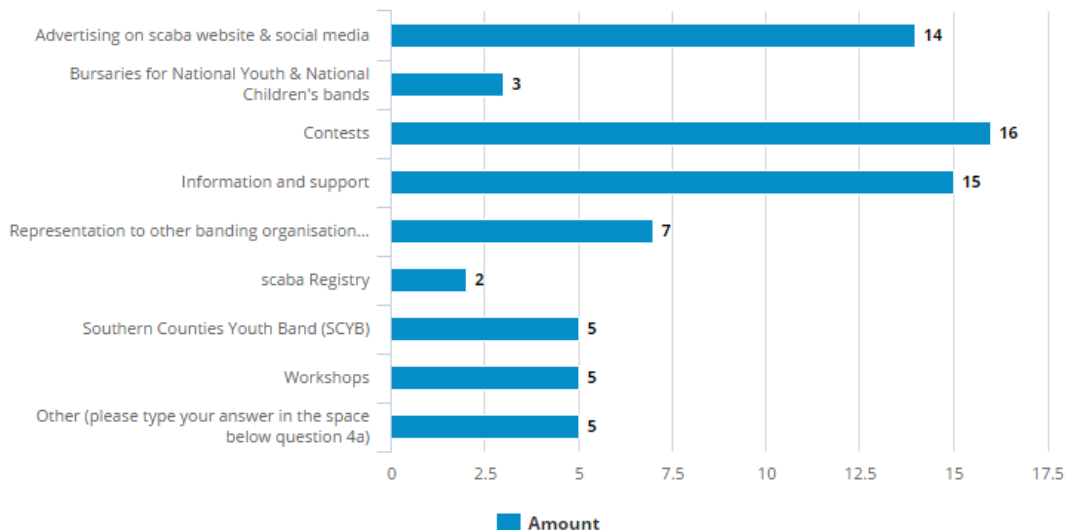
Number of responses: 37

Text answers:

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#### 4. What are (or could be) the benefits to your band of being a scaba member?

Number of responses: 29



**4a. What other benefits of scaba membership are there (or do you think there could be) to your band?**

Number of responses: 13

Text answers:

N/a

Don't Know

Since we are not members, we have no benefits.

Networking

None at present

Not a member

NOT A MEMBER SO NO BENEFITS

As we are not a member I cannot answer this question

Not many. We in turn support the association, of course.

Possibly insurance

LMB have never been a member of SCABA so haven't benefited.

Access to wider network of bands

We are mostly using scaba for the entertainments contest. More general support comes form Brass Band England.

## 6. Please outline the reasons why your band has chosen not to become a scaba member

Number of responses: 17

Text answers:

no particular reason

Non contesting band

No one has ever asked us!

Since we are not a contesting band we could see no benefits

We are ODBBA members. We are a young band and I'm not currently convinced that there are significant benefits to being members of scaba as well. Currently we are not registered and I am not aware that there are many options for us.

Contesting was the main reason for membership, and we are not currently wishing to do any contesting. We do not perceive there to be enough other benefits to justify the cost

Never really been discussed within committee meetings.

We only do one contest a year and we have stopped that now. I didn't know about Scaba and I assume there is a membership cost.

We are not interested in contesting and as a result don't see any benefit in belonging to SCABA

Not aware of it!

Our band was only formed in 2015 and are not yet ready to take the next steps into wider competitions

The core reason to be a member of SCABA is the need to be registered to take part in contests. The current registration rules mean that either we take part and players who play with us can't play with other bands they play with or vice versa. We would like to support the association and take part when we're able but this puts a significant barrier in our way. As the contests are utterly unrewarding there seems very little point in renewing our membership.

Very little reason for us to be a member

A decline in band membership and a reluctance of some players to contest.

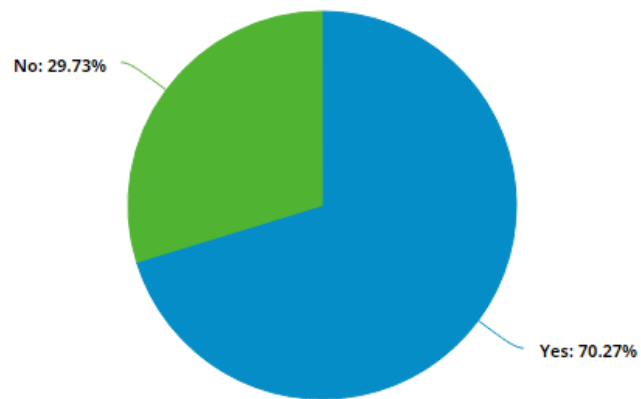
It isn't clear how we'd benefit.

