

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Community Hall, Bellsquarry, on
Sunday 26th November 2017**

Band representatives present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
D. Brand	Newtongrange
V. McMorran	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College Juvenile & Police Scotland Fife
M. Binder	Stockbridge
S. Easton	Wallacestone & District
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Rae	West Fife Schools
M. Riley	Police Scotland Fife
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
P. Starr	Penicuik and District
Paul White	City of Edinburgh
Clare Miller	Davidson's Mains
Katie Napier	Davidson's Mains
Brian Watt	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia

Apologies:

M. Campbell, E. Hanratty, C. Marr, J. Gavin, S. McDonald

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 77th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch and also welcomed the representatives of the Fife bands to the Lothian & Borders Branch.

Minutes of the 2016 AGM:

The minutes of the 2016 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by George Watson's College

Matters Arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's Report:

Welcome to the 78th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

2017 has been another successful year for the Branch, and we managed to maintain all of our regular contests this year in spite of the continued challenging financial climate, but also re-established the Edinburgh contest and brought Bridge of Allan under the Branch control. My thanks to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment enabling us to sustain a very healthy contest schedule.

At this point I'm pleased to say that we have commitment to hold most of the regular contests again next year, with funding still needing to be secured for Edinburgh and Burntisland.

I was delighted to see the bands that had joined us from Fife & Stirlingshire taking an active part in the Branch, including attending the Branch meetings.

I would also like to welcome the two bands from Scottish Fire & Rescue who have joined the Branch this year.

Can I personally thank all of the Bands for their continued support of the Branch and offer my congratulations to those who picked up the Branch Champion of Champion awards, secured promotion, or were successful in the Major Championships this year.

We are indeed fortunate within the Branch to have people committed to working together to develop and support the aims and objectives of the Association, so my thanks, as always, goes to the members of the Branch committee, and their families, for their continued support throughout the year.

We unfortunately lost both our Branch President Bill McMorran, and immediate past Branch Chairman George Purves this year. As a Branch, we owe a debt of gratitude to these two gentlemen, as without them, this Branch would not be where it is. So our heartfelt thanks, thoughts, and prayers are with their families.

Loyalty Scheme:

At last year's AGM we agreed to continue with our 'Loyalty Scheme' for Branch bands, and the Treasurer advised that a fund of £2,000 would be set aside for this. So I'm delighted to present this year's awards to the following bands.

For full attendance at all 8 Branch Contests:
£800 – Camelon & District

For attendance at 7 out of 8 Branch Contests:
£500 - Stockbridge Grade 4

For attendance at 6 out of 8 Branch Contests:
£300 - Davidson's Mains & District Grade 4
£300 - Stockbridge Grade 3

Vote of Thanks:

As intimated previously, this year has brought to an end my period as Branch Chairperson. Having taken over from George Purves in 2003, I hope that I have continued to build the visibility of the Branch and added some value to proceedings along the way. I would like to thank all involved with the Branch over the years for their help and support, and I certainly intend to be around to offer any support and encouragement your new Chairperson may need, especially in their first year of office.

It's been hard work at some times over the years, but I have enjoyed it, and now it's time for someone else to put their stamp on it, and lead the Branch.

Secretary's Report:

This year has been another successful year for the Branch and I would like to congratulate all bands who were successful at both Local and Major competitions. I would also like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report:

Our Treasurer gave her report and any questions asked were answered satisfactorily. Details are available from the secretary by request.

This report was formally adopted by The Royal Scottish Dragoon Guards and seconded by Craigmount

Directors Report:

The Worlds format will remain the same .

The World Solo Drumming contest was very successful and changes to the Adult Final were successful and no critique sheets were provided for the Adult Finalists.

Registration checks at contests have been very successful and we have seen a drop in failures from 47% to just 2% during this season.

The fire at Headquarters has devastated the top floor and the building has now been made weatherproof. All staff will be decanted to other premises to allow building and refurbishment to go ahead.

