

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 29th September 2019**

John Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chairman	Wallacestone and District
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
L.A. Riad	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone and District
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
D. Martin	Scottish Fire & Rescue
C. Reid	Scottish Fire and Rescue Gd 2
K. Reid	Scottish Fire and Rescue
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
E. Todd	Denny and Dunipace Gleneagles
D. Todd	Denny and Dunipace Gleneagles
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. O'neill	George Watson's College
E. Scott	Scottish Fire & Rescue

Apologies S. Orr, V. McMorran, M. Brown Scott, E. Orr, M. Binder

Minutes

The Minutes of the March Meeting were Proposed by George Watson's College and Seconded by Denny and Dunipace.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

Treasurer's report:

Our Treasurer gave her report and the books are now closed auditing. JH making contact with auditor.

Directors report:

RSPBA Facebook page online. Headquarters building work progressing well and it is mostly snagging work which has still to be done and there is a possibility of taking control of the building in October.

Music Board Report

There is no BBC coverage on the Friday at the worlds.

The Pipe Band College is in charge of the tenor drumming adjudicators but they would prefer that the association takes control of this.

It was asked if we have a social media policy and were told that we do but this is ongoing.

As well as higher to lower transfers lower to higher transfers will also be looked at.

25 pupils attended this years summer school.

There was some discussion on the Association website but we need to find out what people are looking for.

There are vacancies for convenors for the Music Board and the Gradings Group.

There was some discussion on re alignment of grades

There discussion on creating a development grade which would probably be the lower 30% of Grade 4b. This would be a new grade at major championships.

There was a discussion on splitting Grade 1 into an A and B grades.

It was asked if the timings of the Novice and Juvenile grades could be looked at from a supervisory position.

The list of Prescribed tunes is ongoing and tunes will be added for the Development grade.

World Solo Drumming:

The Juvenile contest in 2018 went well and will be left as Juvenile 1,2 and 3 contests. Juvenile 1 and 2 will play from a list of prescribed tunes but there will be no prescribed tunes for Juvenile 3.

The Adult Final will move back to the old venue at the university as it was felt this venue is more comfortable for players and adjudicators. We have asked for a higher stage. It is hoped there will be an upsurge in spectator numbers for the Adult Final. It was also asked if there could be a concession for kids at this event.

The hornpipe and jig format developed for last year will continue.

There was a discussion on ensuring that contests run on time.

The Music Board are trying to control Higher to Lower transfers prior to championships and there has been a suggestion that a transfer fee of £100 be paid.

The North of Scotland Branch will be running education courses and the Lothian and Borders Branch will support these courses as this makes good financial sense.

There has been a proposal to change the venue for the Novice and Juvenile grades for the UK Championships.

Proposal 1

FOR A NEW UK CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE NOVICE AND JUVENILE GRADES

Having considered this idea for a few years now, I feel it is time to pursue it and put forward a proposal to move **the UK Juvenile and Novice Grades** on to the Highland Games circuit or to set a contest on the circuit. The attendance of bands in these grades has been particularly low over the years and the contest is greatly diluted as a result. Holding this contest in Northern Ireland is simply a non starter for many of these bands mainly due to high costs, time off school, supervision and parents not able to travel with their children for various reasons. Having canvassed many instructors, pipe majors and leading drummers I feel there is an overwhelming support for this already. Many instructors have numerous responsibilities taking these large groups to this championship and this would hugely improve their situation on the day of the contest to focus on their own adult contests.

HOW WOULD IT WORK

The UK Novice and Juvenile grades would be held each year around the Highland Games circuit. A different location every year, on a rotational system. Or, it could be held on the Saturday or Sunday contest the weekend before the World Championships.

For example, it could be held at Gourock in 2020, Edinburgh 2021, Perth 2022 and so on, or at North Berwick, Perth, Bridge of Allan each year whichever contest happens to land on the date. This may also encourage overseas bands coming over for the worlds to perhaps take part which would be great. There would be no change to these contests other than the prize money for these particular grades and the trophies being given out. The RSPBA would liaise with the organisers to work this out.

Should Northern Ireland have 50% of Novice and Juvenile entries then it can be considered to return the championship to its original location as it is now.

There is opportunity for Marketing to showcase this and make it a very big event in for the RSPBA. I am sure there would be various ways to receive funding for this.

I do not think any rule change would be needed to implement this. The only stumbling block may be the current deal in place with NI for the championship held at Lurgan. There is plenty room for discussion on this.

Stewards Report

Alex thanked all the stewards for their help.

There are still problems with some directors not helping to dismantle arenas at the end of the day but some have been seen sitting in hospitality at this time.

We will be looking for a volunteer to drive the van and we will also look for two stewards to cover retirals.

Education

Nothing to report

Trophies

Brian apologised for his absence at some contests.

Trophies from the indoors are now ready to hand over.

It was asked if the William Fergusson contest could be held at headquarters, it was also suggested that we look for a sponsor for this event to encourage more entries.

There will be a Grade 1 contest at this years indoors.

2020 Contests

This years Major Championships will be:-

British Championship	23 rd May	Paisley
UK Championship.....	13 th June.....	Lurgan
European Championship.....	27 th June.....	Inverness
Scottish Championship.....	25 th July.....	Dumbarton
World Championship.....	14 th /15 th August	Glasgow

Proposed Branch Contests

Indoors	28 th March.....	JYHS Livingston
Dunbar.....	16 th May	
West Lothian	30 th May	
Innerleithen	6 th June	
Edinburgh	Sunday 20 th June	
Burntisland	18 th July	
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Bridge of Allan.....	Sunday 2 nd August	
North Berwick.....	8 th August	
Peebles	5 th September	
Scottish Schools Contest	8 th March	Kilmarnock

AOCB

Arrangements will be made to get the Juvenile DM trophy picked up and given to Eve Llewellyn.

Loyalty Scheme

2 bands have attended 6 contests and will receive £750 each
2 bands have attended 5 contests and will receive £250 each

Meeting Closed 19.45pm.

Next meeting will be 29th September 6pm