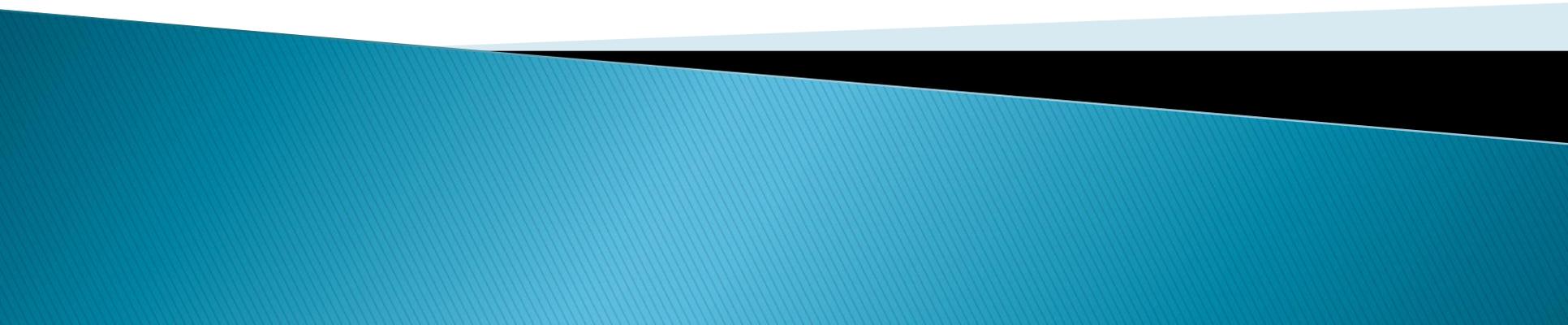


BBL Questionnaire – Part 2

General Information



Index

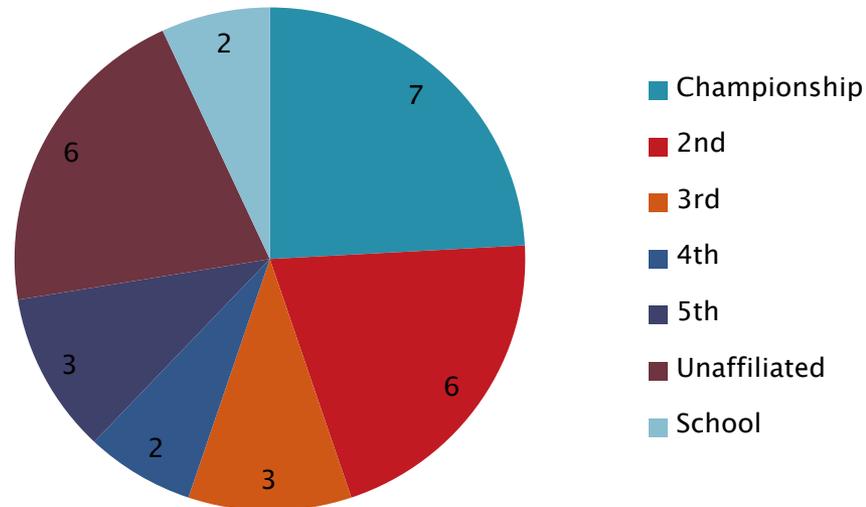
- ▶ Participants
 - ▶ Band Health
 - ▶ Social Media
 - ▶ Youth Bands
 - ▶ What can the BBL do for your Band? (Unaffil)
 - ▶ What can the BBL do for your Band? (Affil)
 - ▶ What do we need to do as a movement?
- 

Participants

Number of responses

29 bands completed questionnaire

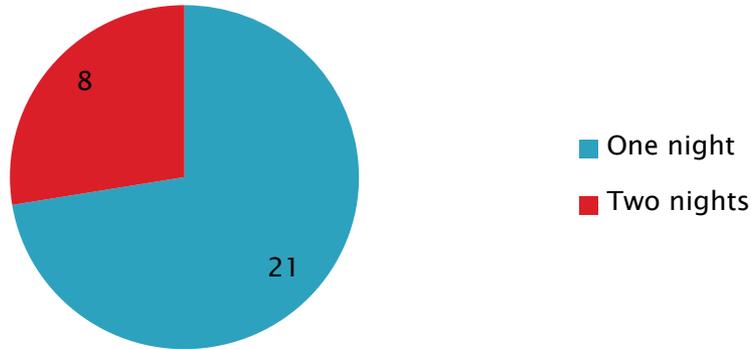
Grade of Band



Band Health

Rehearsal nights

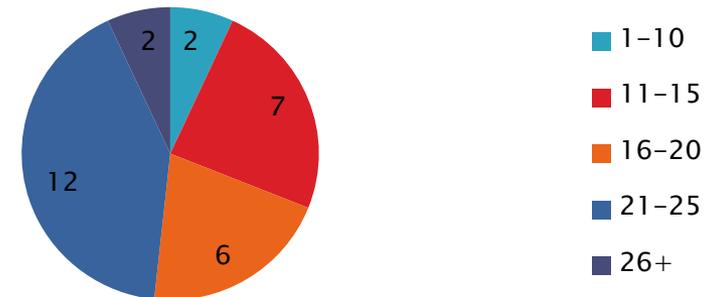
How many nights a week do you rehearse?



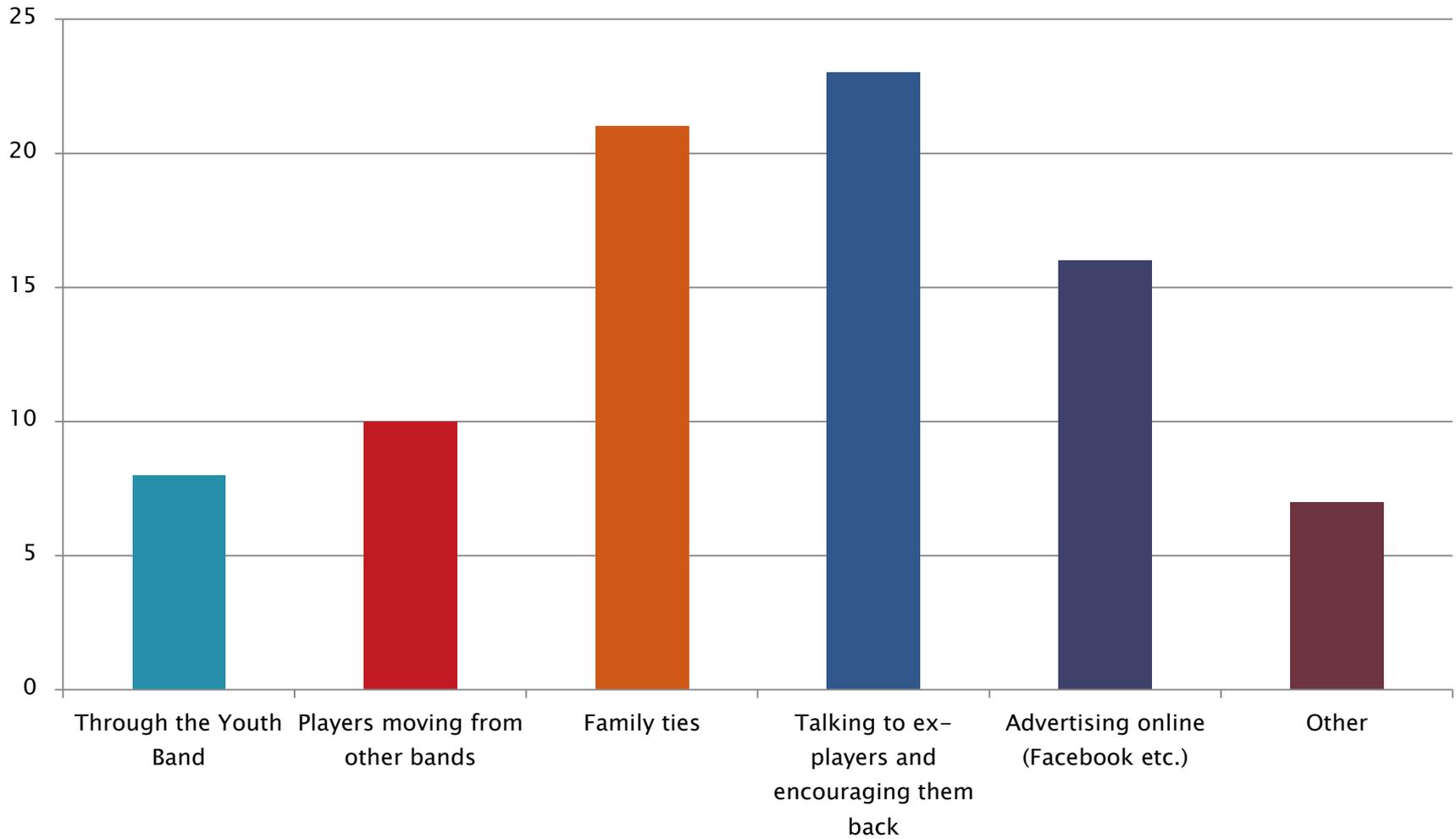
2 nights = 6x championship section bands, 2x 2nd section

1-10 = 2nd section band, unaffiliated band
26+ = 1x school band, 1x 4th section band

On average, how many players do you get to rehearsal?



