

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 28th November**

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| J. Hughes, President | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| L.A. Riad, Treasurer | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary | City of Edinburgh |
| M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chair | Scottish Fire & Rescue |
| W. Dalziel | Wallacestone & District |
| S. McQuillan, Music Board | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| I. Simpson, Music Board | George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B |
| M. Binder, Social Media | Royal High |
| Dave Purves | Queensferry Memorial Pipes and Drums |
| M. O'Neill | Fife Police |
| T. Thomson | Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia |
| G. Dyet, Chief Steward | Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia |
| Mel Rieley | Fife Police |
| B. Duncan | Royal Scots Dragoon Guards |
| L. Moore | Preston Lodge High School |
| W. McIntyre | George Heriots School |

Apologies: S. Orr RVM, B Watt, S Starr, E. Scott C. Reid, K. Reid MM

Welcome

As our Chair was unable to attend due to work commitments, our President opened the meeting.

I would like to offer the condolences of the L&B Branch to the family of Margaret Watters, the Band Secretary for Scottish Fire & Rescue, and a member of this committee, on her sad and sudden passing last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son James and the rest of her family and friends. Margaret will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Our Vice Chair, Malcolm, gave his condolences to Margaret Waters Family and said that she will be sadly missed by all.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM Proposed by City of Edinburgh and seconded by Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 81st AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

So last season was yet again cancelled due to the continued restriction in place as a result of Covid 19, and it has only been in the recent months that bands have been able to get back to practice in person. So, we wish the bands all the best in getting back up to strength for the coming season.

At this point I'm pleased to say that we have commitment to hold most of the regular contests again next year. My thanks to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment, which will hopefully enable us to sustain a healthy contest schedule. Clearly, we are wholly dependent on any government restriction around Covid that may be in place at the time, but will do our best to navigate these.

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.

Election of Office Bearers:

The Board of Directors have agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGM's unless this is specifically requested. Therefore, as per our Branch constitution and rules, and as a member of the RSPBA Board of Directors, our Vice-Chairperson, Malcolm Brown-Scott, will take the chair for the election of office bearers.

Major Championships:

| Championship | 2022 | Location |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| British | 21 st May | Gourock |
| United Kingdom | 11 th June | Lurgan |
| European | 25 th June | Inverness |
| Scottish | 30 th July | Dumbarton |
| World | 12 th & 13 th August | Glasgow |

Local Contests

| Branch Contest | 2022 | Venue |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Indoors | 2nd April | James Young HS Livingston |
| Dunbar | 14th May | Halhill Centre, Dunbar |
| Innerleithen | 4th June | Victoria Park, Innerleithen |
| Edinburgh | 19th June | Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh |
| North Berwick | 6th August | Recreation Park, North Berwick |
| Bridge of Allan | 7th August | Strathallan Park, Bridge of Allan |
| Peebles | 3rd September | Haylodge Park, Peebles |

2022 Branch Meeting Dates:

- 30th January
- 27th February
- 27th March
- 24th April
- 25th September
- 30th October
- 27th November (AGM)

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available by request.

John went through the balance sheet and there were no questions.
Proposed City of Edinburgh and seconded by Wallacestone and District

Director's report:

We have had a busy year with meetings taking place most months. John Hughes retired as Chairman and Kevin Reilly was elected to the role at the HQ AGM.

Headquarters are getting their staff back into the office and Ian Embelton's job is being advertised and we should be in a better position to give an update on this in December.

The new website for headquarters is up and running and has been for about a month now although some things are still being moved over and this should be complete early next year.

Next year's calendar is in place. It was asked if any information has come in with regards to the views on Covid19 and the situation of the branch.

George Watson's College asked if it would be possible to split the contest into an AM and PM event with and some bands attending in the afternoon with bands going home after they have performed.

Music Board Report

- The MB have agreed to discuss further the letter being sent to the BoD regarding their concerns about MB resignations. Both letters and other information to be tabled at next MB meeting before any further action.
- An external third party had asked the MB if they could publish the MAP tunes on their website which is a commercial site. An initial and subsequent response has been sent to explain the reasons this can't be approved by the RSPBA.
- The World Solo Drumming Group prepared a press release which has now been published with all dates and venues for the new Adult Solo drumming circuit. These can be found on the RSPBA Web and Social media channels. Please like and share the Social Media posts if you can and ensure all Adult drummers within your bands are aware. These new Championship tilted events also carry qualification to the World Solo Drumming semi-final events per the normal rules.
- The MB suggest the BoD review the survey to bands re the UK Indoor to decide next steps, (75% of the respondents believe the event is a good idea (to date, 52 responses - 159 invites, although less say they would be able/ready to enter)
- All other MB projects are ongoing. This includes the G1 World Pipe Band Championship development and the Docuseries.
- Following the Music Board survey and previous social media press release in 2020 and as intimated at the RSPBA 2021 Association AGM, the Novice Juvenile B and Grade 4B *static start* will be piloted at the Championship in Inverness- 2022, the All Ireland and the minor competition(s) prior to that date. As additional support, a member of the MB is hoping to provide an explainer video. However, bands should refer to the original announcement of the pilot and/or contact their Music Board Rep for further information. Please continue to remind all bands and if possible, can we highlight the pilot as a reminder via our Branch Social Media channel.
- The Playing requirements for the season 2022 have been prepared by the Format Group, approved by the MB and form part of the MB Report to BoD for the 4th December and subsequent publication. Adjustments have also been discussed and prepared by the Format Group if required because of Covid rule changes that might affect practise arrangements. This element will be reviewed and presented if required.

Trophy Convenor Report

Nothing to Report

Loyalty Scheme

Royal High asked if something could be done for the Drum Majors here as there was a feeling that they were being left out. It was said that it was only the bands which were registered with the branch then it should be up to the Drum Majors to take this up with their band to see how any money from this scheme is divided up and if a portion of this money could be paid to the bands Drum Major.

Elections

The following nominations were unanimously accepted: -

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | John Hughes |
| Secretary | Peter Hazzard |
| Malcolm Brown-Scott | Director |
| Lee Moore | Music Board Piping |

A proposal by the President to re-elect the remaining committee 'en bloc' was unanimously accepted.

Notice of Motion Branch Constitution and Rules

There was no notice of motion received.

Honoraria

As no alterations were proposed, it was unanimously agreed that the Honoraria would remain the same.

Book of Eminence

It was said that the book of eminence should be made up to date and that entries were received for Alex Dalziel, Bill McMorran and George Purves and Peter agreed to draught something for Ann Hazzard, and John agreed to draft something for Margaret Watters.

Branch Fees

2021/2022 Branch Fees to remain the same

Auditors

Our President will speak to C. Reid and E. Scott and ask one of them to act with Malcolm Brown-Scott in relation to auditing the accounts next year.

Meeting Closed 15.55pm

Next AGM November 27th 2022 at 3pm