

The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005

<u>Present:</u>	J.Hughes, Chairman	Drambuie Kirkliston
	W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
	T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School
	V.McMorran	Glencorse
	S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	A.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	T.Clarke	Craigmount High School
	D.Brand	Newtongrange
	A. Lyon	Tweedvale
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	C.McLuckie	Bo'ness
	I. Simpson	George Watson's College
	R.Fairne	Stow

Apologies J.Brand, G.Craig, P.Hazzard, M.O'Neill, A.Cook, J.McNeill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by Glencorse.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

There have been problems with the allocation of adjudicators at local contests the week before major championships. Adjudicators should not judge the same grade as they would be judging at the following major championship. It was said that the RSPBA allocate adjudicators to each contest.

Treasurer's report:

The accounts are presently at the auditor in preparation presentation at the Annual General Meeting. Money has yet to come in from Peebles and Melrose.

National Council Report:

There has only been an Executive meeting. The full National Council meets again in two weeks.

Music Board Report:

Re-grading that concern Branch bands are:  
From Novice Juvenile to Juvenile, George Watson's College.  
From 3B to 3A, Linlithgow and Bo'ness.

From Grade 2 to Grade 1, Drambuie Kirkliston.

The new format for Grade 4 will only apply at Major championships. The grade will still remain as 4A and 4B.

Bands could be split into 2 or 3 qualifying heats depending on the entry. The top four bands from each qualifying heat would go forward to the final.

Up to 28 bands with a split would give an 8 band final. 29 to 45 bands would be split into 3 heats giving a 12 band final.

All heats would start at 10 am and should be finished by 11am.

Bands would play two 2/4 marches from the set tune list of 14 tunes. There would be 1 piping judge and 1 drumming judge only. The format is as at minor contests i.e. the piping mark X2, the drumming mark X1.

Finals would take place in the afternoon. The final would be the same as existing criteria i.e. march medley 2¾minutes to 4½ minutes. Set tunes can be included.

The new material should be ready now for posting out to all the grade 4 and Novice Juvenile bands. The DVD should follow in a couple of weeks.

Novice Juvenile bands to include 2 of the set 2/4 tunes in their medley at Championships only.

There is too long a delay in getting the results of the exams from the Structured Learning courses. This is to be brought up at the next National Council meeting.

There have been meetings with other bodies to bring all certificates together under SQA, and much progress has been made.

#### Education Report:

The Branch hopes to run an Elementary course starting in January 2006.

An Advanced course is hoped to begin in October 2006, if help and numbers justify. It was suggested that due to the commitment needed by the tutors that perhaps the courses could be split between two venues. Edinburgh and Glasgow with each taking a four week spell. This would have to be discussed further before any decision could be made.

#### Trophy Convenors Report:

A couple of trophies were damaged but are now repaired.

There had been a problem at Peebles with the non-return of trophies but these were Peebles own trophies.

Emslies has now ceased to exist therefore another trophy/ engraver needs to be found.

#### A.O.C.B.:

Seminars are to be held to discuss the new playing format for Grade 4 and Novice Juvenile bands. These will take place all over the country and all Pipe Majors and Leading Drummers and tutors are urged to attend. The Branch seminar will take place on 27<sup>nd</sup> November.

At Major Championships Novice Juvenile bands would play 2 sets from the new tunes plus any other tunes of their choice to make up the playing times. In the finals any tunes of their choice can be played. Set tunes need only be played in the qualifying heats.

The Branch Indoor Contest has been pencilled in for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006.the venue has yet to be confirmed.

The Drum Majors manual is still not ready.

It was asked if at a march past when blocks come in 1-2-3 could the leave the field in the same order. This should be easy enough to arrange.

North Berwick have asked that the march past at North Berwick have bands come on individually with centre bands playing.

At the World Championships the Juvenile play in Ring 1. This is surrounded by grandstands. It was asked if the spectators might be allowed a section free of charge to see and hear the Juvenile bands. The grade would be over long before Grade 1 started. This is to be brought up at the next National Council meeting.

It was asked if at Cowal the Juvenile results might be read out after the Novice Juvenile results. This would enable the young band members to march down the street before the adult bands. This is to be brought up at the next National Council meeting.

It was asked if in the 2006 season the Branch might have an open contest. It was said the RSPBA rule state that bands entering an open contest would need to submit two selections, the criteria for grade 1.

Bathgate is having a Grade 1 contest next year.

A Drum Majors adjudicators' course will take place in 2006.

John McNeill is retiring from the Branch as President at the AGM. A presentation is to be made to him.

Craigmount High School's contest takes place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Craigmount High School.

George Watson's College Pipe Band is holding a concert in the school on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Tickets at £5 each can be had from the school.

Craigmount High School is holding their ceilidh on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Newtongrange are holding their ceilidh on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

**The Annual General Meeting will take place in Beechwood Bowling Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at 3.00pm.**

Donald Brand