

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders
Branch Of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club, Edinburgh,
on Sunday 26th November 2006

Band representatives present:

J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow & District
G.Graig, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School
A.Dalziel	Polkemmet
W.Dalziel	Polkemmet
J.Brand	Penicuik
V.McMorran	Glencorse
N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
A.Hazzard	Bo'ness
S.Hazzard	Bo'ness
P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
C.McLuckie	Bo'ness
E.Hanratty	Penicuik
G.Stafford	Torphichen & Bathgate
A.Tait	Torphichen & Bathgate
C.Firth	Torphichen & Bathgate
K.Taylor	George Watson's College
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
N.Cranston	Boghall & Bathgate
H.Franks	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Robertson	Dalkeith
T.Fergusson	North Berwick
K.Reilly	Chairman, RSPBA

Apologies:

R.Burns, A.Cook, M.O'Neill, A.Angus

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also welcomed Kevin Reilly, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

Minutes of the 2005 AGM:

The minutes of the 2005 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by Linlithgow and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

This year sees Bill McMorran retire from the post of Secretary after many years Service. I would like to give my personal thanks to Bill for the endless work he has put in over the years in helping me to get up to speed as Chairman.

The Branch had many successes in the 2006 Majors. In grade 1 Boghall & Bathgate were placed in three championships.

In grade 2 Torphichen & Bathgate were placed in all five with seconds at the Scottish and Cowal. They were also second in Champion of Champions in both band and drums.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards were placed in two with a second at the Europeans.

Polkemmet were placed in two Majors

The City of Edinburgh, grade 3, was placed in two winning the British.

Linlithgow were placed in two and won Champion of Champions in drumming.

Bo'ness had a place in the British.

George Watson's College Juvenile had two wins and three seconds and won Champion of Champions in both bands and drums with six firsts in drumming.

Tweedvale, in grade 4A, had a second and a third finishing fifth in Champion of Champions.

In grade 4B Newtongrange drum corps came first at the British and were placed in the Europeans and the Worlds finishing third in Champion of Champions drumming.

In Novice Juvenile, George Watson's College were placed in three finishing fourth in Champion of Champions and winning Champion of Champions drumming with two firsts and two seconds.

Boghall & Bathgate were placed at the British and their drum corps placed in three finishing fifth in Champion of Champions drumming.

Our drum majors fared well too with Grant Craig placed at the Worlds, Cowal and the Scottish.

Alan Morton was placed at the Scottish.

The Branch Champion of Champions table is:

Grade 1: Lothian & Borders Police

Grade 2: Torphichen & Bathgate

Grade 3: Linlithgow

Juvenile: George Watson's College

Grade 4: Tweedvale

Novice Juvenile: George Watson's College

There was some re-grading with Tweedvale and Penicuik moving to grade 3B from Grade 4A. Newtongrange moved from grade 4B to grade 4A.

Secretary's report:

I was pleased with the way that all the contests went this year and I wish to thank all that took part in any way.

Please note that the date for Dunbar is 12th May and not as previously dated.

In looking for sponsorship I have had good response. North Berwick Highland Games committee have agreed to sponsor the Novice Juvenile grade.

St Ronan's Piping Society has agreed to sponsor Grade 4.

The Peebles Highland Games Committee is considering sponsoring a grade.

Tenor Drummer.com is sponsoring the tenor section of the contest.

Many thanks to all the bands and fellow workers for all their help during my term in office.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Branch accounts and went through them. There were no questions on the accounts.

The accounts were adopted as a true record by Glencorse and seconded by Penicuik.

National Council report:

There was no report.

Music Board report:

After successfully completing the courses there will be four new Drum Major adjudicators. After the pilot placing system in 2006 they want to go ahead with the placing system in 2007.

The Music Board are updating a number of rules, mainly ones that have become obsolete due to rule 1.110

The report from Gordon Stafford regarding Grade 2 was read and there was some discussion. A questionnaire is to be sent out to the grade 2 bands for their opinions.

The SQA are now on board with the Education side.

J.Nevans has been invited to the January meeting to discuss the 2007 Summer School.

There was some discussion on the Willie Fergusson Trophy.

The MAP contests were well received by the bands. The response from a questionnaire brought a 60% reply.

A list up new grading was read out.

Education report:

The Morris Club in Newtongrange was the venue for the Structured Learning courses. There were fifteen students and most passed the exams.

The 2007 Elementary course will be in the same venue.

Peebles High School has been pencilled in for the exams on 24th March 2007.

Trophy Convenor's report:

No major problems. Some trophies are being returned unclean and in a shocking condition.

It was asked if trophies could be returned one month before the contest they are played for.

Election of Office Bearers:

At this time the Chairman of the R.S.P.B.A. took the chair to oversee the elections.

Nominations:

President-

Bill McMorran, nominated by Glencorse, Peebles, Craigmount High School, Linlithgow, Erskine Stewarts Melville

Chairperson-John Hughes, nominated by Linlithgow, Craigmount High School.

Vice Chair-Grant Craig. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Secretary-Ann Hazzard, nominated by Erskine Stewarts Melville, Craigmount High School, Linlithgow, Peebles.

Treasurer-Teresa Clarke. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Minute Secretary-Donald Brand, nominated by Glencorse, Craigmount High School.

Trophy Convenor-Wilma Dalziel, nominated by, Glencorse, Linlithgow.

Committee Members-Alex Dalziel, S.Hazzard, Vi McMorran, Colin McLuckie, nominated by Craigmount High School, Glencorse, Bo'ness.

Music Board reps-Iain Simpson, Arthur Cook. These positions were ratified by all bands present.

National Council reps-John Hughes, Bill McMorran. These positions were ratified by all bands present.

Book of Eminence:

It was asked if Neill Innes be included.

A.O.C.B.:

It is hoped that the Branch web site will be the same as the R.S.P.B.A. one. It was said that information from the Branch web site was being taken off and misused elsewhere. It was said that the web site must be factual.

The playing requirements for the 2007 season at the majors will be the opposite of what they were in 2006.

A £150 donation has been received from North Berwick for the Novice Juvenile in the Branch indoor contest.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.