

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

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard	City of Edinburgh
M. Brown Scott, Vice Chair	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, Social Media	Royal High
Paul Starr, Trophy Convenor	Penicuik & District
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
Kevin Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
Christine Reid	Police Scotland Fife
J. Venters	Burntisland and District
S. Grant	City of Edinburgh
A. Davanna	Preston Lodge
W. McIntyre	George Heriot's
J. Simpson	Edinburgh Academy
S. McQuillan Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia via Video call

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

**Welcome**

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Thanks were given to Brian Watt and Peter Hazzard for their sterling work on the committee over the years, and the Branch wish them well.

**Minutes of October Meeting**

These were approved by Police Scotland Fife and Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer gave her report which is available from the Secretary on request.

**Secretary's Report**

There was nothing to report.

**Director's Report**

We should remind bands that the branch fees are now due.

I was asked if more Grade 3 bands would attend our contests if we had a separate Juvenile contest. The Branch have tried to implement a Juvenile contest where feasible at Branch Contests, but due to costs this is not always possible.

## **Music Board Report**

A new static start explainer video to be issued for the attention of all NJB Bands for the continued pilot for 2023 season.

The APMB have indicated they feel they should stand back from consulting via liaison re the G1 project. It was highlighted by the Directors that in the April Format Group minutes did invite any Stakeholder who wished to present to make this known. Nothing has been intimated so far. Moreover, stakeholders also have the opportunity to liaise at stage 2 of all Format Group projects. It was noted that the APMB as a stakeholder wish to decline this invitation. The reasons are outlined in the MB minutes.

Following lengthy discussion the MB have asked the BoD to rescind a previous proposal from the MB that Juvenile Bands be aligned to Grade 2, instead to encourage Minor and Local Contest to have a Juvenile Contest. The full information on this was shared at our Branch meeting and is set out in the MB minutes which will be captured in the public produced BoD minutes.

## **Grading**

All appeals received have now been dealt with and are set out within the RSPBA Website.

## **Format Group**

The Format Group wish to consult with proposed changes to the playing requirements for 2024. This will be circulated to Bands as compiled by Malcom – all Bands are requested to provide feedback at the January 2023 Branch meeting for a special meeting of the MB arranged for February.

The cut off point for Qualifiers is under review follow a suggestion from a MB member

The playing requirements for 2023 have been prepared and will be submitted to the BoD for approval. It was noted that is a Major Championship was cancelled and no MSR was played in a particular Grade (for example) in the run up to the World Championships then could we change the playing requirements subject to MB and BoD approval.

A 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.

## **World Solo Drumming**

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. This will progress to the next meeting of the BoD.

The two requests to hold future Championship events will go to the WSD to discuss and report back to the MB.

## **Tunes Group –**

Work still ongoing. Refreshed to see this year that newly created settings for some of the tunes was being used. Drum scores are being produced by a MB member

Next meeting of the MB will be the 14th January 2023.

## **Stewards Report**

Nothing to report

## **Education Report**

The Pipe Band College last met on Saturday 12th November 2022.

The convener was Paul McAndrew (PMC). He noted that he was convening the meeting as part of ongoing review of PBC by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, PMC and the College Principals.

A question was raised about who would present PBC report at BOD meetings. PMC would however where there was a need for specific specialist knowledge a PBC member would be invited to attend the BOD.

The PBC are currently undergoing External Verification from the SQA which is holding up approx 20 of our members receiving certificates for exams sat in June 2021. Pat Whelan (PW) is working to resolve this asap, but confirmed that he had received written confirmation from the SQA that the RSPBA could continue to offer examinations.

Currently 4 groups, Preston Lodge High School, George Watson's College, Johnstone Pipe Band and Strathallan School have exams booked in between now and Christmas.

There was some discussion about cost/benefit of online vs in-person assessment however since the meeting I have had confirmation that assessments will be face to face if the customer prefers and this has all been budgeted out and is financially viable with no increase in examination fees.

The RSPBA Summer School date is confirmed as the week beginning 24th July 2023 and the theme will be "Wake up, Shake up". The Summer School Principal, John Nevans reported that 14 pupils attended the Summer School 2022 which he was happy with for the first year back face to face but hoped for greater numbers in 2023. There was some discussion around how to attract greater numbers. Our own Branch plus several others sponsor a number of students to attend which helps. I suggested that HQ follow the model of our branch by adding £10 per band nationally, ring-fenced to fund education projects like the Summer School and make it cheaper for people to attend. This was received positively, and other ideas were discussed including separate adult schools, John Nevans working closer with the Geographical reps to perhaps provide more local Summer School events for example. All things requiring further discussion and development

Discussions by all, that education was not always about exams, but should be about contacts, friendships and learning skills to further personal, playing and musical development

Lee has requested information on what the PBC can offer to branches in terms of workshop delivery so he can put this out to our branch bands to see what is of interest to them and hopefully get some scheduled in for our bands.

## **Summer School**

This will be a "Wake Up Shake Up" and held in Washington Street.

14 Students attended last year and John is working towards a Geographical Summer School as some are unable to attend the course in Glasgow.

## **Trophy Convener's Report**

Paul Starr will get in touch with Brian Watt to conduct a handover of the trophies and any relevant information. Paul will also try to find a secure storage facility for the trophies.

## **AOCB**

Paul Starr asked if we could possibly have a full band contest at next year's Indoor, it was said that some bands were not ready to enter a full band but could enter a mini band. The President suggested that we should ask the bands what they would prefer, a full band or mini band. He agreed to contact the relevant Grade 4 and Grade 3 bands.

The Branch Committee agreed that the regular monthly meetings between January and April, and September and October would continue to be held online, with the AGM in November, and the first meeting of the new season immediately following, would be held in-person in Bellsquarry Hall.

The meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:

- Sunday 29th January 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 26th February 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 26th March 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 30th April 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 24th September 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 29th October 18:00 (via Zoom)
- Sunday 26th November AGM 15:00, Bellsquarry Village Hall
- Sunday 26th November 16:00, Bellsquarry Village Hall

Meeting closed 17:00

Next Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023