

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 27th March 2011**

<u>Present:</u>	W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
	J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
	A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman	Lothian & Borders Police
	A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
	L. A. Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
	W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
	P.Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
	S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	V.McMorran	Glencorse
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	D.Brand	Newtongrange
	S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
	Lisa-Jane McLaughlin	Craigmount High School
	Jamie Barnes	Craigmount High School

Apologies: C. McCluckie, J. Brand, M. O'Neill, I. Simpson.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 27th February 2011 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Matters arising:

There was a discussion on policing bands leaving the March Past before the end and it was agreed that we could not stop individuals leaving the park to use toilets but we should be alert for any band leaving a few at a time and not returning.

It was pointed out that it has not been confirmed that the Royal Highland Centre will be using Radio Forth to promote the Edinburgh contest.

Bill McMorran congratulated John Hughes on being elected as Vice Chairman of the Association and also welcomed Stewart Orr to his new post of National Councillor for the Branch.

Secretary's report:

The Indoor Contest has gone well with no major issues.

Entries for the outdoor contest have started to come in.

We have had a request from one of our Branch bands for assistance in rectifying an issue they have with their former treasurer. A new treasurer has been appointed but no audited accounts have been handed over despite requests by the band. John Hughes will write to the band in question advising them of their rights under the Rules and Constitution of the RSPBA.

The committee was asked by another Branch band what their rights are with regards to an issue they have with a former member who is threatening legal action if they are not released by the band. The band have stated that they are with holding their Release Papers due to the fact that their uniform was very badly damaged when returned and that they would like to be compensated for their loss. They also asked if the RSPBA would represent the band in this instance. They were advised that this is a band matter but they could write to Headquarters asking that a check is kept on this individual to stop them registering with another band until this matter is resolved.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report. Details are available from the Secretary on request.

National Council report:

There was some discussion on having the Worlds as a 2 day event. It is proposed that only Grade 1 would be required to play on both days, all other grades will only be required to play on 1 of the two days.

This may lead to a change in the format of the Grade 1

There would be a march past on both days.

There will be discussions with the BBC to discuss how they would handle this.

Any parties who wish to submit a bid to hold this contest may be asked to submit bids which cover a single day event and a 2 day event.

Newly appointed National Councillors are:

Robert Smith – Ayr, Dumfries and Galloway

Andy Grant – Stirlingshire

Stewart Orr – Lothian and Borders

We still plan to hold National Council training at the Dunbar contest.

Bids for the Major Championships for 2013 are to be in by:

Worlds – 3rd September

All other Major Championships – 28th November.

In the event that Headquarters move to new premises branches will be asked what facilities they would like to see at headquarters.

The next National Council Meeting will be on 7th May.

Music Board report:

There was no music board report as their next meeting does not take place until April.

Trophy Convenor's report:

An outstanding fine imposed on one band has been paid, however they have also sent a letter expressing their view on this fine. The letter was read out.

All letters regarding fines are sent recorded delivery.

Dunbar RBLs are still asking that all their trophies are returned to them. The Chairman will write and ask them to reconsider this decision.

Trophies are being sought from sponsors for this event.

Steward's report:

The RSPBA want all stewards to remain on duty until after the march past and the Branch feel we should do likewise.

Education report:

Information on the PDQB course is now on the website but it was asked if we could have a link to this information on the home page.

A question was asked about the PDQB accreditation and it was stated that the accreditations were the same regardless of age.

Levels 1-4 are more suited to Pipe Bands and they also have an SQA equivalent.

It was asked if there were any grants we could apply for to help with the cost of our education courses to help keep the costs down to a minimum.

AOCB

A breakdown of the income and expenditure of the indoor contest was given and we have made a loss of £571.56 on this event.

Discussions are ongoing to secure a venue for this contest in the future also for our education courses.

It was asked if it would be possible to hold an adult Tenor Drumming Contest at our indoor event. It was also asked if we could have a rotation of Adjudicators for the tenor drumming events. It was pointed out that as there is no formal qualification for adjudicators specifically for tenor drumming, we do have some choice in who we invite.

It was asked if we could do anything to reduce the amount of time taken by some solo pipers to tune their pipes at the start of their performance and we were told that we could introduce a maximum time allowance for tuning. This may be necessary to control the timing of some of our solo events.

It was pointed out that Alba Percussions contact details were omitted from their advert in the indoor programme. An apology will be made to Alba Percussion and their details will be distributed to branch bands.

Craigmount High School Pipe Band thanked us for allowing them to do run the canteen at the indoors this year again.

The Branch website is to be looked at and cleaned up. The committee have been asked to have a look at the website and email Peter Hazzard detailing anything they think should be updated and Peter will compile any changes or updates required and liaise with Jason to have the website updated.

It was also stated that although we have a very successful branch more help and support is needed to ensure our continued success.

There was a discussion about a Juvenile band who were permitted to play with 6 pipers instead of 4. This particular band had asked for a ruling on this prior to playing and were then given incorrect information. It was therefore decided that the band in question would not be disqualified.

There were complaints from Peebles High School with regards to people smoking in the school ground. This is a problem we have every year and is something we must try and overcome.

There will be a visit to the Royal Highland Centre on 15th April at 3.00pm

There being no more business the chairman closed the meeting at 20.10.
The next meeting will be on 1st May 2011.