



28 November 2025

Dear Paul

Application for grant

Happy New Year

I am writing on behalf of the **North of England** Brass Band Championships.

The National Brass Band Championships, which have existed since 1945 in their current format, are split into five sections, it's similar to football – Championship Section, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections – and eight qualifying regions in the UK. These are the London and Southern Counties Region, the Midlands, the **North of England**, the North West, Scotland, Wales, the West of England and Yorkshire. Depending upon the number of bands entered into each section in each region, the top two, three and sometimes four placed bands qualify for the honour for a place in the 'Finals', held in the autumn each year. The Lower Section Finals, showcasing sections 1-4 are held at the Cheltenham Racecourse in September, and the Championship Section Final is held in **London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall** in October.

The **North of England** Championships attracts bands from Cumbria, County Durham, Cleveland, Tyne and Wear and North Yorkshire

For the first time in March 2015 the contest was held at the prestigious Gala Theatre in the centre of Durham City, Due to positive feedback, on facilities and the acoustics, from performers and spectators the contest has returned to the Gala Theatre every year since with the 2026 event being held there on 21 and 22 March. Any grant secured would go towards the hire of the Gala Theatre which cost nearly £7000

We anticipate an entry of over 40 bands of which 50% have beginner, learner or youth bands and 45% have former connections with the North East mining industry. The number of young people, under 18, performing over the two days is estimated at 400 with 1300 performers taking part in total.

We plan to encourage young people who have not experienced a brass band contest to come along with their parents/guardians – this will be done by issuing wrist bands for free.

A recent survey shows that playing a brass instrument has many positives and benefits especially for young people are:-

- team work and making new friends (friendships that can last a lifetime)
- improvement of cognitive skills
- psychological resilience
- increase in self-esteem and confidence
- reductions in stress, anxiety and depression

I was wondering if Easington Village Parish Council would consider making a donation towards these costs.

Many thanks for considering our application.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

On behalf of **North of England Brass Band Championships Committee**

[Redacted contact information]

Account details

North of England Brass Band Championships

Account number - [Redacted]

Sort code [Redacted]

Cheques made payable to “North of England Brass Band Championships”