How do you attract new members do your band?



Local
advertising

Education
Authority music
service school
lessons (school
band)

Through
networking;
word of
mouth

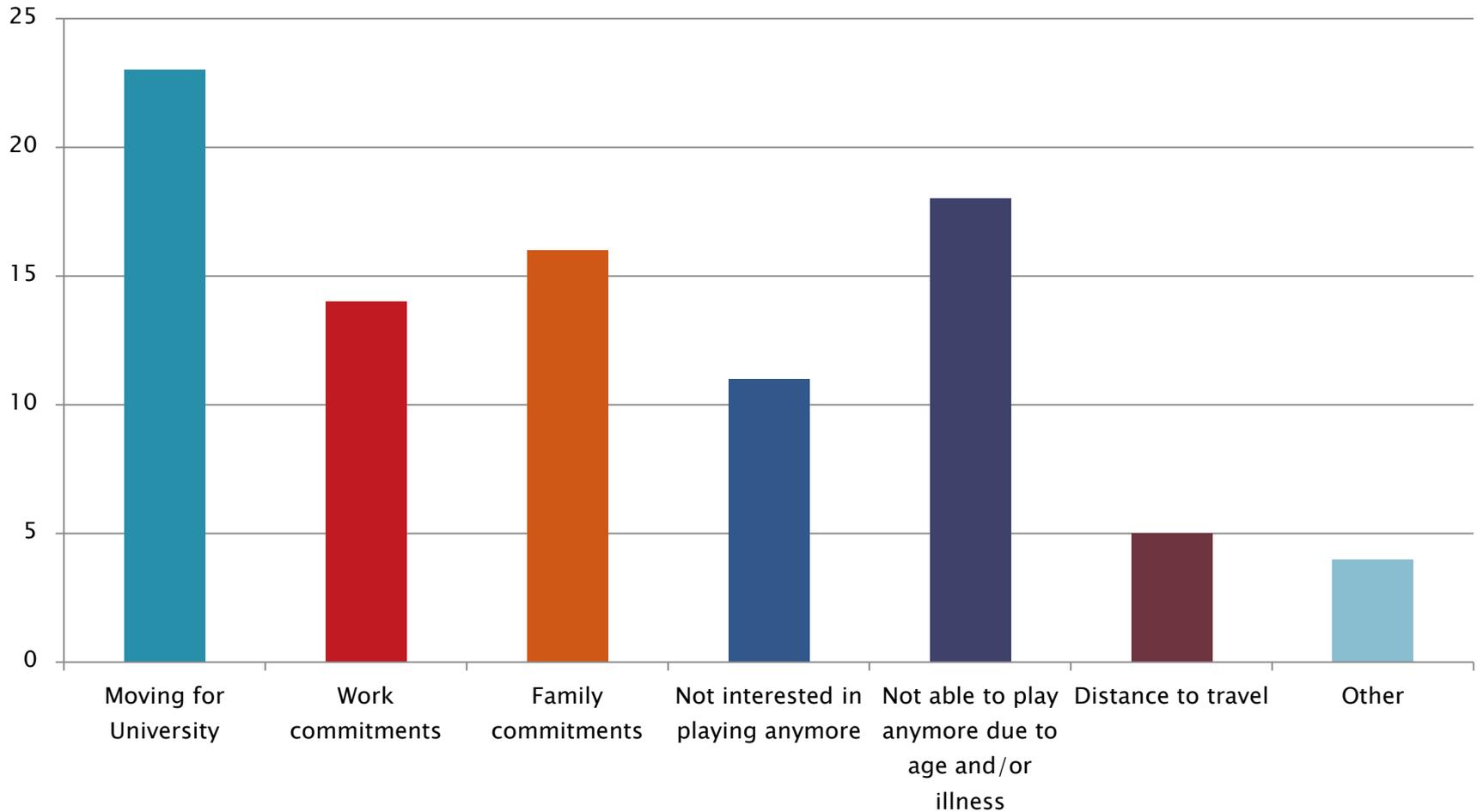
Long time
since we did
attract new
members!!

Advertising
at concerts

Leaflet
handouts/
newspaper
adds

Advertising
in local
schools

What are the most common reasons for people leaving the band?



Other

Moving to
senior
bands

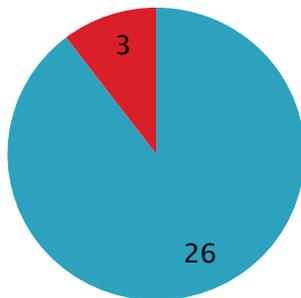
School
pressures.
Course work
and exam
preparation.

People
being asked
to play for
other bands

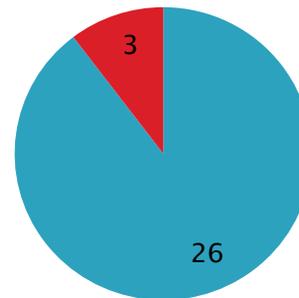
Moving to
senior
bands

Social Media

Do you follow the Brass Band League NI on Facebook?



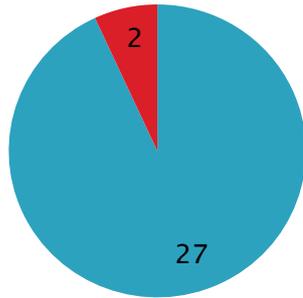
Do you have a Facebook or other social media page?



Would you be interested in setting up a Facebook or other social media page?

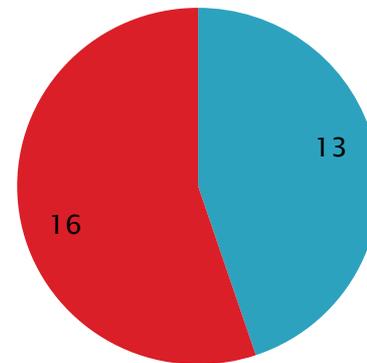
- ▶ Maybe
 - ▶ No – As this is a school band , I don't think a social media page is appropriate.
 - ▶ No – Social media alone will not help us. Attracting new members not influenced by social media
- 

Have you ever visited our website?



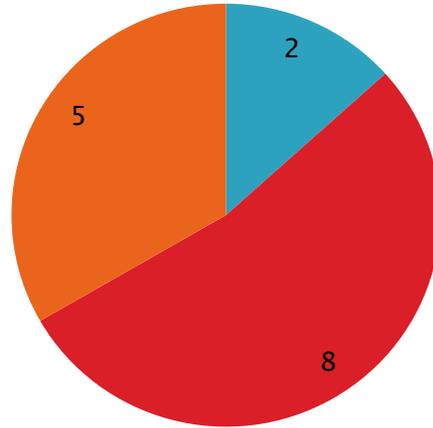
■ Yes
■ No

Do you have a band website?



■ Yes
■ No

Would you be interested in setting a website up?



- Yes
- No
- Maybe

We find our Facebook page is doing well and reaches out to a lot of people.

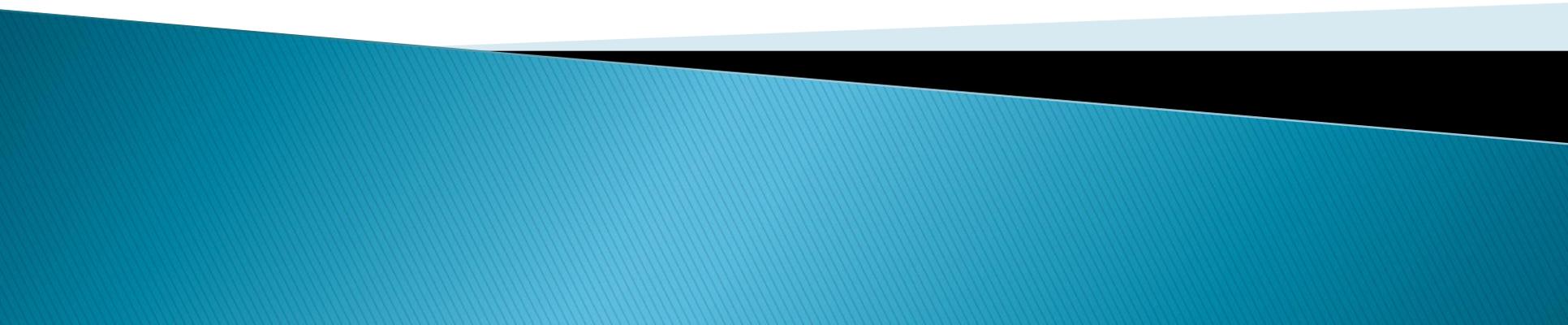
We had a website previously and didn't feel it was worthwhile as we receive a lot more interest through our Facebook page