2018 is the final year for Paisley – British Championships, Forres – European Championship and Belfast – Uk Championships. Contests have all been very successful and new venues and dates from 2019 will be advised when they are confirmed'

Music Board Report:

World Solo Drumming - Regional Qualifiers 2 places each from each qualifier. It would be good to see more big names enter this event which would, this would help to raise the profile of this event.

PDQB Certificate of Pipe Band Musicianship part 2 is now complete and students have all been notified, all students passed.

PDQB parts 4, 5 and 6 Piping and Drumming, there are over 300 students sitting various levels including:-

North of Scotland	75
Dundee Perth and Angus	60
Johnston	40
George Watson's College	40

The Summer School continues to be successful and provisional date for 2018 is 30th July.

Liaison Meetings – These are now taking part on a regular basis with all parties working well together.

Adjudicators have asked that the Music board look at the playing requirements for Grade 4B as some bands are not coping well with 2/4 marches.

It is hoped that a questionnaire will be sent out to all Grade 4B bands.

The Music Board have graded 76 bands this year and have checked 346 higher to lower transfers.

Dates for Major Championships:

Championship	Location	2018
British	Paisley	19th May
United Kingdom	Belfast	16th June
European	Forres	30th June
Scottish	Dumbarton	28th July
World	Glasgow	17th & 18th August

Stewards Report: Nothing to report.

Education Report:

Uptake for a the November workshop is disappointingly low and it was asked if there were any suggestions of what we could do increase band interest in the Outreach Programme. The Branch is willing to fund the costs for Tutors for this program. It was suggested these courses could be held at Band Practices.

Trophy Convenors Report: There is nothing to report

Elections:

Chairman Stewart Orr Unanimous 3 Yrs
President John Hughes Unanimous Elected Annually
Minute Secretary..... Peter Hazzard Unanimous 3 Yrs
Director..... Stewart Orr Unanimous 3 Yrs
Director..... Denis Johnston Unanimous 3 Yrs

We would like to welcome Michael Binder as our Magazine Reporter and would like to ask all branch bands if they have any information they would like to have in the Pipe Band Magazine can they please give information to Michael.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria for this year will be as follows

Secretary £600
Treasurer £600
Minute Secretary £350

Book of Eminence:

It has been decided that we will move this online and we will look at entries for George Purvis and Bill McMorran

Branch Fees:

Branch fees for 2018/2019 have been set at:

£80 including Education Fee for Adult Bands if paid prior to the 2018 AGM and £100 including education fee if paid after the 2018 AGM.

£60 including Education Fee for Juvenile bands if paid prior to the 2017 AGM and £80 including education fee if paid after the 2018 AGM.

Adoption of Auditors:

This is ongoing

AOCB

2018 Branch Meeting Dates:

- 28th January
- 25th February
- 25th March
- 29th April
- 30th September
- 28th October
- 25th November (AGM)

It was asked if the Vice Chairman could be more involved in some of the Chairmans Roll as it was felt that this would help the Vice Chairman to chair the meetings when the Chairman can't attend.

Outdoor Contests:

Dates for Local Contests

Contest	2018 Dates
Indoors - JYHS	Sat 24 th March
Dunbar	Sat 12 th May
West Lothian	Sat 26 th May
Edinburgh	Sun 24 th June
Burntisland	Sat 21 st July
Bridge of Allan	Sun 5 th August
North Berwick	Sat 11 th August
Peebles	Sat 1 st September
Innerleithen	Sat 8 th September

The North Berwick

This contest is now becoming so big that available space for parking is getting smaller every year and also the Final tuning available space is at a point that this is no longer adequate for the number of bands entering this contest across all grades. This will be discussed with the North Berwick Games committee.

Issuing the Drum Majors with wristbands was very successful and will be continued.

There are ongoing issues with band instructors and coach drivers being asked to pay to gain entry into the park.

Edinburgh

This contest went very well and meetings are ongoing with the council for next years event.

Car Passes

Parking Passes will be issued for Dunbar, West Lothian Highland Games North Berwick and Peebles.

There were no other points raised.

Meeting Closed 16.30