

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Present:**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
W. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Juv
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies:** S. Orr, J. Barnes, LJ Barnes, LA Hughes, N. Purves, G. Purves.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 30th November were approved by Bo'ness and seconded by Craigmount Caledonia.

**Matters arising:**

The Chairman offered his apologies for omitting a piece of business at the AGM. This was in relation to voting Wilma Dalziel on to the Committee following Wilma standing down as Trophy Convenor. The nomination was proposed by Boness and seconded by Glencorse.

**Secretary's report:**

We have had an enquiry regarding first aid cover at our contests but the only contest we provide first aid cover is at the indoors, at the rest of the contests it is the promoters who provide this. The details will be passed to our chairman who will take this up.

**Treasurer's report:**

In the absence of our Treasurer our Chairman gave the report and details are available from the Secretary by request.

**Directors report:**

There was some discussion on the official offers for the major championships, East Lothian, Perth, Annan, Inverclyde and Edinburgh have all been invited to bid for Championships from 2016 onwards.

The major at Bathgate this year will be held at Balbardie Park, this is a much bigger park and Bathgate may use this park for their own contest in future years.

There was some discussion on how we could get back to a one day worlds, this may be possible but this would require some change to the format of the contest.

There was some discussion on the format of World Solo Drumming with the possibility of regional heats being discussed, this is ongoing and there will be no change for the 2015 event.

Registration of band members was discussed and the possibility of extending the 14 days a new member must be registered before playing to 42 days but it was decided that 21 days is a better period. There is a registration working group who are looking at all topics relating to registration.

A presentation was given to Bob Shepherd by the Adjudicator Panel on his retirement from his official duties last year.

It was asked who should be responsible for carrying the band registration details, should it be the Pipe Major or his representative. It was pointed out that it was not always practical for the Pipe Major to carry this information with him. There is a change of rule being proposed at the AGM to clarify this. It was confirmed that there will be random registration checks at a minimum of two major championships this year.

### **Music Board report:**

Correction to the minutes of a previous meeting which should have shown Theipval Memorial remaining in Grade 2.

A proposal is going to the AGM for a change in the Novice Juvenile Grade to be split into A & B (same as Grades 4 & 3) in 2016

There was some discussion around the suggestion of realigning Adult/Juvenile Grades Music Board prefer to leave as is and encourage separate Grade 4a and 4b at minor contests

Post Worlds survey. - Not a huge difference in minor entries after worlds (over last 4 years)

Encourage bands by 1 - splitting grades 3 & 4 at minors. 2 - Playing requirements at Minor to mirror the Major. 3 - More even spread of Majors.

Education -

Exams at Johnstone and George Watson's College.

Need for Education Centre like College of Piping and the National Piping Centre.

Need to train instructors to assist Grade 4 bands

PDQB Inset course for Assessors

Cert of Pipe Band Musicianship (Part 1) final weekend followed by exams in Glasgow (April) and NI(March)

Playing Requirements for the Major's have been corrected on Website.

### **Trophies:**

We have had costs for renting a unit to store all of our trophies, however as well as this cost we would also have to pay an insurance premium in case of any damage to the trophies whilst in storage. As much as possible Branch promoters should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own trophies.

There was some discussion on what we can do with the trophies and whether we could allow bands to return the trophies on the day of the contest as it may not

always be convenient or possible for bands to return all their trophies at the start of the season. There was also some discussion about bands who may not want to take their trophies away but it was suggested that they would probably want to take the trophies to have them engraved.

### **Steward's report:**

There will be a Stewards meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> February at headquarters.

### **Education report:**

Following the problems in running the second part of the outreach programme this year, due to unavailability of a date from the Education Management Group, dates have been proposed for 2015. Proposed dates are 1<sup>st</sup> part to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, part 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and the exam will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Indoor Contest:**

The entry form is now on the website. The contest will be held at the James Young High School again and the draw will be made prior to the February Branch meeting at 5.00pm.

AOCB

George Watson's College asked if they would still get a list of all the branch trophies they were due to return and Wilma said she would send this to them this year.

Wilma has had emails asking if she has resigned from her post as Trophy Convenor as her resignation was not recorded in the minutes of the AGM. It was agreed to rectify this. Action: Chairman.

Book of Eminence

Wilma has also discussed the possibility of getting some details for the book of eminence from several families about their loved ones who have passed away. This should be added to the book of eminence and this will be added to the website where it will be available for viewing by everyone.

Photography

It was asked why Peter took photographs at some contests but not others and it was confirmed that Peter was asked by the promoters to take photographs and not by the Branch. The Branch have agreed to ask Peter to take photographs at all Branch contests and these will be made available for the website.

It was asked if we could purchase a new computer for the Secretary as her computer is now very slow and some features not functioning 100%. Chairman to discuss with Secretary and investigate options before next Branch meeting.

Meeting Closed 19.35.

Next Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.00pm

The Draw for the indoors will take place prior to this meeting at 5.00pm