

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 1st May 2011**

Present: W.McMorran, President Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman..... Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary Bo'ness
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
Joan Brand Penicuik & District
W. McIntyre..... George Heriot's School
P. Starr Newtongrange

Apologies: C. McCluckie, LA Oubbaih, M. O'Neill, I. Simpson.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

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

Matters arising:

It was said that whilst stewards are to police the bands on the march past it is not required to approach bands to ask them to stay on the park but offending bands should be noted and reported.

Nothing has been put onto the website regarding Alba Percussion, we may need to produce a banner for this, Peter Hazzard to discuss this with Jason.

The Royal Highland Centre are comfortable for the proposed visit to the venue to go ahead as planned on Friday 6th May at 3pm.

Secretary's report:

A fine imposed on one band for failing to appear at one of our contests has now been paid and entries have been accepted from them for this season.

Entries are coming in slowly.

It was pointed out that when we write or email bands it is accepted that letters and emails have been received after 24 hrs.

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman gave the report. Details are available from the Branch Secretary upon request.

National Council report:

Discussions on holding the worlds as a two day event are still ongoing.

Discussions on the situation with Headquarters premises are still ongoing as well as talks on what purposes any new premises could be used for.

Last dates for accepting bids for major championships in 2013 are 3rd September 2011 for the Worlds and 28th November 2011 for other major championships.

Music Board report:

There was more discussion on having the Worlds as a 2 day event and if this is the case what the playing requirements should be. More support is being given to this and it may be trialled at the Worlds in 2013.

Gradings for branch bands, City of Edinburgh - Novice Juvenile, Pride of East Lothian - 4A.

The playing requirement for grade 4A bands at major championships in 2012 will be 2 marches, 2 Strathspeys and 2 Reels all to be chosen from the list of approved MAP tunes.

There was some discussion on using a seeding system for grades when heats are required at major championships, this is to prevent all the top bands being draw to play in the same heat, if this happened it would lessen the chances of other bands in that heat reaching the finals.

There was some discussion on PDQB courses and Pipe Band Studies courses.

The current playing requirements for grades playing an MSR or Medley at different championships was discussed to see if the current set up is better suited to the bands or whether anything could be gained from changing the order in which championships bands play an MSR and which championships they should play a Medley.

There may be some challenges ahead with the number of adjudicators due to retire in the next few years. The current compulsory retirement age for adjudicators is 75. It was asked if it would be an option to increase the retirement age for some adjudicators.

Trophy Convenor's report:

One band have still to return trophies for West Lothian Highland Games.

Dunbar are going to source new trophies locally and will supply trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best drum corps for each grade and Drum Majors Trophies. The Branch will give Dunbar a donation of £100 towards the cost of their trophies.

Edinburgh will supply trophies for 1st place and best drum corps in each grade and Drum Majors. Donations of trophies for other places at this contest will be welcome at the cost of £40 per trophy for 2nd place and £30 for a 3rd place trophy.

Steward's report:

No allocation sheets have been issued for the major championships yet and the 1st major is only 3 weeks away. It was asked if this could be raised at the next National Council meeting.

Education report:

It was asked if we could get something on the home page of the website asking individuals who are interested in the PDQB course we are holding to register their interest to ensure that we have an indication of the number of people wishing to attend, this is to ensure that we book a suitable venue for the course.

AOCB

The second part of the Adjudicator Training course is to be changed, this is to avoid a clash with other events.

There will be Adjudicator training taking place at the Dunbar, West Lothian Highland Games, Edinburgh and Melrose contests this year.

John Hughes has looked at the RSPBA constitution and rules regarding the band who have a problem with their former treasurer not returning audited accounts and has advised them that there is nothing in the constitution and rules with regards to individual members and that this matter will have to be resolved using their own constitution and rules.

It was pointed out that although the draw is on the website for the Dunbar contest the list of adjudicators is not there. Peter Hazzard to ask for this to be added.

George Purves has been asked to be Chieftain at this years Markinch contest.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 19.05.
Next meeting Sunday 25th September 2005 at Bellsquarry Village Hall, Livingston at 6.00pm.