Not enough benefits for the fee charged.

Last year we only played at one contest so it was cheaper not to a member

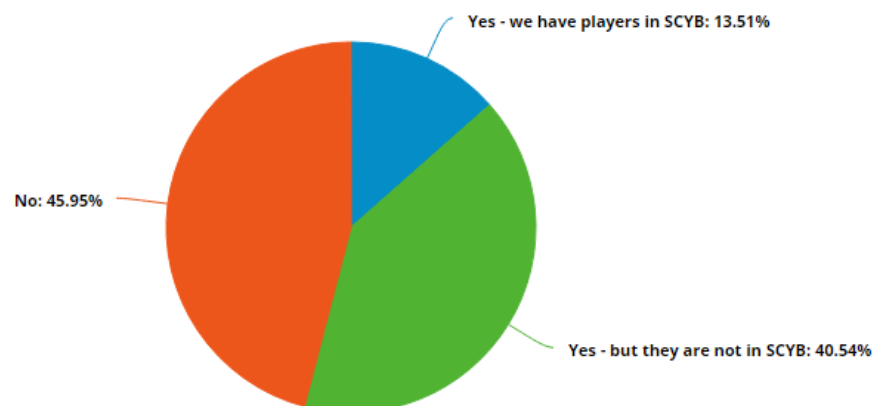
### 9. If scaba offered free DBS checking through our membership of Brass Bands England (BBE), would you use it?

Number of responses: 37



### 12. Does your band have any young players who are eligible for membership of SCYB?

Number of responses: 37



**13. If your band has eligible young players who are NOT members of SCYB, please outline the reasons why not**

Number of responses: 19

Text answers:

too young

Musical needs catered for by music service

Didn't know it existed :(

Wasn't aware of it - and also I suspect the venues may not be very convenient.

Too remote

We have one under 18 but he is too young for the youth band at the moment

Because we are not members of SCABA

Not heard of scaba

Only one player who doesn't want to be involved in banding

Most already playing in local orchestras etc - time constraints

N/A

I have suggested it. Will try again

Too far to travel, plus other commitments

They may not be aware of SCYB and/or are involved more locally to this area

Some of our young players are part of Herts County Youth Band. SCYB is organised at a location which is less convenient.

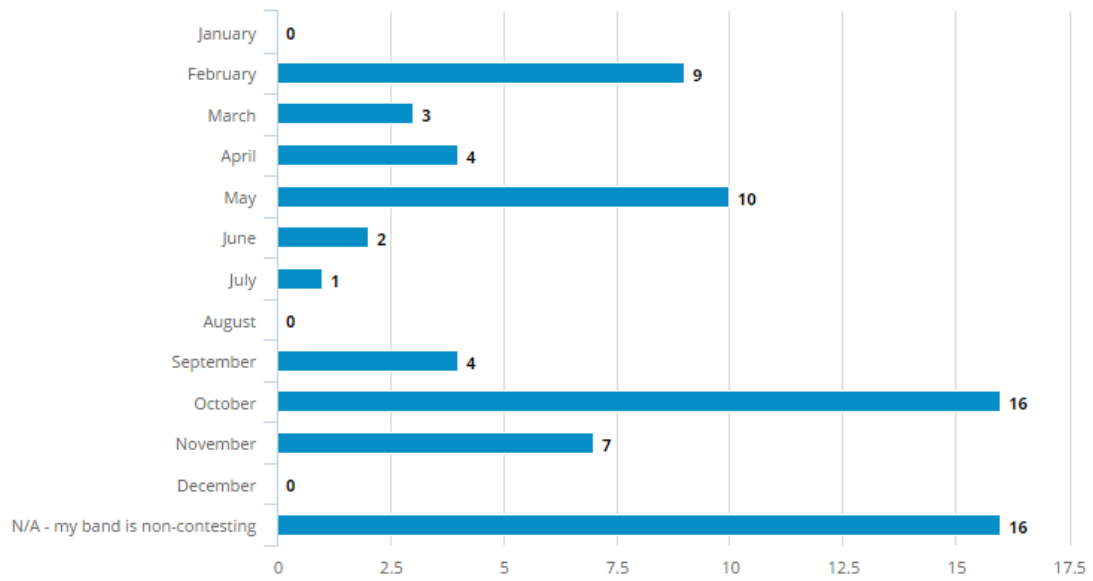
n/a

To far to travel

Most of our training band players are under 12. We are looking at co-funding the Easter Residential for any eligible players that wish to go.

