

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**
**Held in the Students Association, 60 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, on Sunday 29th
November 2009**

Band representatives present:

W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
D.Brand, Minute Secretary	Newtongrange
J.Brand	Penicuik
S.Hazzard	Bo'ness
P.Starr	Bo'ness
V.McMorran	Glencorse
P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
I. Bowden	Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L. McLaughlin	Craigmount High School
J.Barnes	Craigmount High School
S.Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
A. McNeill	Newtongrange
R.Fairnie	East Lothian Pipe Band
E.Hanratty	Penicuik
C.McLuckie	Bo'ness

Apologies:

G.Craig, G&N Purves, F.Philip, A. Cook, North Berwick, Stockbridge.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also introduced and welcomed Kevin Reilly, Chairman of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM:

The minutes of the 2008 were read and formally adopted by Bo'ness and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate Caledonia.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Correspondence:

There had been no correspondence.

Chairman's report:

This has been another busy year for the branch, and I would like to thank all members of the committee and their families for the help and assistance given to me during the year.

This year's indoor solo and mini band competition was another successful event. This is probably the largest indoor competition in the UK. As ever, volunteer helpers are critical to the success of this event, and we could do with some more help to ensure this contest runs smoothly. This year we asked if any of our branch bands wished to run the canteen facility as a means of raising funds for the band. Prestonpans committed themselves to doing this and I believe that they were very happy with the outcome. Craigmount High School has agreed to run the facility in 2010.

We ran six outdoor contests during the year, with Hawick still not back on the schedule. We had discussions during the year about two new contests, a small event at Penicuik, and a much larger one at the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston. Unfortunately neither of these will make it on to the calendar for 2010 although we are hopeful for 2011. The weather was a bit mixed this year but thankfully we managed to successfully complete all of our contests.

My thanks again to the Promoters of these contests for working in partnership with the branch to ensure we continue to provide the facilities for the bands to compete at the highest level. As everyone knows sponsorship is difficult to come by, so the branch needs to be as helpful as possible in ensuring that these contests continue if at all possible.

Unfortunately we were not in a position to run any educational courses this year due to changes in the syllabus and a need for clarification on the provision of instructors. We did sponsor two of our branch instructors to go through the PDQB accreditation course, and all are due to successfully complete the course this month. It is planned to get back on stream with our education programme in January 2010.

Congratulations to our branch bands who achieved success in the major championships, and to Linlithgow & District who gained promotion to Grade 2, and to Stockbridge who gained promotion to Grade 3B after only one year in Grade 4A.

The branch continues to be one of the more active in the RSPBA, and thanks go to the committee for their continued efforts, time and commitment to make this happen. As I do each year, I would ask as many bands as possible to send along representatives to the branch meetings. This is the bands opportunity to get involved and have their say in how the branch operates.

Secretary's report:

As a branch we have had a very successful year and an enjoyable season with no major problems at any of the branch contests. There was a change of venue for Melrose and everything seemed to go well. In general the entries for the branch contests are slowly increasing. The Peebles contest moves back to Haylodge Park this year and everything went well.

I would like to congratulate all the branch bands who were successful at both branch and national level.

I would like to thank everyone from the bands and committee for their support over the last three years and, hopefully, with the continued hard work from everyone the branch will continue to be as successful in the future.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented an account of the branch funds and asked for any questions. There was only one about a discrepancy in the amount of fines paid. This was to be investigated.

The accounts were approved by Bo'ness and seconded by Craigmount High School.

National Council report:

It had been a busy year. The number of meetings has been reduced in an effort to save on costs

Music Board report:

The PBQB is now SQA accredited. This means certificates have national recognition. There are six levels for piping and four levels for drumming. Pipe Band Studies are still to be ratified (this will equate to the old Advanced Certificate). More information is available on the RSPBA website.

Grade 4 & N/J band competition requirements:-

Majors:-

Grade 4A will play 2X2 parted marches, 1X2 parted Strathspey and 1X2 parted reel. All from the MAP list.

N/J and Grade 4B will play 4X2 parted marches from the MAP list.

There will no longer be MAP qualifying heats unless there are more than 24 bands entered in a grade.

Adjudication for 2010 will be as per RSPBA major championships (2X piping, 1X drumming and 1X ensemble)

Minor competitions:-

Grade 4 and N/J will play a quick march medley between 2.5 and 4.5 minutes. Bands do not have to play MAP tunes.

Optional Grade 4 MSR competition at promoter's request. Grade 4 and N/J bands would play 2X2 parted marches, 1X2 parted Strathspey and 1X2 parted reel. All from the MAP list. This has yet to be confirmed.

Education report:

To date there are five pipers and two drummers who have applied for the course. It was said that there would probably be more before the course starts in January 2010. There was some discussion on the viability of the courses re-numbers and costs

Trophy Convenor's report:

There were no problems with the trophies. There are still three bands with outstanding fines.

Kevin Reilly, Chairman RSPBA:

Kevin addressed the meeting at this point. He said that it was always a pleasure to attend a Lothian & Borders AGM and that discussions here were similar to discussions at other branches. He asked if the branch had applied for Lottery grants. The RSPBA made a profit of £50000 last year and was in a healthy way. Band fees do not cover the costs of running the association. Money from the majors supplies the rest. He said that there would be an increase of 10% in the prize money at the majors next year. The association was looking at raising the level of prize money for the lower grades over the next few years. There are plans to reduce the levies and to supply adjudicators pads free of charge. This would help reduce costs for the branches. The World development group has had one meeting. A data base is to be set up with a questionnaire on the Worlds. It is hoped that anyone who took part in or were just at the Worlds would give their thoughts on what they would like to see happening at the Worlds. Executive meetings have cut costs and helped to make things run smoother. The BBC has agreed to a two year deal for the Worlds. It is hoped that they will continue to stream live coverage of the Worlds. Sales of DVDs have risen. 25% of the viewing public watched the highlighted showing of the Worlds. A record for the BBC. He was asked why the BBC does not cover the lower grades. He said that perhaps Pipeline might wish to take this up. The RSPBA are in the process of becoming a company limited by guarantee.

Election of Office Bearers:

At this time Kevin Reilly took the chair to oversee the elections.

Nominations:

President. W.McMorran. Nominated by Bo'ness and Glencorse.

Secretary. Ann Hazzard. Nominated by Bo'ness and Glencorse.

Music Board. Piping. Iain Simpson. Nominated by Bo'ness and George Watson's College.

Music Board.Drumming. Arthur Cook. Nominated by Bo'ness and Lothian & Borders Police

Committee. Peter Hazzard, Nominated by Bo'ness and Penicuik

Committee. George Purves. Nominated by Bo'ness and George Watson's College.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria remain at the same level.

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £400

Book of Eminence:

It was agreed to add Les Watson into the Book of Eminence.

Changes to the Constitution & Rules:

The decision to fine bands for non return of trophies or for non appearance would be made by the National Councillors on the day.

It was agreed to raise the band fees. They will now be, for 2011, adult bands £80 reduced to £60 if paid on or before the AGM. Juvenile bands £60 reduced to £40 if paid on or before the AGM. The education fee would remain at £10.

A.O.C.B.:

There was some discussion on the payment of fines. It was agreed the bands or drum majors were guilty of non return of a trophy or for non appearance the decision to make a fine would be taken by the committee on the day. With Innerleithen coming a week before a major it was asked if there would be a full championship compliment of adjudicators.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.