Facebook page is sufficient for our needs

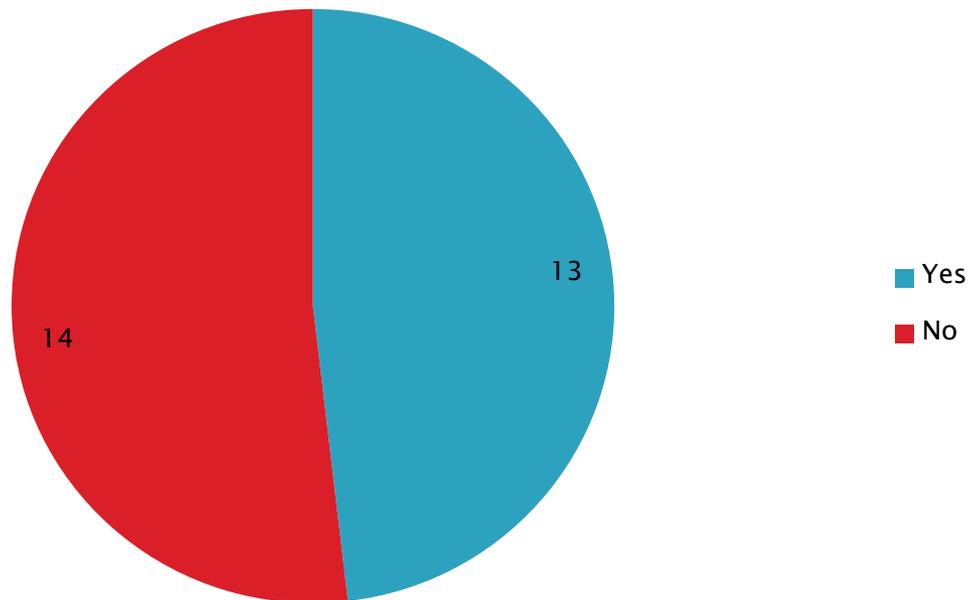
Most people use Facebook these days rather than websites

Not sure of the effectiveness of this

Youth Bands

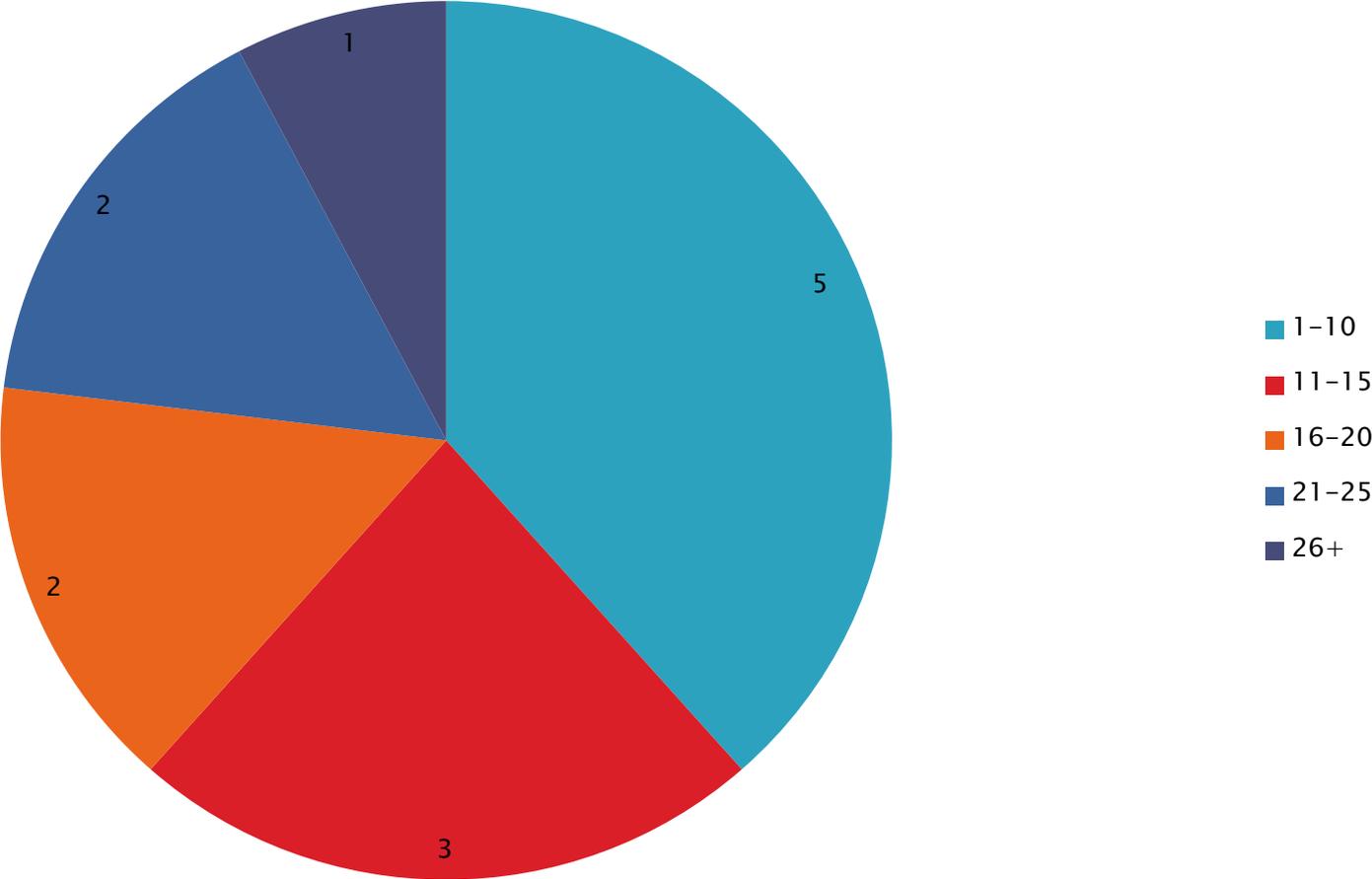


Does your band currently have a Youth Band?



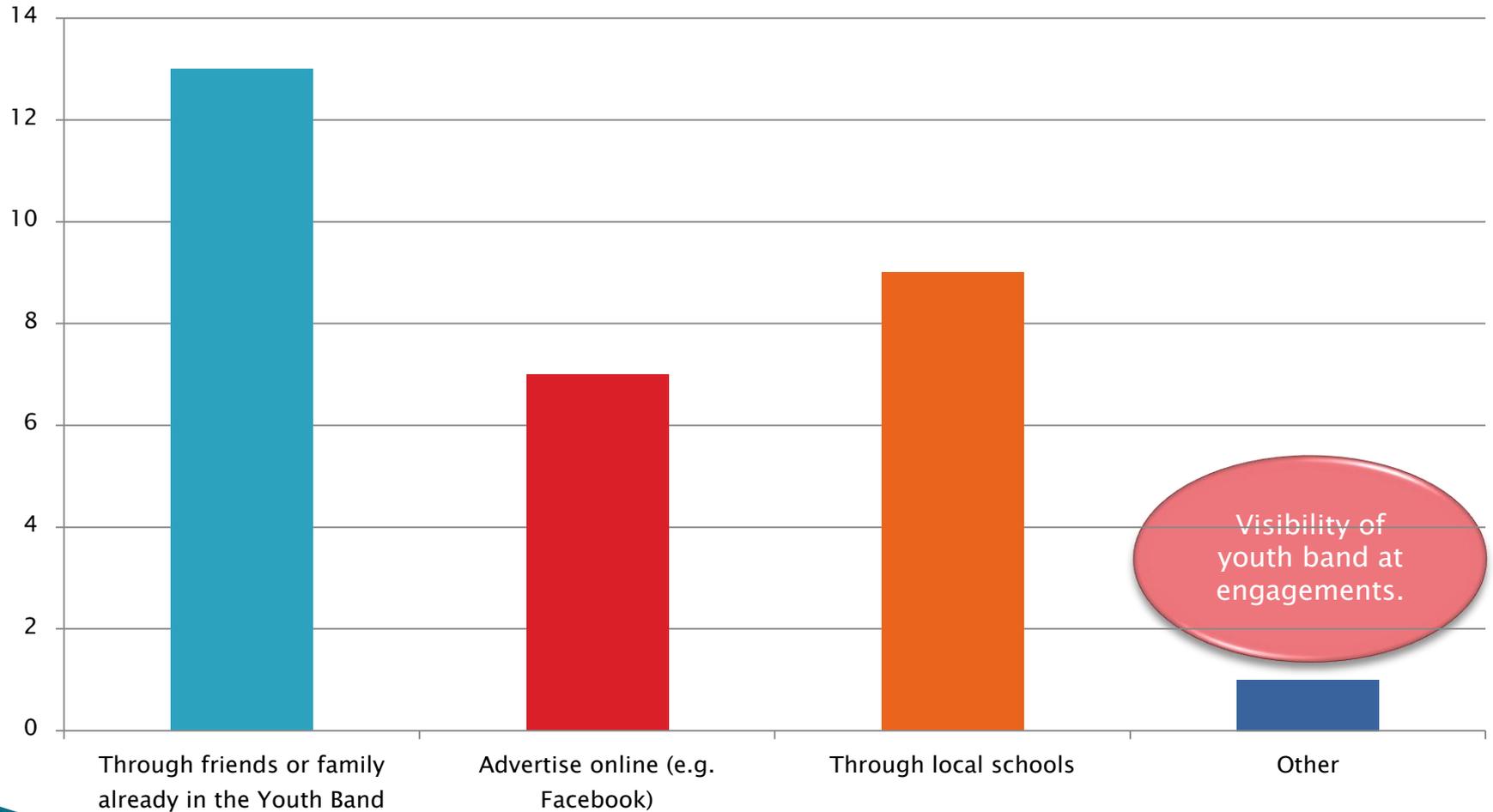
Yes =
6 x Championship bands
4 x 2nd section bands
1 x 3rd section band
1 x 4th section band
1 x 5th section band

How many players on average do you get to a rehearsal?

