

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 27th November 2022**

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
M. Brown Scott	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Lee Moore Music Board	Preston Lodge
I. Simpson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. O'Neill	Police Fife Scotland
M. Binder, Magazine Reporter	Royal High
Paul Starr	Penicuik & District
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
Kevin Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
Christine Reid	Police Scotland Fife
J. Venters	Burntisland
S. Grant	City of Edinburgh
A. Davanna	Preston Lodge
W. McIntyre	George Heriot's
J. Simpson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
S. McQuillan Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia via Video call

Condolences were given for Margaret Watters, Margaret will be sadly missed by all.

Apologies: S. Orr, B. Watt, S. Starr, E. Scott, B. Duncan

Welcome

As the Branch Chairman was unable to attend due to work commitments, the Meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman Malcolm Brown-Scot

Chairmans Report

**Chairman's Report
L&B Branch AGM
November 2022**

Welcome to the 82nd AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

So last season we finally managed to get our local contests back up and running. Unfortunately, we weren't able to hold the contests at Dunbar this year, but hopefully will manage to get that up and running again in 2023. Thanks to the Pipe Band Team at Edinburgh Academy for stepping in to provide a new venue and sponsorship for the Edinburgh Pipe Band Championship. We are hoping that we may be able to hold the event at Edinburgh Academy again in 2023.

At this point we are waiting for confirmation from a number of our regular contest promoters regarding the 2023 season. My thanks to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment, which will hopefully enable us to sustain a healthy contest schedule.

We are indeed fortunate within the Branch to have people committed to working together to develop and support the aims and objectives of the Association, so my thanks, as always, goes to the members of the Branch committee, and their families, for their continued support throughout the year. So, we wish the bands all the best in continuing to build for the coming season.

Election of Office Bearers:

The Board of Directors have agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGM's unless this is specifically requested. Therefore, as per our Branch constitution and rules, and as a member of the RSPBA Board of Directors, our Vice-Chairperson, Malcolm Brown-Scott, will take the chair for the election of office bearers.

Major Championships:

Championship	2023	Location
British	TBC	
United Kingdom	10 th June	Lurgan
European	TBC	
Scottish	29 th July	Dumbarton
World	18 th & 19 th August	Glasgow

Branch Contests:

Branch Contest	2023	Venue
Indoors	1st April	James Young HS Livingston
Dunbar – TBC	13th May	Halhill Centre, Dunbar
Innerleithen - TBC	3rd June	Vale of Leithen Park, Innerleithen
Edinburgh	18th June	Edinburgh Academy
Bridge of Allan	6th August	Strathallan Park, Bridge of Allan
North Berwick	12th August	Recreation Park, North Berwick
Peebles	2nd September	Haylodge Park, Peebles

2023 Branch Meeting Dates:

- 29th January
- 26th February
- 26th March
- 30th April
- 24th September
- 29th October
- 26th November (AGM)

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted by the membership.

Matters arising:

There were no Matters arising.

Treasurer's report:

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

Director's report:

Last year saw the Board of Directors continue to have meetings on-line. Kevin Reilly took over from John Hughes as RSPBA Chairman.

HQ staff are now getting back into the office, and Ian Embelton has now retired and has been replaced by Colin Mulhearn.

The Website has been updated and is has been up and running for some time now. Some of the content for the website is still being moved over.

The Calendar is in place for next year.

It was asked if any information has come in for next season and PM Ian Simpson asked if contests could be split into morning and afternoon contests to allow them to go ahead as planned.

Music Board Report

Correspondence –

Item 1 – Email from A. Kerr regarding the Static Start Pilot and the timing of the event.

Item 2 – Email from the PPBSO (Ontario) wishing to hold a qualifier event for the World Solo Drumming Championships

Item 3 – Email from the PBASA (South Africa) wishing to hold a qualifier event for the World Solo Drumming Championships

Item 4 – Email from Mick O'Neil regarding proposal for Juvenile Bands' status to be changed from that of Grade 3 to playing in Grade 2 as their equivalent grade at minors.

Item 5 – Email from JW, convenor of the APMB, regarding the invite to the MB liaison meeting.

