

Gyda Brass

Makes Music Offshore

A group of musical employees from Talisman Energy Norge AS in Stavanger have joined together to form the first brass band on the Gyda Platform.

Gyda Brass was established last summer and its members regularly play for fellow colleagues when working offshore in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.

Talented trio—Freddy Vik, Jon Soerensen and Harald Soebye—decided to launch the band in July 2004 when they discovered a shared passion for playing music. When the following stint offshore came round all three brought their musical instruments along. And since then the group has continued to grow in numbers and equipment.

Freddy Vik, chairman of Gyda Brass said, “The first time the band met we only had a clarinet, cornet and trumpet, so the range of sounds we were able to produce were quite limited. But as time went by we managed to dig out an eb bass, eb horn and baritone, which made a huge difference.

“We get together for practice at least once every week, but our membership varies depending on shift patterns. Some weeks we play with just three members, while at other times there have been six of us.



(l-r) Harald Soebye (Telecoms), Freddy Vik (Elektro), Jon Soerensen (Lab Technician), Paul Svarstad (Product Technician) and Lars Norheim (Cementer).

Gyda Brass is currently an all male band—although they are keen to enrol female musicians.

All members play in other groups when onshore so they get plenty of practice wherever they are based.

“As well as meeting for practice sessions, Gyda Brass acts as the platform’s official band. We put on two informal concerts for staff last year and provided music at our Christmas events. The music seems to be popular and we’ve had some great feedback

from colleagues. 2005 looks set to be a busy year for us—we have already been booked to play at various events and special staff nights.”

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Freddy added, “We all get a kick out of playing music and at the end of the day the band is about having fun. It’s great to be able to meet and have a practice with friends in an informal atmosphere. It’s the perfect way to de-stress after a hard day at work.”

For more information on Gyda Brass email Freddy Vik on FVIK@talisman-energy.no **T**