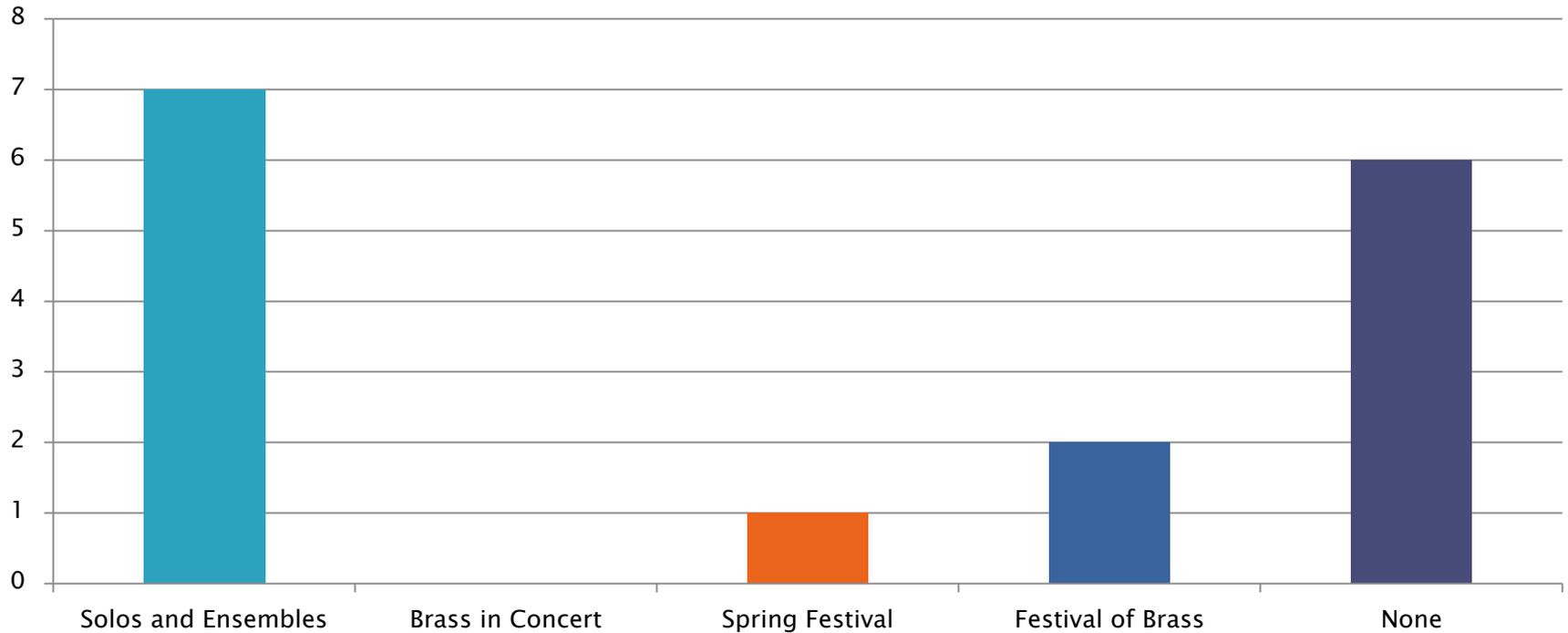


How do you attract young people to your Youth Band?

Please tick all that apply

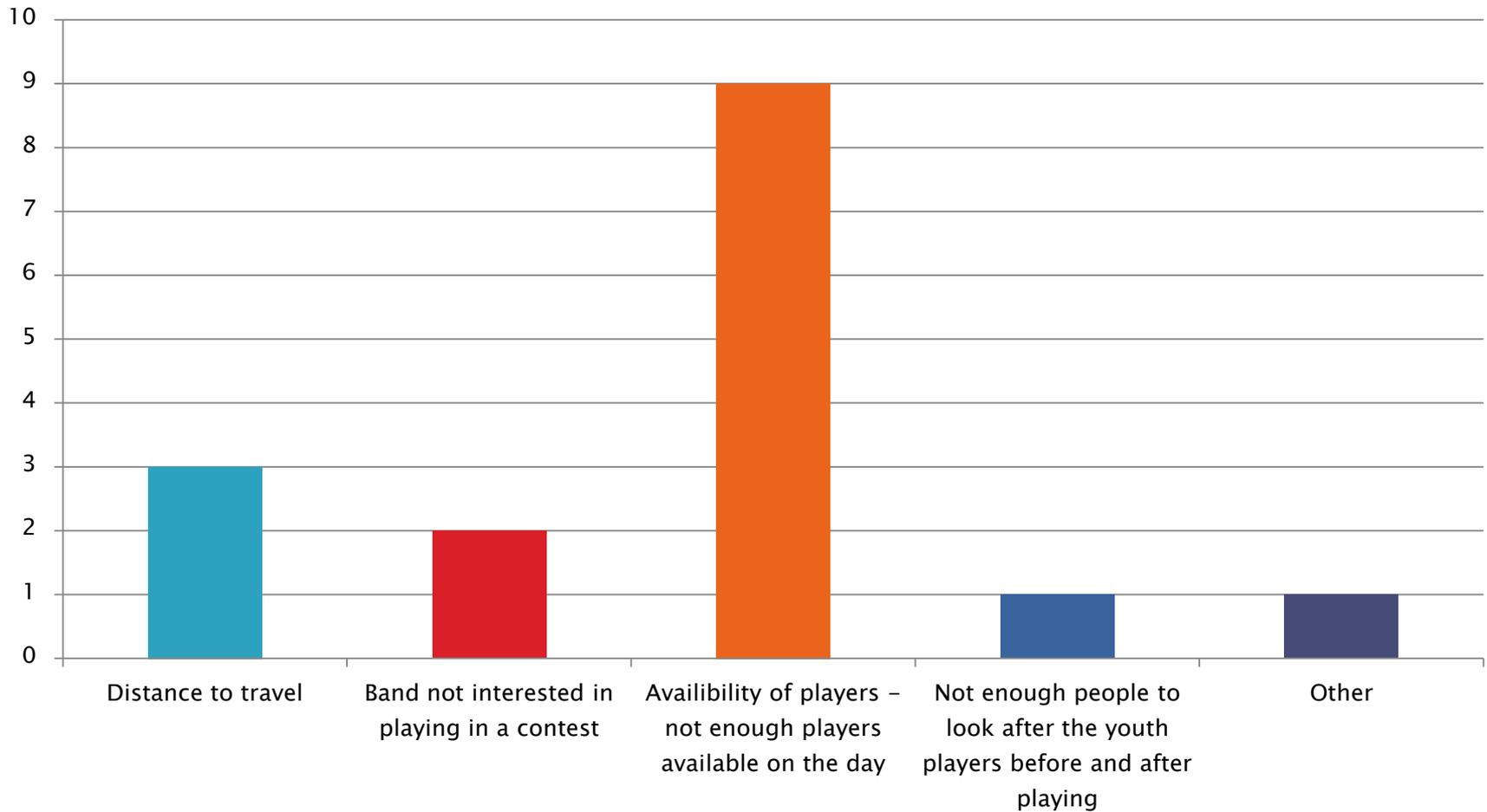


Do your Youth Band participate in any of the following BBL events:



Note for Solos and Ensembles: Only 2 Youth Bands participate regularly in the “Youth Band” event but count includes bands whose youth band members participate in other solo or ensemble classes

For the events your Youth Band doesn't participate in, please can you state why? Please tick all that apply



