

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 30th March 2014**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Boghall & Bathgate
L.A. Hughes	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College

Apologies: D. Brand, W. McCafferty, L.J. Barnes, J. Barnes, M. O'Neill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd February were approved after corrections by Torphichen & Bathgate and seconded by George Watsons.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

All the branch entry forms have now been emailed to all Branch bands and also sent for publication on the branch web site.

We have had an email from Innerleithen with regards to a small error on the website and also a request to have a piece put up onto the website to let everyone know that the date and venue of this years contest has changed. The change of venue is already on the Entry form so does not need to be added to the website however our chairman will include it in a report for the Pipe Band Magazine.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available from the Branch Secretary upon request.

Directors report:

The Friday of the Worlds has been discussed with the promoters, Glasgow Council, it has been agreed that the admission charge for an Adult on the day will be £5.00, however each band registered to compete at the worlds can obtain a maximum of 30 passes free of charge for the Friday. There will also be the facility to order discounted tickets in advance at £4.00 per Adult instead of £5.

Post Meeting Note: It has been confirmed by the Branch Chairman that the Grade 1 seating will be available free of charge on the Friday, on a first-come first-served basis.

For the Saturday the bands will be able to obtain up to 30 'supporter' passes at £8.00 each. Competitors will not require tickets so long as they are in full band uniform. Full priced entry will be £15.00 on the day and advance tickets will be £12.00 each.

Details of the free passes and reduced price passes has been sent out to bands by Headquarters. Orders for discounted tickets and free passes should be placed at the same time as coach passes.

The free band passes for the Friday will not be available unless ordered with the coach passes.

Music Board report:

There have been a few higher to lower transfers and small changes have been proposed to the format for the World Solo Drumming.

Trophy Convenor's report:

One trophy for the indoors contest has gone missing and the band concerned have paid for a replacement, which our Trophy Convenor has purchased.

It was said that the condition of some trophies when they are returned is terrible and that too much time is being spent cleaning and repairing these trophies, it was suggested that we look at introducing a charge for having trophies cleaned to see if this would encourage some bands to take better care of trophies and ensure they are properly cleaned and polished before they are returned.

Steward's report:

Alex thanked all the stewards for their hard work at the indoors.

Education report:

Quite a few bands have now registered their interest in the new Outreach Programme.

Indoor Contest:

It was asked if Directors were required in every event room for the solos, it was confirmed that this was not required, and in any case would not be feasible. However all results are checked by a Director prior to being keyed into the computer. A Director is required to be present in the case of Mini-Bands.

The income was slightly lower than last year and this was explained by the reduction in programme prices and the fact that we did not charge an entry for children this year. A proposal to include the price of the programme in the adult entry fee was discussed and this will be progressed for next year.

There was an issue with the people concerned not knowing that payments had been made, it was suggested that this could be resolved with the Treasurer sitting at registration next year. It was also said that if we ensure that all entry fees are paid in advance this would eliminate the problem, an effort will be made to ensure this happens in future years.

The venue in general was very good and the support from the school staff was excellent.

There was some discussion on the format of the contest to see if we could change things for the better especially with regards to the mini bands and it was suggested that we have two contest rooms running the mini bands over a longer period of time however it was pointed out that as many of the mini band players also take part in the solos the mini bands and solos cannot take part at the same time.

It was also said that when bands went into some venues the Pipe Major and Adjudicators were not in the correct position in relation to each other. It was asked if we could use another room instead of the staff room as this room is quite tight for bands but there are no bigger rooms available suitable for mini bands.

There was an issue with the registration sheets being slightly different from the Stewards programmes. More effort must be made to ensure that all paperwork consistent.

75th Anniversary

There was a discussion on how we should mark the 75th anniversary of the branch and it was decided to purchase Glass Trophies to be given to the winning bands and drum majors at the North Berwick contest this year.

As requested at the last meeting, our President had made enquiries for the purchase of pens suitable engraved to celebrate the 75th Anniversary. However the Branch felt that the cost of these was too high for the benefit delivered, and therefore agreed not to proceed.

AOCB

It was decided that as everything is in place for the start of the season and also due to the fact that we have a competition draw on the last Sunday of the month that the April meeting would not be required. If necessary we can hold a meeting at any of the outdoor contests where most of our committee members are present.

The Chairman wished all present a successful season with their bands, and looked forward to another successful round of Branch contests.

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 28th September 2014 at 6.00pm.