The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On 25 October 2026

P. Starr, Chairman	McDougla McQueen Penicuik & District
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. McQuillan	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. McIntyre	George Heriot's School

Apologies

S. Orr MVO RVM, M. O'Neill, G. Dyet, M. Binder, T. Thomson, M. Reilly, L. Moore, M. Brown-Scott

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer's report was presented and the meeting was advised that the books are now closed for preparation of the AGM.

Secretary's report

S Starr advised all promotors have been contacted to discuss the proposal of holding all stand alone grades. St Ronan's Piping Society have confirmed that they would be happy to proceed with this.

Music Board

The Music Board met on the 27 September 2026, the full minute is uploaded to the Directors Dropbox as approved by the Music Board and is summarized below;

Standing Orders and AGM preparation

The Music Board will engage with the Standing Orders Convenor, on the following connected matters.

- Registration and grading deadline — Support the Standards and Grading Group in preparing an AGM proposal.
- Standing Order 4.55 — Establish the progress and next steps on the introductory tempo requirement of not less than 60 paces per minute. This matter has recurred in Music Board minutes since September 2025 and remains outstanding.
- AGM order paper — Invite the Standing Orders Convenor to a Format Group meeting to clarify the process, deadlines, and submission requirements, so Music Board matters requiring an AGM submission are prepared in suitable time and submitted correctly.

Grading

The Music Board approved the changes as submitted by the Standards & Grading Group. Any appeals will be handled through due process. Bands can also contact their Music Board Rep for advice.

Local rules

All branch and local competition rules should be sent to Sharon Smith Director, so that a complete set can be collated for Format Group review. The BOD has previously requested this.

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2027 Solo Drumming Circuit
All dates and venues for the 2027 Solo Drumming Circuit would appear to have been agreed.

Solo Drumming Circuit review
The BOD has requested that the International circuit be reviewed. This will now progress using the methodology outlined in the Music Board minute. The Review will engage all stakeholders within scope. Sharon Smith is bringing the WSD Group together before December 2026.

Competition arenas and start lines
At some competitions, particularly with larger bands, the full drum corps needs to be inside the competition arena at the start line, rather than extending into the audience or entry channel. Our intent is to progress this collaboratively with the Vice Chairman, the Chief Steward and Chief Executive, using the 2026 observations to clarify the layout and achieve a consistent, practical arrangement**.**

Other Format Group priorities

- 2027 requirements — The approved Grade 2 4–4–4 MSR has initially been communicated. The full playing requirements on a five-major basis is being planned. (The Grade 2 medley proposal remains linked to the wider Grade 1 timing review and will be revisited following the G1 Review).
- Grade 1 consultation - is hoped to begin this activity before the end of 2026. The focus will be the WPBC Format. (The SOR Convenor has made some initial suggestions)
- Growth and sustainability survey — This has been in discussion where the Board of Directors requested engagement with the wider members through a structured survey and discussion. As a result, there will be a balanced, open consultation combining structured questions with space for free comment, including the North of Scotland proposal and other matters.

The HQ World Pipe Band Championship survey is a positive precursor. We understand Sharon has identified the relevant competition-format questions. Having the responses to these questions will help to avoid duplication and identify what further consultation is needed.

Drum Major Format project — The BOD has previously asked Sharon Smith to progress with this matter and update the SOR's and the Format accordingly. (the Standing Orders place Drum Major Format activity within the Music Board's remit. Sharons intent is to establish a specialist working group, as has been done previously and liaise with stakeholders.

Closer working with office colleagues
The Format Group and Music Board welcome and acknowledge the two-way communication that has been in place recently. There are good examples of matters being resolved through direct telephone dialogue, which works well.

Solo tenor
Training continues for the newer entrant as previously recorded in Music Board minutes presented to the BOD. CPD for the wider Solo Tenor Judges Group will also continue. The history of the Group (2013 to date) has been supplied as requested to help with background and context for newer members of the BOD and other Committees. The Group is supported upon request by members of the WSD Group and adopts approaches being used within the Association.

Actions points
A full list of the action points is listed in the Music Board minutes. This includes and invitation for all Board members to review.

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Indoors.

S. Starr advised the meeting that the date will be 27 March 2027 and that she is just waiting on confirmation from Xcite that we are able to use their areas within the school and the entry form will be able to go live.

Next Meeting 29 November 2026

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