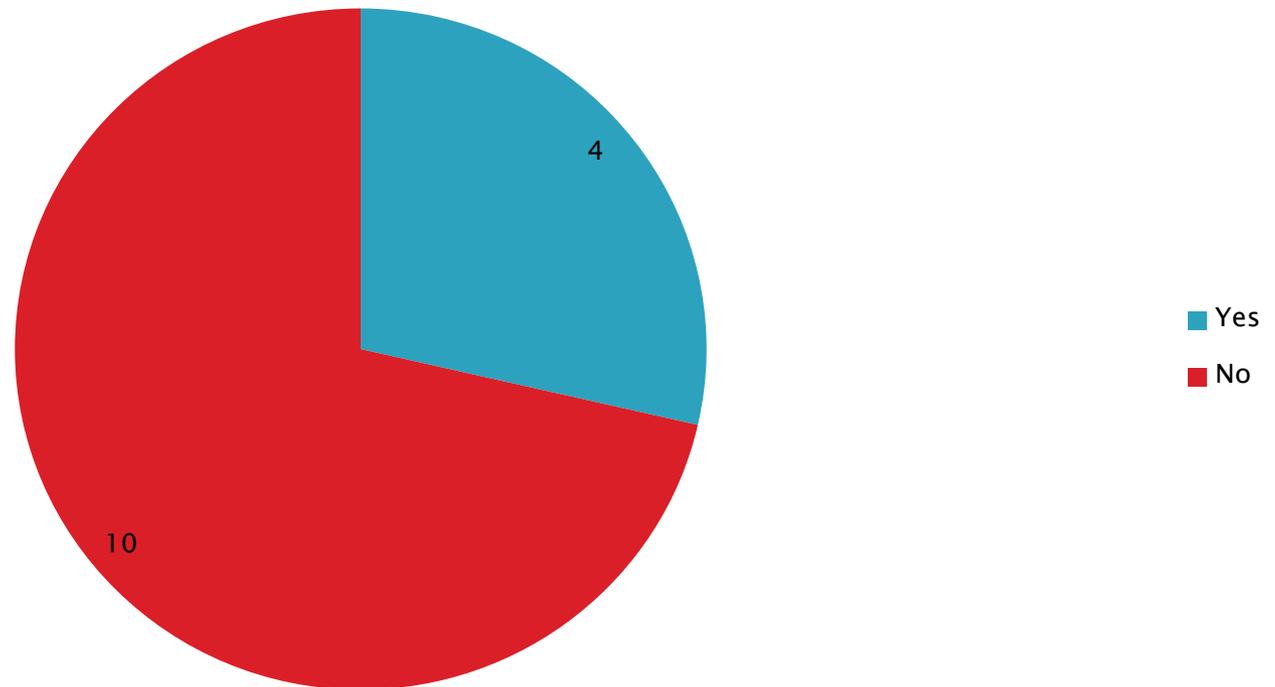
Youth band does not have full range of instruments covered by 18 years and under. Some senior players normally help out when necessary.

Other comments

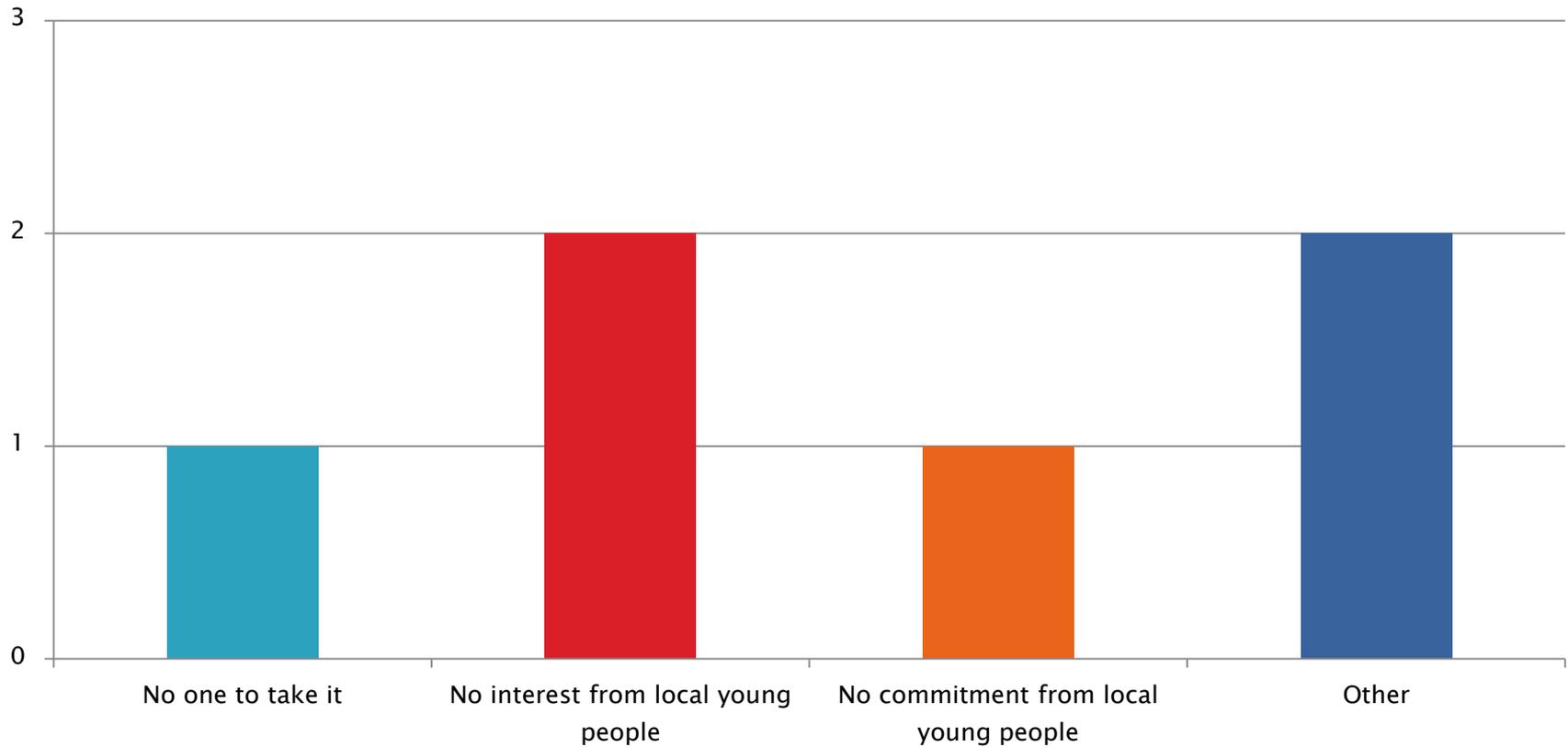
- ▶ Distance: tot easy with contests many miles away
 - ▶ Availability of players – Saturday is a bad day for members with other commitments
 - ▶ Many member are involved with School of Music
 - ▶ Conflicts with members who play sport
- 

Bands without a Youth Band

Have you ever had a Youth Band?



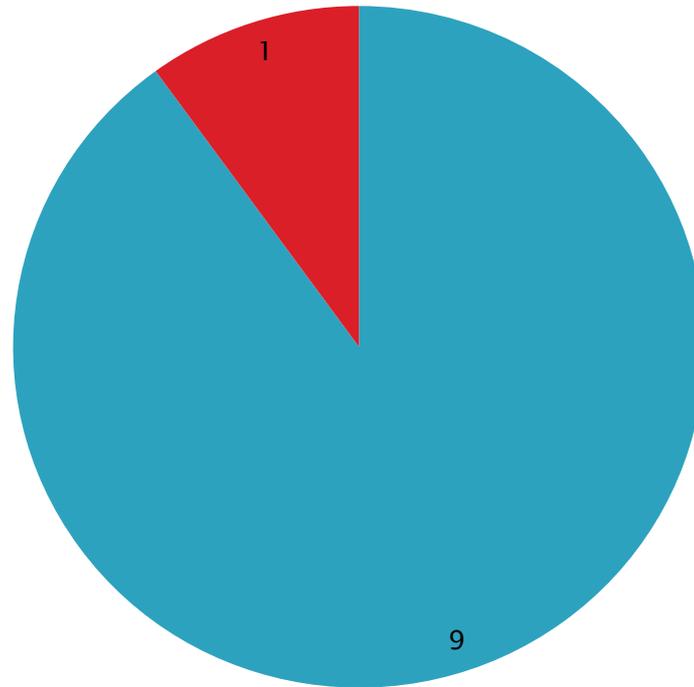
Why did you have to stop having a Youth Band?



Diminishing numbers of the right players/ rights instruments for an ensemble

Small numbers in learners class at the moment

Would you like to have a Youth Band?



■ Yes
■ No

We find it very hard to recruit new players from right across the community in Newry & Warrenpoint area

Find schools do not promote their pupils into brass bands, we have tried

The band is in a small rural area

We have a huge concert band from the education board and many go to it through the schools teaching service.

Lack of brass teaching in local schools limits number of young people in the area that can be attracted to the band.

Again we have had up to sixteen in a youth band but we lost quite a few to senior bands at the 18 year point as a small band it's difficult to maintain momentum when you loose players through illness etc

Not enough juniors joining the band but we are working on that.

No young people in our area interested in joining a brass band !