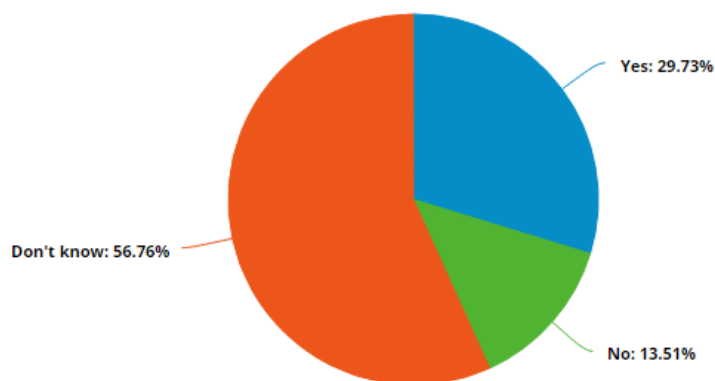
### 17. When would your preferred time of year for scaba full band contests be?

Number of responses: 37



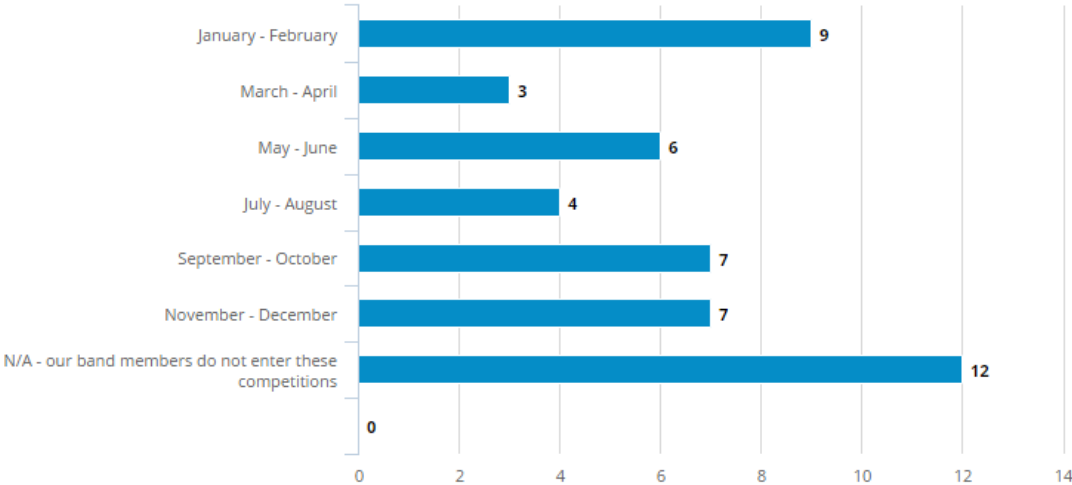
### 23. Would your band support scaba removing their local gradings and reintroducing the 4th section?

Number of responses: 37



**27. When would your preferred time of year for Solo and Quartet contests be?**

Number of responses: 37



**29. What do you think might make events of this type more attractive to your players, and which type of workshop might members of your band be more likely to attend? (eg. Upper or Lower band, specific instrument, conducting)**

Number of responses: 21

Text answers:

specific instrument

Timing; person taking the workshop, venue; cost are all actors that will influence attendance at these events. SCABA covers a large area of the south of the country and therefore there is a good chance that the workshops will be located a considerable distance away from any one band. Rotating the venue may have a positive effect. It may be beneficial for SCABA to 'piggyback' onto a workshop that is being arranged by a band that has a concert with a guest soloist so as to share the cost and to increase numbers attending the workshop. Avoiding busy times of the year for bands e.g. contest periods/summer months

conducting / adjudicating / general musicianship / instrument or mouth piece demos

Location - not too far from Oxford

"Name" players, more frequent events so there's space for more variety

Timing

Location

Workshops on specific test pieces that are particular challenging even if they are not being used for a certain contests. New compositions workshops. Perhaps where composers bring new works they want to try.

If we knew about them.

We're 'out of the loop', so the prospect of attending anything like this is a bit daunting.

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Location and timing

Sectional work maybe

Instrumental solo, quartet and ensemble.

I really can't answer that other than to say that I think quite a few might be interested in workshops.

