

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 26 September 2021**

J. B. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
S. Starr, Minute Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder, Social Media	Royal High
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
M. Reilly	Police Scotland Fife
G. Dyet, Chief Steward	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
L. Moore	Preston Lodge High School
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairman	Scottish Fire and Rescue

Apologies

S. Orr RVM, K. Reid MM, C. Reid, M. Watters

Welcome

As the Chairman was unable to attend the Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the March Meeting Proposed by City of Edinburgh and seconded by Wallacestone & District.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available by request.

Secretary's report

There was nothing to report.

Director's report:

Correspondence had been received asking for a copy of our Vaccination Policy. The Board felt that this was not within our remit to produce.

Marketing and Media

The new website is currently under construction and is expected to be launched during October.

Summer School

This was ran via a online platform this year, and all feed back has been positive. There will be a survey sent to all bands regarding further education options.

Steward's Report

The Chief Steward advised that there has been an inspection completed on all kit currently held at Headquarters. We currently have enough to run contests at both Branch and National levels.

Education Group Report

35 – 40 students took part with 19 sitting the final exam who all passed. There was great feedback from participants. There is and additional 14 students wanting to sit the exam and we are just waiting on confirmation of the exam date.

Music Board Report

Since our last meeting there has been two Music Board Meetings.

14 August 2021

- **A Presentation was made by North of England Branch to the Format Group to pilot an “Open Band Event”.**

After discussion, the format group supported this and it was presented to the full MB who endorsed the event. With band practices restarting after COVID, this will be an opportunity for bands to video record their performance, send it to the North of England branch (They are hosting the event). Performance will be assessed by RSPBA Adjudicators. Band will be given feedback on their performance. Similar to the “Play for Sheets” that MB was promoting under the Showcase Event back in 2020. This is open to all bands who have paid their membership fees and it's free to enter. Closing date – November

- **World Solo Drumming**

Press statement was prepared by the WSD group regarding Regional Qualifiers to be released by Market & Media. This is regarding the “5 Major” WSD Qualifying events creating a circuit for the best drummers in the world to gain entry for the World Solo Drumming Event. Each regional qualifier has been given a title – Scottish, British, UK, European and Intercontinental. In the future, other branches may apply for a title if they wish. For the above to work, branches need to confirm their 2022 dates asap however MB realise that it might be difficult to confirm venues in this current climate. But the grand plan is to announce all the dates/venues as a press release - similar to announcing the 5 Major Championships dates/venues.

- **Grade 1 emails -**

Some emails were received from Grade 1 bands asking if their competition criteria is changing for 2022. In view of the current climate, it will be status quo for 2022

- **Letter was received from World Solo Drumming finalists.**

Looking to have a live solo drumming competition where the 12 finalists from 2019 could play. Possibly call it the “masters”. This is a live event where drummers would play in front of adjudicators and it could be broadcasted to the wider community similar to the World Solo Drumming Event.

11 September 2021

- The Music Board via the Format Group have approved an outline for a play for the sheets event. This follows the Format Groups showcase model designed in August 2020. This event which will involve the submission of a video for feedback is not a competition. The event will be funded and hosted by the North England branch and open to all Association member Bands who have paid membership fees.
- As part of the Music Board initiative - the restart strategy- progress has been made with the proposition for a UK indoor competition. The Competition will be a live event with bands and adjudicators onsite. The events is intended to be split over several weekends from the end of February to the end of March, subject to change and agreement. The planning and outline is back with the Format Group who have met and designed a survey going out to all bands in membership to gauge interest. (those having paid their fees)
- The docuseries is now moving to the editing stage where we hope to see these launched over the over the autumn/winter.
- Our branch meeting in June intimated that we have been offered to host one of the new titled World Solo Drumming Qualifiers for adults, titled the Scottish Championship. The Music Board and Board of Directors are seeking confirmation from all Branches involved and wish to publish the various dates in block. The International Qualifier is in February, DPA have agreed their date. Glasgow and NI have also intimated their dates. Now looking for LB to confirm our date aligned to our own indoor competition.
- Following a request from Snare Drummers (the 2019 World Solo Drumming finalists) and the World Solo drumming Group members, we are invited to take part in a discussion with Glasgow & West Scotland Branch to explore the introduction of an International Drumming Invitational Masters event. There is a meeting planned for Monday 27th September led by the Music Board Convenor to provide BOD and MB feedback. Following the outcome of this event we can update the Branch and seek what support might be requested or otherwise.

Trophy Convenor Report

The Trophy Convenor has advised that trophies have started to be returned. The President offered to provide a list of latest contact information for all Branch Bands produced prior to last year's AGM to assist The Trophy Convenor to contact holders of additional trophies.

AOCB

Branch Fees

There was a discussion held regarding 2020/21 Branch Fees. It was agreed that all Branch Fees are to be paid for the 2020/21 season.

If there should be no competitions ran during 2022 due to the current pandemic then these would be rolled over to the following year.

AGM Format

A discussion was held on the format of the 2020 Branch AGM. As a branch we will be continuing online meetings at the moment, and so the Branch AGM will be held online.

A gentle reminder was given that should there be any changes to the constitution and Rules, then these must be submitted to the branch 1 month prior to the AGM Date.

2022 Contest Date

J. Hughes will contact all promoters and ask for proposed contest dates. He will also contact James Young High School to discuss the booking of the school for the Branch indoor contest. We would propose the date of this contest be 2 April 2022.

Pipe Band College

The Piping Principal and Summer School Principal positions are up for election at the Pipe Band College AGM in November. It is noted that any Branch Applicant would have the support of the Branch.

Vi McMorran

Vi has advised the Branch of her retirement as compiler. J. Hughes and W. Dalzel to discuss a suitable gift to mark Vi's long standing service to the Branch.

The meeting was closed at 19.07

Next online meeting will be 31 October 2021 at 6.00pm