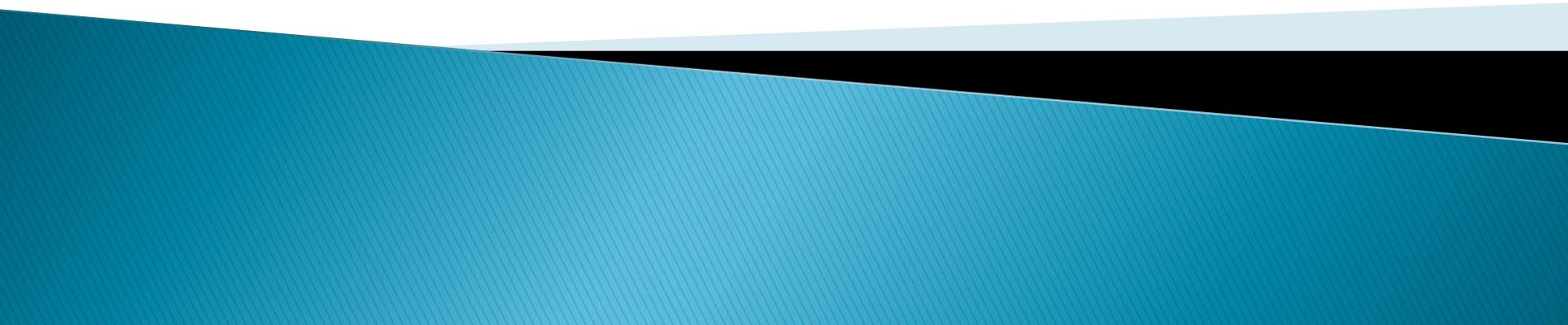
Rural area with very limited opportunities

Availiability of a tutor

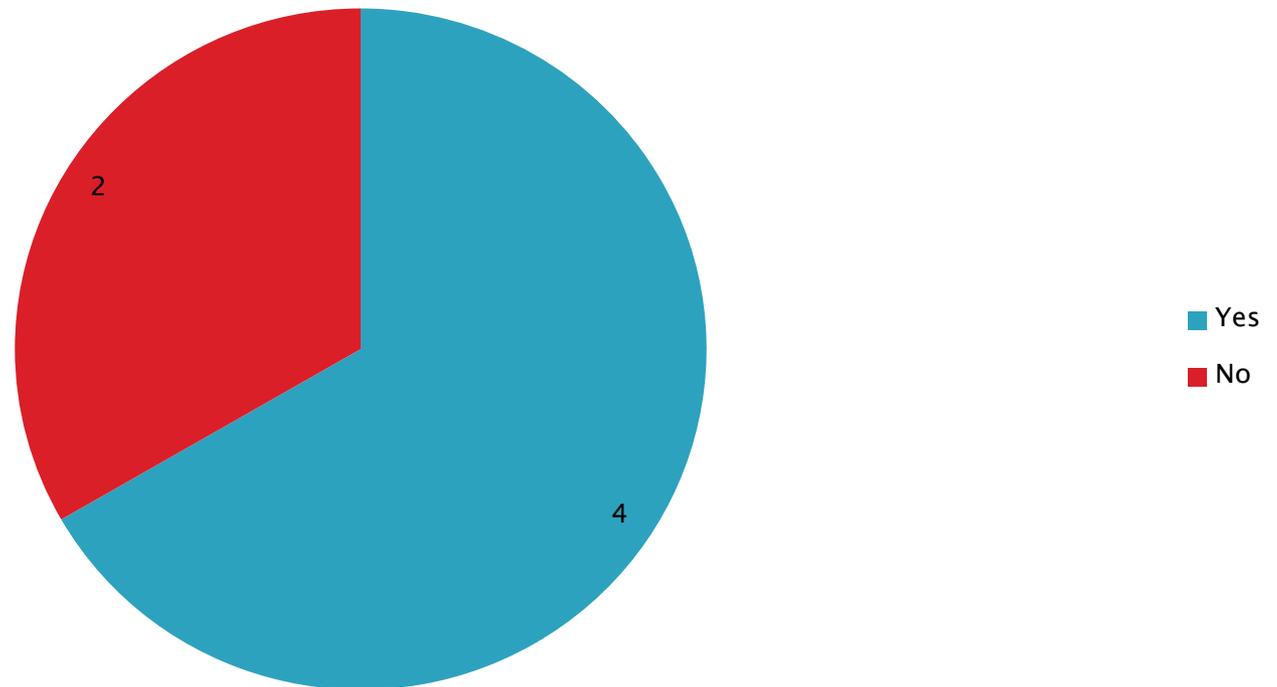
We need to look into this in the near future

What can the BBL do for your band?