Board of Directors Feedback -

Minutes of the BoD were issued on the website on the 24th October and were accepted as being read by the MB members.

Standards & Gradings Group – a meeting was held by the S&G group to discuss the appeals we had received to our 11th September grading changes. Appeals from the bands were agreed and all bands have been notified and a news item was to be created.

Grading Appeals approved by Board of Directors:

West Lothian Schools upgrading from NJA to Juvenile – Appeal accepted, band will remain in NJA

Brisbane Boys' College Australia upgrading from G4A to G3B – Appeal accepted, band will move back to NJA

Edinburgh Academy upgrading from NJB to NJA – Appeal accepted, band will move back to NJB

George Watson's College NJA to Juvenile – Appeal accepted, band will remain in NJA

George Heriots School NJA to Juv – Appeal accepted, band will transfer players to maintain NJA and Juvenile bands

Brisbane Boys' College Australia G4B – Band will move back to NJB

World Solo Drumming Group –

WSD met with VC over telephone. The new solo drumming championship circuit for 2023 will have 6 Qualifiers from the RSPBA Scottish, British, European and UK championship events and 4 qualifiers from the RSPBA Intercontinental and Pacific championship events. This will produce the 32 semi-finalists as there will be no morning qualifier on the day of the Final.

The two requests to hold future qualifying events will go to the WSD to discuss.

Tunes Group – work still ongoing. Refreshed to see this year that newly created settings for some of the tunes was being used. JM working on new drumming scores (had 35 to write).

Format Group –

The Format Group held a brief zoom meeting on the 2nd November.

Two discussion points – the cut-off point for qualifiers and playing requirements progression. Decision made that too late to carry forward any changes for the 2023 season (other than the Grade 1 MSR change) and that as it is an FG project it should follow the stages of an FG Project and we should bring the proposals to the branches (stage 2). 2023 playing requirements will stay as per 2022 (other than Grade 1 MSR) and the FG need to meet to set the requirements.

AF raised issue if Majors were cancelled and no MSR was played (for example) in the run up to the World Championships then could we change the playing requirements. MH answered that there is a clause on the playing requirements news item that states that the requirements are subject to change.

The MB agreed that the FG members should meet (immediately after the meeting) to agree the playing requirements for the 2023 Majors in preparation for the next board meeting.

AOCB

Reminder to the branches that the MB hold the approved Solo Tenor drumming judges lists and Branches are encouraged to use this. HQ are able to provide this list and contact details.

Lothian & Borders Branch Loyalty Scheme

At the Branch AGM, the following awards were made under the Branch Loyalty Scheme this year.

- Camelon and District £282
- George Watsons College NJA £282
- George Watsons College Juv £282
- Preston Lodge High School Pipe Band NJB £282
- Preston Lodge High School Juv £282
- Stockbridge 4B £282
- Stockbridge 3A £282

This year we also introduced an award for the Drum Majors as part of the scheme.

- Michael Binder £25

Our thanks to all bands and drum majors for their continued support of the Branch contests.

Elections

The following nominations were unanimously accepted: -

President	John B Hughes
Vice Chairperson	Malcolm Brown-Scott
Secretary	Susan Starr
Treasurer	Lesley Anne Riad
Social Media Mgmt.	Michael Binder
Trophy Convenor	Paul Starr
Director No.3	John B Hughes
Music Board (Drumming)	Steven McQuillan
Committee	Christine Reid
Committee	Kevin Reid
Committee	Wendy Waugh

Notice of Motion Branch Constitution and Rules

There was no notice of motion received.

Honoraria

A 10% increase in the Honoraria was proposed by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia, and seconded by Police Scotland Fife. This proposal was approved unanimously at the meeting.

Book of Eminence

It was said that the book of eminence should be made up to date and that entries were received for Alex Dalziel, Bill McMorran and George Purves and Peter agreed to draught something for Ann Hazzard, and John agreed to draft something for Margaret Watters.

Branch Fees

2022/2023 Branch Fees to remain the same

Meeting Closed 16.06pm.

Next Branch meeting will immediately follow this AGM

Next online meeting will be 29th January 2023 at 6.00pm