

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of**  
**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**  
**On Sunday 25 February 2024**

L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. Orr, Chairman	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
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
K. Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
M. Reilly	Police Scotland Fife
C. Allan	Livingston Caledonia
G. Dyet	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. McQuillan	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies**

P. Hazzard

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the November Meeting Proposed by Preston Lodge High School seconded by Livingston Caledonia

**Chairman's Report:**

S. Orr advised the meeting that following on from John's passing, the branch would need to have a reshuffle of positions on a interim basis. He has proposed that the following Positions will be held and ratified at the AGM in November:-

President	Stewart Orr
Chairman	Paul Starr
Vice Chairman	Gary Dyet

This proposal was accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:**

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

**Secretary's report**

The secretary advised that the entries for the indoors are now life and slowly starting to come in. The branch fees are now set at the increased level following the proposal from the November meeting.

## Director's report

P. Starr advised the branch that the five majors have now been secured for the 2024 season and that the AGM order papers have been sent out to all bands. Livingstone Caledonia advised that they hadn't received this, P. Starr advised he will contact HQ to arrange for this to be re-sent.

## Music Board Report

The Music Board met on the 13th January 2024

### Standards and Grading Group update

A significant number of requests have been received for Grading/Regrading. Decisions have been processed and intimated to Bands and via RSPBA Website.

Work is also ongoing for those Bands where it has been deemed that a visit to a Band practise is required as part of the Grading review. For Bands who have had a visit, they should check that they have received their Grading clarified. The approach of a Band visit is a normal protocol via the Grading and Standards Group Terms of reference.

To maximise input, the Group are now using a new email protocol with individual replies and comments.

### Format Group:

The Format Group have continued to meet to progress matters related to competition Format as follows:

Item	Outcome
<b>Playing requirements- 2024</b>	<p>The 2024 Playing requirements have now been set and approved. These can be found on the on the RSPBA website.</p> <p>Please note that the Juvenile rotation of playing the same discipline at the Worlds and the preceding Championship was noted as a historical item which aligns with G2 at the Worlds. However, this will be further reviewed by the Format Group following the outcome of the current G2 survey.</p> <p>NB – Please note that for the Major Championships for 2024, the NJB static start will apply for all Contests - Championships and Local Branch Minors. {NB NJB Bands Playing within a G4B Contest <b>must</b> comply with the Format for G4B and March into the circle as approved by the BoD October 2023.} Subject to the motion at the AGM which all bands are asked to support given the NJB bands voted overwhelmingly for this via the Music Board Survey.</p>
<b>Qualifying heats- Majors Championship trigger numbers.</b>	<p>Following discussion and research, no change is recommended. This rationale being that G1 plays longer than other Grades, hence changing from 18 to 23 for the qualifier trigger number would result in an additional 40-50 minutes per round.</p>
<b>Survey Grade 2 &amp; 3</b>	<p>The G2 Competition Format survey is now live. Please make sure Pipe Majors and Leading Drummer complete this. <i>(The survey is researching views on; Performance time requirements, the introduction of 4 parted MSR tunes, WPBC- being a two round competition final across two musical disciplines and the option to use the Friday if qualifiers are required.)</i> The Format Group will then progress with recommendations.</p> <p>Thereafter all other Grades can expect to be included in a survey review.</p>

<b>Juvenile development project</b>	<p>MB Reps are requested to seek input from Juvenile Bands {NJA, NJB and Juvenile} re potential Format development ideas. This is to build on the feedback so far; dual registration across two/more instruments, Juvenile Competitions to be contested in the mainland for all Majors.</p> <p>There will now be a standing MB Agenda item for Juvenile Format.</p>
<b>Definition of a medley</b>	<p>The meeting noted that the definition of a Medley is explained by a time requirement.</p> <p>Following discussion, the status quo is recommended. The rational for this is that any change may deter G4 bands playing up at local contests. Albeit, if a formal Band led change is sought then this aspect would move to a Format project if approved by MB/BoD (steps 1-4 Format guide refers.)</p>
<b>Changing tenor drum on the line-request from a band-</b>	<p>Following a request from a Band (NI) to a Director at a Championship, this matter was discussed. The outcome based on advice from the BoD, it that this matter is compliant with Standing Orders &amp; Rules.</p>
<b>2025- G1 Two round competition</b>	<p><b>NB-</b> In 2025 where the Maximum 4 parted tunes MSR is played, this Major Championship will have a Format change and be contested over <u>two</u> rounds with the addition of a Medley. <i>(BoD Action list from the approved MB September {Page 7 &amp; Action Item page 9 Sept 01B} November minutes refers.)</i></p> <p>All Stakeholders are to note for planning purposes and in preparation for the 2025 Major Championship Season.</p>
<b>RSPBA International Solo Drumming circuit</b>	<p>The Championship Circuit Format guide for the new International Solo Drumming circuit is updated to reflect the changes for 2024. This is posted on the RSPBA website.</p> <p>All hosts are requested to meet with Paul McAndrew and Stevie McQuillan to ensure clarity and compliance in the use of the advertising, compiling and announcement toolkit.</p> <p>It was also noted that the BoD have requested a full review of the circuit following the completion of the 2025 season.</p>
<b>Championship Solo Piping circuit</b>	<p>Following BoD approval, a Format Working Group will be set up to explore the proposal from the LB Branch.</p>

### Tunes Group

Works is ongoing to continually review the prescribed tune list.

The Balmoral Highlanders has been received from Kilmarnock Pipe Band to be requested as an addition to the list.

I. Simpson asked why the playing requirements for the Majors are the same as last year. S. McQuillan advised that the playing requirements rotate in order of contest and not title. It was noted that potentially the UK Championships could have the same requirements for the next three years. L. Moore has agreed to feed this back to the Music Board.

### Education Report

L. Moore advised that the last meeting was 20 January.

There was 134 assessment's completed by branch members in December.

### Outdoors

North Berwick High Games have been advised that they can not have the original date of 10 August due to being the day prior European Championship in Perth

### **Indoors**

S. Starr advised that the School is now finally booked. The only issue we had is the use of a PA system. L. Moore advised that he will be able to assist with this.

### **AOCB**

S. Starr asked if the Branch would be willing to submit a trophy in John's Memory. This was agreed unanimously. S. Starr to discuss with HQ where there is a opening.

Next online meeting will be 24 March 2024

DRAFT