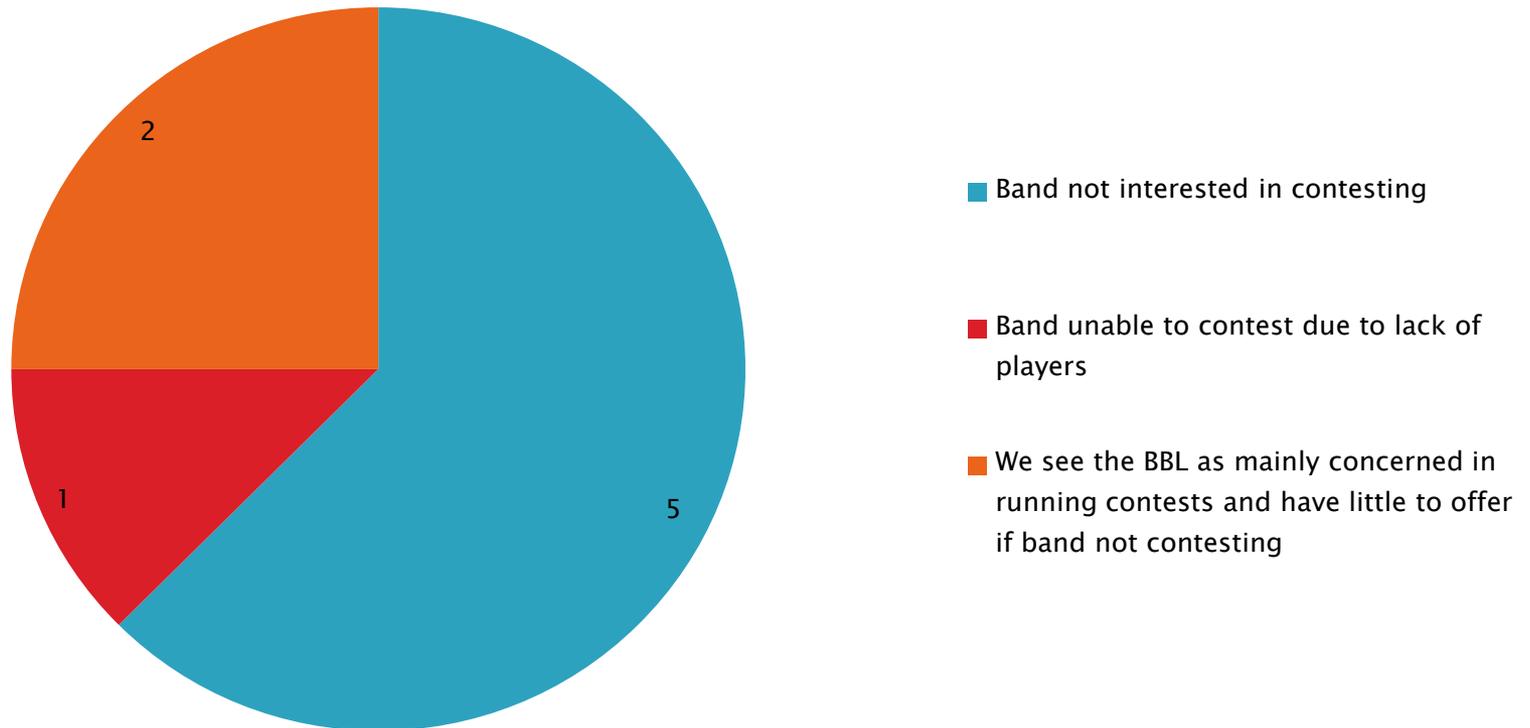
Unaffiliated bands



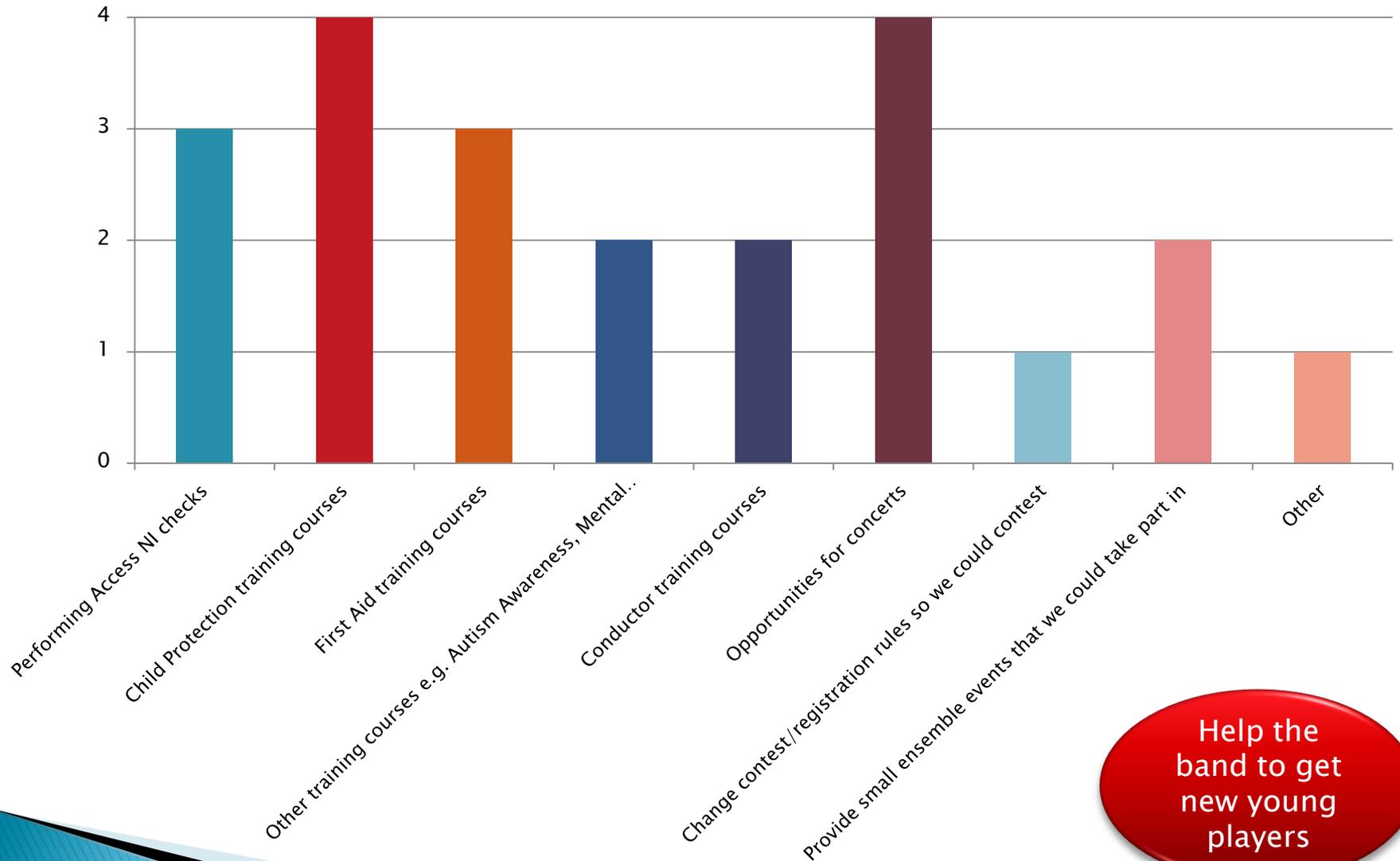
Have your band ever been affiliated with the BBL?



Please provide details on why affiliation lapsed / you have never felt the need to be affiliated. Please tick all that apply.

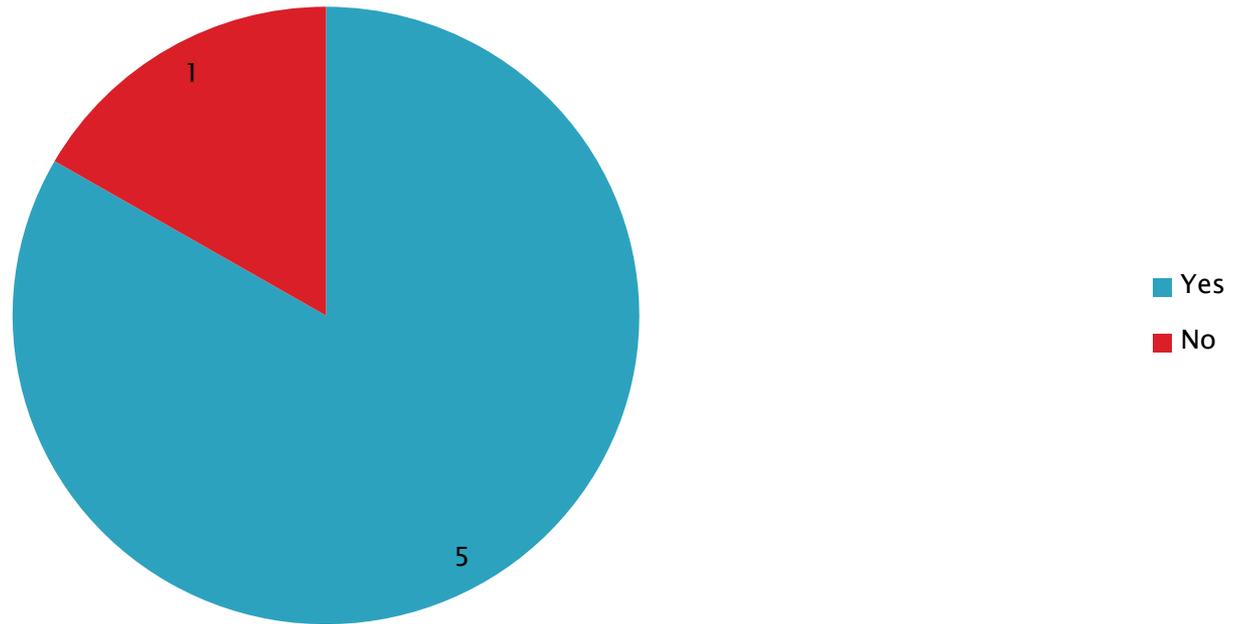


What other services could the BBL offer you that could help your band?



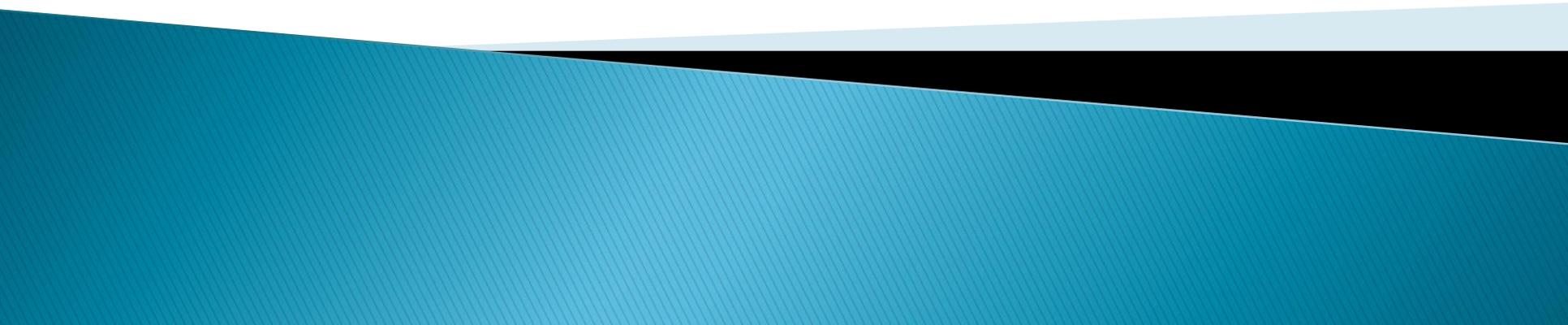
Help the band to get new young players

If the BBL could offer these services, would you become an affiliated member?