Location

Easy to reach location is important

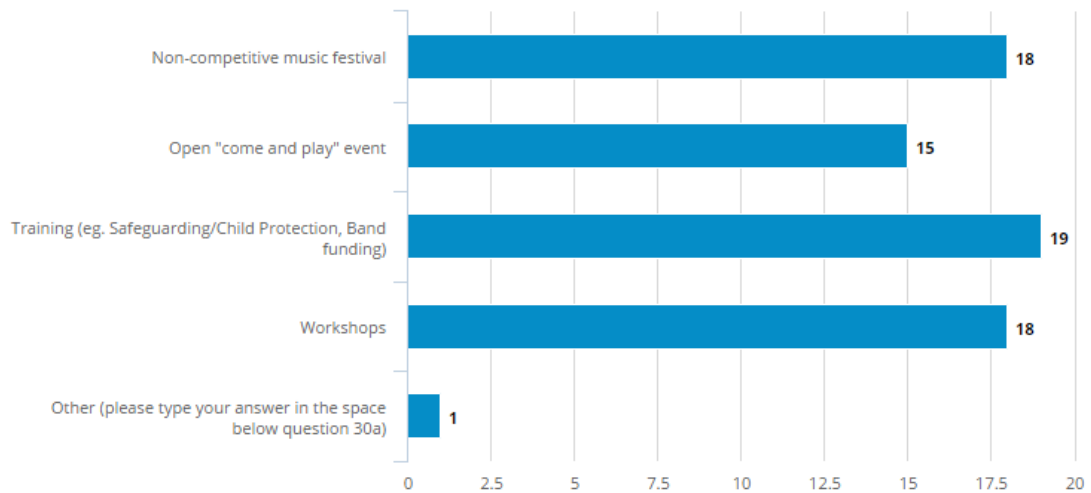
If the workshops were more local to us.

Emphasis on the range of ability acceptable (they don't want to feel a prat). Maybe a lower sections workshop, when they may feel more secure as the players would be of a similar standard.



### 30. What non-contesting events would you like to see scaba organise in the future?

Number of responses: 37



### 30a. Do you have any suggestions for other events?

Number of responses: 8

Text answers:

Youth Band Festival = perhaps on a bandstand if in the summer

Data Protection GDPR, social media use, etc.

Summer workshops in regional locations for young players

Band funding workshops would be particularly useful.  
Showcase concerts featuring various bands.

Make contests a festival. Make it interesting and stimulating for bands to take part and perhaps combine it in to some bigger event that generates interest and even an audience.

## End of Survey. Thank you for your time. Do you have any further comments or suggestions?

Number of responses: 15

Text answers:

not at this time

The band has a public Facebook group

You should compile a list of all bands in the area/(country?) and either write or email them with what you offer! I have been Chair for 6 years and to the best of my knowledge I have never had any correspondence, invitations, or advertising to any of your functions.

We are not adverse to joining SCABA but the membership fee must offer some advantages to non contesting bands.

re grading, having worked through the questions, I am not sure I understand scaba grading. My band is not registered nationally and as such finds it difficult to find contests that will accommodate us. ODBBA run an 'unregistered' section and we take part in that. I am not clear where we could fit with your grading but certainly 3rd section seems way too high.

Offer a financial benefit of paid-up membership to bands that can't or won't do scaba contests - ie. membership discounts for workshops etc too

I have been in a brass band for 40 years and on the committee for 30 years and never heard of Scaba.

Much of this survey would appear to have been somewhat negatively responded to. Much if this is because of the state of development of Cove Brass as a new band. Once we have become a little more established it may well be more appropriate for us to become further involved with SCABA than we currently are.

I hope you get some useful feedback. My comments are meant to be constructive and honest. Very happy to discuss in more detail if you wish. Nick

Important - these are my thoughts and opinions based on what I think my band's members would say. However I could be wrong. I have not consulted the band members individually. I think that if you wanted to get a true representation of thoughts and feelings on all these points you need to send a survey out for individual band members to complete because players can be quite diverse in their opinions, as I am sure you realise! I am, however, really pleased to see that you have taken the initiative to ask these questions and I will be interested to see what outcomes there are.

One question asked whether we would use SCABA to do free DBS checks - we are also members of Brass Bands England so get free checks via them too - but I said yes even though we already have this facility. Maybe we don't need to be members of both!

We feel one register for all bands is essential. Losing interest in any contests other than nationals due to the high number of "day transfers": bands are not competing on an equal footing