



## NEWS ITEM

From the BYBA Communications Office

### Marching Boot Camp - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006

Trinity High School in Nottingham was the venue for the first ever Marching Boot Camp, an event designed to promote and encourage the principals of marching movement.

36 marching members and staff took part in the pilot event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, led through a series of workshops, group challenges and games by a team of four experienced staff members, who were on hand to share experiences and encourage a more rounded approach to marching movement.



The Marching Boot Camp was put together by Phil Martin (Cadence,



Boston Crusaders, 37<sup>th</sup> Kingswood, NOVO), who was keen to help the Association's member units develop more ideas for marching and movement. He said: "Marching basics are so often seen as a chore and can be uninspiring for the members to take part in. The Boot Camp team wanted to demonstrate that marching basics can be fun if approached in the right way, and try to get across how important it is that things are done correctly for both the enjoyment and safety of the marching members."

The British Youth Band Association - Registered Educational Charity Number 277591

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The day started with the participants being split into two teams to take part in the exercises and challenges, from which points would be awarded to give the day a competitive edge.



First up was a thorough warm-up session led by John Westron (Pegasus, The Senators). “The warm-up session sets the tone for the rest of the day, and should be planned like any other aspect of rehearsal” John commented. “Today we’ve gone through the most important factors to warming up, stretching, and doing it all safely and effectively. You can’t cut corners when it comes to preparing the body, but you can make it fun, and you can put your

own stamp on it”.

From here the two teams took part in balance tests on wobble boards, posture exercises, marching basics and were taken through a theory session on the basis of movement followed by a group ‘exam’ where teams were given a series of questions to answer as a group.



The visiting staff members present were given the opportunity to ask questions and gain some ideas for exercises to take back to their groups from the Boot Camp team of instructors. This was one of the main goals of the day as Boot Camp instructor Jon Bilby (Black Knights, The Cadets, The Senators) explained: “The aim isn’t to tell people exactly what they should be doing, it’s more about giving others the tools to approach their own marching

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basics programme with some new ideas and maybe look things a little differently. We're trying to make it more fun but beneficial at the same time."

The first event of its kind in the UK was received well by the groups attended which included Atherstone Youth Band, Distant Thunder D&BC, Donisthorpe Scouts, Revolution Show Corps and Trinity School Show Band.



New friendships were made and many ideas were taken from the event, with a great time had by all.

Organiser Phil Martin said: "It was a great success and I'd like to thank Trinity High

School for being our hosts for the day.

Also thanks to the instructional team of Jon Bilby, Jon Westron and Adam Butt."

The Marching Boot Camp looks set to return in 2007. Keep an eye on [www.byba.org.uk](http://www.byba.org.uk) for details, and we will also be providing a full video presentation of the day for you all to enjoy which will be available very soon.

Report by Adam Butt (Cadence, Blue Devils, Stafford Lancers).



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