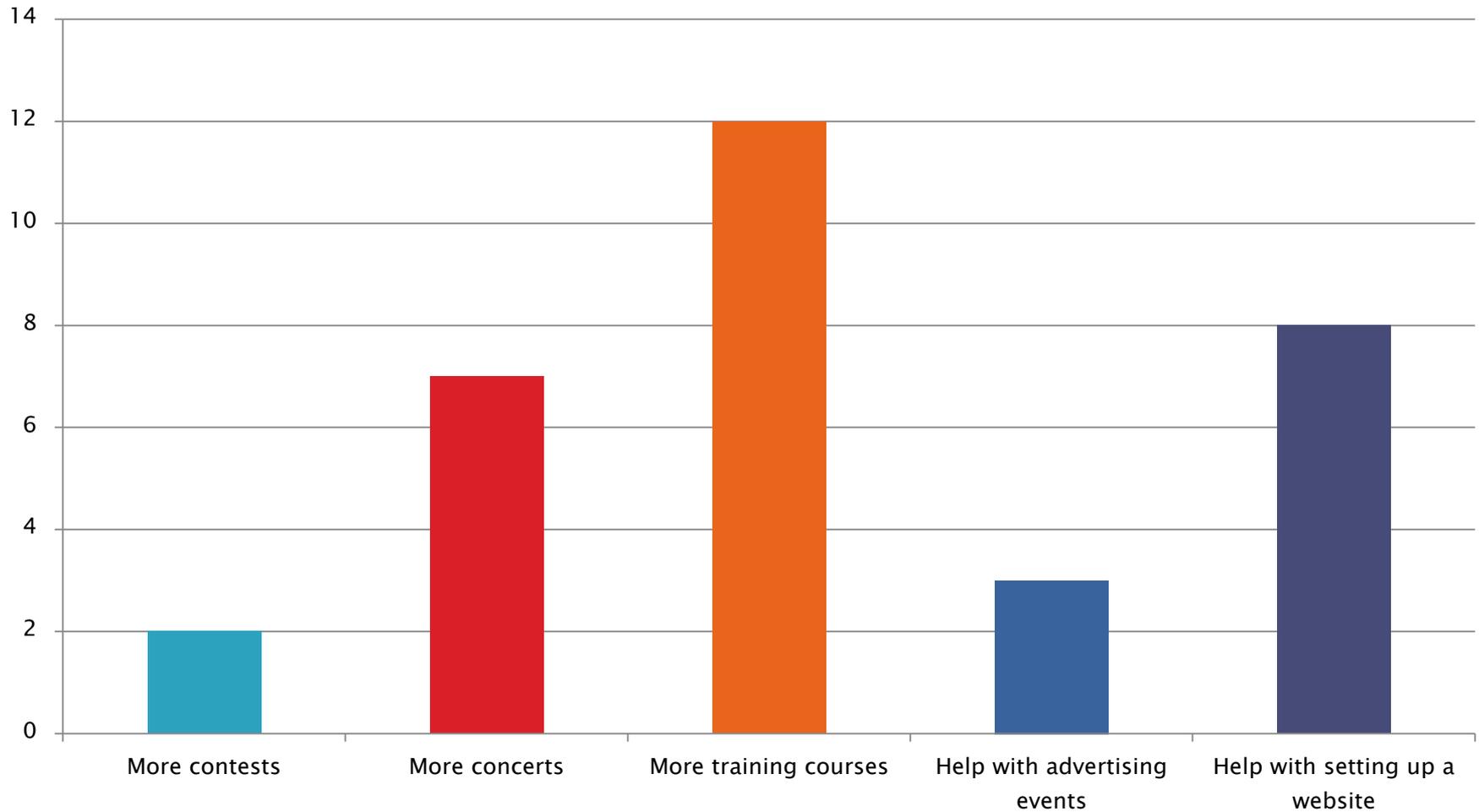


What can the BBL do for your band?

Affiliated bands



What other services could the BBL offer you that could help your band?



In addition...

Getting youth into brass bands from schools by setting up a schools project would be a great help

Try and collaborate with the School of Music to get more kids involved in brass bands and educate young players that there are lots of brass bands out there.

The BBL should encourage member bands and individuals and take steps themselves to pressure Education Dept to provide free instrument tuition in schools.

Providing advice to bands on how to attract and retain young members. Consider running training workshops / events for young people and / or tutors.

By visiting schools and encouraging young people who are playing brass instruments in school to join their local brass band

We need to promote Brass Banding as a fun activity for young musicians

Try and promote the tutors to introduce their pupils to their local bands instead of sending them to certain senior bands

Start a schools project

Reach out more in primary schools to encourage young children to join bands.

Lobbying government and private enterprise for governance and funding opportunities for the entire movement.

Help in promoting the movement to government and business.

More consultations with bodies like the Arts Council to secure funding for bands. Also greater advertising of any other grants that may be available.

Lobbying the arts council or education authorities for funding or grants to promote brass playing , tuition

Lobby the Arts Council NI to increase awareness and explore enhanced financial support.

Represent local bands to a greater degree with local government departments, Arts Council and other funders. This has been happening lately with COVID issues and is welcome.

Possibly promote more workshops with top players in our area.

More Community type events where Brass Bands could feature themselves more locally like what the pipe bands have done with their contests.

Organise more joint concerts for local bands, similar to FMT Friday night, in decent venues.

Online/ physical courses (when permitted) on various subjects; conducting, arranging, percussion for non-percussionists

More courses and workshops e.g. conductor/composer/first aid/autism awareness/child protection. The last conductor workshop was quite advanced, not aimed at absolute beginners.

Trial large-ensemble section (perhaps up to 15 players) at contests to help bands with lower numbers get back on the contest stage.

Advising on appropriate training programmes according to ability; links to repertoire/music for ability level; possibly introduce marching bands contest along the lines of 'Whit Friday'

Perhaps encouraging music libraries among bands
Some sort of forum for sharing ideas

Help with insurance and child protection

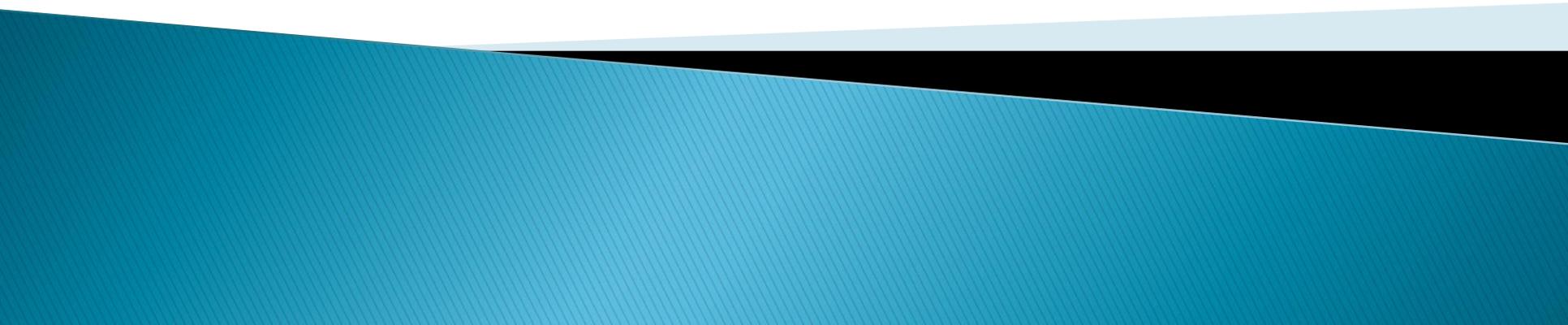
Advertise contests, outside of the competing bands, make the schedule for contest days available on fb/ website. Info on timings of sections, lunch break etc seems to be top secret. Sometimes spectators can only commit to part of a day and it would be useful to easily find out what's happening.

Keep encouraging bands

Start up grants for new bands

Mentoring programme from senior bands.

**What do we need to do
as a movement?**



Run masterclasses by top players to attract the younger players.

Free tuition in the schools. Bands could provide instruments to primary schools if there was a partnership and the schools would point out the benefits of brass band membership to young brass players. Local bands and schools could do events together.

Develop youth involvement.

Northern Ireland National Youth Brass Band – run a summer or autumn (Halloween half term) course as per Scotland, Wales and GB. Initially non-residential but the likes of the share centre or scout/guides centres could be used for residential. Numbers should be restricted and based on selection by audition in order to encourage excellence and give local players something to aspire to.

Establish/develop links with EA music service (brass)

Oversee the creation and running of a NI Youth Brass Forum – whereby local players aged 25 and under can discuss issues and make suggestions for events, views can be fed back to BBL executive to take forward. They could also organise their own events – social and banding-related. Something like young farmers, but with banders instead. This will help to develop a greater sense of community between younger players.

Establish firm links with schools and education authority

Organise “teach the teacher” workshops for youth band leaders. Offer tips on how to organise rehearsals and other activities to inspire kids and help them achieve their full potential. Also how to run beginner classes, perhaps provide a starter kit of music and instructions in order to help get new youth groups off the ground, not everyone is a born teacher or has skills in that area.

Assist bands in building relationships with local schools – ideally to include promoting the brass band medium to schools across NI. Lots of bands have spare instruments and have youth groups. Too many talented young brass players leave school at 16/18 and never play again, either they are unaware of brass bands or we are seen as uncool.

Push the Education Department for more funding for music in schools. Advertising of events for brass bands. Getting more media coverage.

I would like the BBL to look at avenues where we can use the league to enter the school system to help recruit players, the school system is under pressure we should be able to do more to engage this Avenue

Need to evolve and make the movement and bands more attractive for the younger people in society as they are clearly not engaged and interested.

Possibly promote the movement more on a fun basis rather than all contests.

It is great to see the BBL playing a more active role in supporting local bands and not just concentrating on organising contests. Communications from the BBL to member bands has also greatly improved in recent times..

More concerts and contests. Get the BBL name out there to the public with no NIBA involvement.

Instrument loan scheme for new starts, tuition schemes. Change in attitude to welcome and support newcomers into a very established banding scene.

Help struggling bands think through how to avoid folding/ to think creatively

Keep a higher profile in the press

Teamwork
with all
bands

Mentoring
programme
from senior
bands.

It is great to see BBL taking the steps to make improvements to the organisation and banding community as a whole. It will be particularly difficult to recover from the current covid crisis and local bands will need all the help they can get.

The mental health benefits of brass banding are immense. Perhaps the BBL should lobby for some funding on this basis for either distribution to bands or for particular projects.

Encourage
cooperation
between
bands (united
we stand ...)

Keep a
higher
profile in
the press

Summary of what BBL/movement need to do:

- ▶ Encourage teamwork between bands
 - ▶ Provide more training
 - ▶ Encourage youth movement – especially in schools
 - ▶ Lobby government and related organisations
 - ▶ Increase media coverage
- 