

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
On Sunday 29 October 2023**

J. B. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson	Edinburgh Academy
L. Moore, Music Board	Preston Lodge High School
W. Waugh	Camelon & District
J. Gavin	Camelon & District
W. McIntyre	George Heriot School
P. Starr, Trophy Convenor	Penicuik & District
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
M. Binder	Royal High
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
M. Reilly	Police Scotland Fife
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. McWhirter	Edinburgh Academy
W. McIntyre	George Heriots School

### **Apologies**

P. Hazzard , G. Dyet, K. Reid MM, D. Holbrough, LA Riad, S. Orr RVM,

### **Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the September Meeting Proposed by Penicuik & District and seconded by George Watson's College

### **Treasurer's report:**

The treasurer's report was presented and details are available by request.

### **Secretary's report**

Advised that the AGM Paperwork will be sent to all branch bands within the next week.

### **Director's report**

J. Hughes advised that the Directors had met since the last meeting and discussed the following points:-

- Feedback from the 2023 season
- Pipe Band College has been placed on hold until a audit can be completed.
- Band fees to remain static
- Registration Database is to be modernised

## **Music Board Report**

S. McQuillan advised that they met during September and discussed the following:

- Gradings were presented and ratified.
- Discussion held around the timescale for 2024 season playing requirements
- The NJB Static Start Pilot Review and the Grade 1 MSR Pilot review surveys were carried out and as a result the Board of Directors have approved the recommendation to move the Static start to a rule change. If G4B and NJB play together they all march
- G1 MSR with maximum 4 parts moves to a rule change.

### **Recommendations for 2025**

1. Music Board to endorse to the Board of Directors that the Grade 1 Format formally adopts a two-round contest of Medley and MSR of four parted tunes at a Major Championship as determined by the Music Board in announcing the playing requirements.
2. The timeline is to allow for announcements and communication to be facilitated effectively.

### **World Solo Drumming Review Group**

1. The RSPBA CEO has been in contact with host RSPBA Branches and Affiliated associations re dates for the 2024 Championship Circuit.
  - This includes the; Scottish, British, European, United Kingdom, Pacific Rim Vancouver-BCPA, Intercontinental- USA-EUSPBA and the RNZPBA.

The Board of Directors have approved

2. That for Adult Snare we introduce a Champion of Champion in 2024 – this was announced at the World Solo Drumming and to be determined from a league table in line with how Bands and Drum Corps are awarded. For example, 6 points for a 1<sup>st</sup> place, 5 points for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place etc.

This is to further encourage Adult Snare drummers to enter more than one circuit event whilst expanding the reach of the Circuit.

3. The recommendation to expand the scope of competitions to be held within the Championship circuit to include;
  - a. Adult and Juvenile Tenor Drumming,
  - b. Juvenile Snare Drumming.
- Player easement to continue for 2024,
- Survey to go out to all G2, 3A & 3B bands re playing requirements and to gain feedback also around what is being at the Worlds, and possibly the 444 MSR option.

## **Education Report**

Our Branch ran a musicianship workshop at the end of September which was very well attended and so far, I have had very positive verbal feedback on how beneficial and enjoyable attendees found it.

I will send out a proper feedback survey of attendees to evaluate formally and see if there is an appetite for future similar workshops.

I would like to thank Edinburgh Academy for providing a great venue free of charge, Instructors, Tom Brown, Iain Simpson, Derek Potter, Mick O'Neill, Alan Craig, Stephen McQuillan, John Noble and Gibb Fraser for their time and expertise and to the attendees who participated with great enthusiasm.

On a less positive note, for those who don't already know at the last Board of Directors Meeting the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to suspend the Pipe Band College to allow an independent review of the College to take place.

What I am about to say should not be taken as a criticism of our Board members as I believe they voted in good faith given the mis-information provided to them and on the mistaken advice that the College activity in terms of assessor training and assessments planned for December could carry on regardless.

L. Moore asked for the Branch to submit a letter to HQ requesting that The Pipe Band College be reinstated.

### **Trophy Convener's Report**

The missing trophy has been found and will be passed to the winning band at the AGM.

### **Stewards**

G. Dyet has been approached by another individual looking to steward at Branch level.

### **AOCB**

#### **Loyalty Scheme**

Four bands have attended 5 out of the 6 branch contests and the fund will be split equally. There will also be a Drum Major Loyalty Scheme.

#### **Branch AGM**

This will take place on 26 November. The Nomination Forms along with the information regarding the branch fees will be sent out to the bands within the week.

#### **Major Championships**

At present only the Scottish and the Worlds have been confirmed.

#### **Indoors**

The date for next year's contest will be 30 March 2024. J. Hughes has spoken with James Young High School, we are just awaiting final confirmation from West Lothian Leisure

#### **Outdoors**

J. Hughes advised that at the moment the dates have not been arranged due to awaiting the confirmation of the remaining Major Championships.

The meeting was closed at 18.55

Next online meeting will be 26 November immediately after the AGM