

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 26 November 2023**

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| J. B. Hughes, President | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| L.A. Riad, Treasurer | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| S. Starr, Secretary | Peebles Ex-Servicemen's |
| S. Orr RVM | Royal Scots Dragoon Guards |
| I. Simpson | Edinburgh Academy |
| L. Moore, Music Board | Preston Lodge High School |
| W. Waugh | Camelon & District |
| J. Gavin | Camelon & District |
| P. Starr, Trophy Convenor | Penicuik & District |
| M. Cameron | Camelon & District |
| M. O'Neill | George Watson's College |
| M. Binder | Preston Lodge High School |
| C. Reid | Police Scotland Fife |
| K. Reid MM | Police Scotland Fife |
| M. Reilly | Police Scotland Fife |
| T. Thomson | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| E. Scott | Wallacestone |
| A. Scott | Wallacestone |
| C. Allan | Livingston Caledonia |

Apologies

G. Dyet, P. Hazzard, S. McQuillan, J Venters, D. Holburgh

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the October Meeting Proposed by Penicuik & District and seconded by George Watson's College

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer's report was presented and details are available by request.

Secretary's report

Advised that the branch fees are live and are now online and are slowly coming in. J. Hughes proposed that we extend the deadline for the discounted payments. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting, and this has been extended to the Branch meeting in January 2024.

Director's report

Nothing to report since last meeting.

Music Board Report

There has been a meeting since the last meeting, but the minutes have not been published.

Education Report

Following from the previous meeting, the branch submitted the letter to HQ as requested and the Pipe Band College has been reinstated and the independent review will happen at a later date.

A huge vote of thanks to L. Moore for his input in this reversal.

L. Moore advised that a discussion has taken place between the Board of Directors and the Pipe Band College. It has been agreed that any queries or complaints are discussed at the PBC prior to going to the BOD.

Since the re-instatement of the PBC the college has acted quickly to ensure that all the assessors are fully accredited for the SQA standards.

There are currently 34 assessors for the full of Scotland. There are 134 assessments scheduled for December and all candidates are from the Lothian and Borders Branch.

The 2024 summer school theme is going to be titled "Star Chaser". The date is yet to be confirmed as there has been discussion on the fact the dates are the week prior to the Major.

Concerns have been raised in the role of the Education Officer as a paid member of staff. The next meeting is due to take place on 20 January 2024.

Outdoors

J. Hughes has confirmed that there is flexibility with the Edinburgh contest date. Funding has been secured for this. They are also happy to run a grade one MSR and Medley contest.

L. Moore, has asked if the Grade 1 follows the recommendation, then could Juvenile then perhaps follow the same. J Hughes agreed to discuss this with the promoter.

There is currently no funding in place for the Dunbar contest, so further discussions are required.

Innerleithen, BOA, NB and Peebles have also confirmed that they are happy with our recommended dates, although these may be subject to change depending on the dates for the Majors being confirmed.

Indoors

The plan is to go for full band across all grades. J. Hughes to confirm with Music Board what criteria regarding the naming of the Scottish titles.

AOCB

I Simpson has asked that the format group look at running a Solo Piping Championship, this would then perhaps entice the elite from the Piping World to compete at Branch Comps.

M. O'Neill has asked that if we do not get any additional Majors it would incumbent for the BOD to look at holding Major Championships in a different model.

There was an in-depth discussion held on perhaps holding a major on the foc basis. It was felt that this wouldn't be viable due to costs. A suggestion from the floor also came that we ask for the individual grades be sponsored.

J. Gavin advised that he has spoken with Falkirk Council about potentially collaborating as it is the 10th anniversary of the Kelpies, he had been advised that they just don't have the budget.

The meeting was closed at 17.05

Next online meeting will be 28th January 2024 @ 18:00

DRAFT