

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
On 29 March 2026**

L.A. Riad, Treasurer  
S. Starr, Secretary  
P. Starr, Chairman  
M. Brown-Scott  
M. Binder  
G. Dyet  
S. Schembri  
T. Thompson

Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia  
Peebles Ex-Servicemen's  
Penicuik & District  
Livingston Caledonia  
Preston Lodge High School  
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia  
City of Edinburgh  
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies**

S. Orr MVO RVM, S. McQuillan, M. O'Neill, M. Reilly, J. Simpson

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the February Meeting was Proposed by Preston Lodge and Seconded by City of Edinburgh

**Treasurer's report:**

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

**Secretary's report**

S Starr advised that the Outdoor Entries are now live on both our website and HQ. We are still in discussions with East Lothian Council regarding their proposal for holding a contest the weekend before the Worlds.

**Director's report**

P. Starr advised the meeting that the minutes from our last meeting still have not been published. This was raised at the March Post AGM. The next Directors meeting will be on 25 April.

**Music Board Report**

The next Music Board meeting is scheduled for 19 April, we will receive the update at our April Meeting.

**AOCB**

**Indoors**

S. Starr advised that this years event was a successful day over all. For future years we will need additional bodies to help man the event. L. Riad advised that a rough estimate on final costs for the event is that it ran at a loss, which is normal.

S. Starr advised that she had discussions with other local authorities to see if the cost of the hire of the school is comparable and it is, so changing venue wouldn't even save us money.

S. Starr advised that there have been thoughts of potentially dropping the band contest due to the lack of support from bands, there is many grades that are being uncontested and prize money still being awarded.

M. Binder agreed that if the bands aren't supporting the grades then potentially this may be the correct decision.

If this is the route that the branch decide to go down then the day would fully be Solo Piping and Drumming. S. Starr agreed to work on a rough programme for next year basing it purely on a Solo Contest for the next meeting.

S. Schembri asked if there was any flexibility on perhaps looking at a different date in the Calander. S. Starr explained that the contest was always held near to the end of March due to the School holidays and it also gave time for the bands to work on their crit sheets in time for the start of the outdoor circuit. S. Starr was asked to clarify if anything had been actioned on the matter with being allocated a Northern Irish Adjudicator. P. Starr explained that this had been taken to the board. S. Starr explained that we were to an extent lucky as two of our adjudicators came from Aberdeen and where eligible for a hotel stay, but in actual fact they car shared and came down in back in the day.

### **Grade 2 Survey**

S. Schembri asked if there had been any feedback from the survey. As there had been a meeting in January and the bands have heard nothing since. P. Starr advised that he would take this to the next music board meeting.

Next Meeting Online. 26 April 2026