

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 26th January 2020**

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Orr, Chairman	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Wallacestone & District
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
V. McMorran	Glencorse
D. Martin Director	Scottish Fire & Rescue
I. Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
M. Binder, Magazine Reporter	Royal High
Laury-Anne Boschman	City of Edinburgh
Andrew Johnston	Mackenzie Caledonia
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Watters	Scottish Fire & Rescue
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
Kevin Reid	RSPBA
E. Orr	RSPBA
Willie McIntyre	George Heriot's School
Christine Reid	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Elizabeth Scott	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Susan Starr	Peebles Ex-Servicemens
Paul Starr	Penicuik and District

Apologies: M. Brown-Scott, S McQuillan, C. Gray

Minutes

The Minutes of the November Meeting were Proposed by Royal High and Seconded by Police Fife Scotland

Matters arising:

There was a discussion on the New Tenor drumming Symbols and these will be made available to bands once they have been published by PDQB.

Secretary's report:

There was a response from Tweedvale on the playing requirements for the indoors.

Innerleithen have confirmed they would like to have a Grade 1 contest this year as the date is the week before a major championship it is hoped that grade 1 bands will show some interest.

Treasurer's report:

Our treasurer gave her report and details are available from our secretary by request.

Directors report:

The Finance committee are looking at the costs for this year's Summer School with the view to keep costs down as much as possible. There was an enquiry about Drum Majors at this year's Summer School and the D/M was advised to write in to HQ to register an interest.

We have been asked if we could possibly change the date of the Inverkeithing contest but the proposed date is the same day as North Berwick and as a branch we would not be allowed to run 2 contests on the same date.

The Music Board request to cancel the Grade realignment project was accepted by the Board of Directors.

Glasgow Life have put forward a proposal to host the World Championships for at least the next 5 years and this has been accepted by the Board.

A letter of thanks will be set to Mick O'Neill from the Branch. The branch has also agreed to make a small presentation to Mick for all of his work within the Branch.

We are looking at making the online forms on the RSPBA website editable, to save the need to print them off to fill in the details.

The Summer School will run from the 3rd to the 7th August this year in RSPBA HQ

Music Board Report

Keven Reilly expressed thanks to Mick O'Neill for his service to MB over the years.

Dropbox is now operating and so all MB members have access to it for minutes etc.

Social Media Policy - Some board members are hoping to obtain some guidelines, however this has now been passed to Board of Directors.

It was asked who are members of the RSPBA? is it players or band secretaries? In line with our Articles of Association and Constitution and Rules, it was confirmed that this lies with the band secretaries and it is the band secretaries who get to vote at the AGM, however they can elect to give proxy voting rights for the AGM and notification for this must be received by RSPBA HQ 2 weeks before the AGM.

Grade Re-alignment project has been stopped by B of D. Some members including me were surprised as most branch feedback was positive re "Development Grade". Some aspects may be included in future developments.

International TD competition – MB supported 6 Prizes to be given out same as snare drumming. Also S. McQuillan pointed out draw for adult Final was different from Juv section and he felt it should be same. The Branch President advised that the change in process was recommended by the Music Board Sub-Group for the WSD.

Solo Tenor Drumming assessors – MB Hold a list of approved names (Minute Nov 2018) Branches should be encouraged to use them.

Various Sub Groups ratified. Standards/Grading group will deal with any grading issues from now until September.

Gradings – 2 items relating to L&B – Queensferry Pipe Band new band Grade 4B

West Lothian Schools – Requested Juv to NJA – need to provide evidence of players lost.

The following Grading issues were discussed.

Uddingston Strathclyde 4B-request to be upgraded to 4A. Accepted by MB with monitoring from the Standards Group.

Troon Blackrock 4B-6th higher to lower transfer noted.-Leave band as 4B.

Govan Schools Novice B Pipe Band-name change to Govan Schools and Community Pipe Band- requesting 4B –agreed by MB.

Carnoustie & District 3 B -requested down grade to 4B-agreed by MB after discussion of evidence provided by the band.

Ballyboley 4 B -request to upgrade to 4 A -agreed by MB.

Broughshane & District 4B requested upgrading to 4A. After consideration of higher to lower transfers.

Kintyre Schools NoviceB -request to be upgraded to Novice A -accepted by MB.

Queensferry Pipe Band-new band requestinggrading. After considering current evidence and local knowledge, band was given 4B,with monitoring from Standards Group.

Kilmarnock Pipe Band – New band requesting Novice B agreed by MB.

Highland Thistle, Argentina 4B requested upgrade to 4A – agreed by MB

West Lothian Schools Juvenile – Appeal against the upgrading to Juvenile, wishes to downgrade back to Novice A. After discussions the MB decided the band is to remain in Juvenile with a request to provide further evidence regarding their Registration documentation

The Macanta-New band requesting 3B. After discussions and supporting evidence, agreed by MB.

Dollar Academy Juvenile-appeal to be downgraded back to Novice A. After discussions and consideration of evidence – agreed by MB.

Colmcille G2-request to down grade to 3A. After discussions and consideration of written evidence – agreed by MB stated they would be 3B, and Standards Group would monitor any further transfers.

The “Competition Format” document is being revised and updated by Theresa Brown

A new Group was also created called “Format Group” Basically to streamline the process of changes to competition Format. They can look at pros/cons of any changes/new ideas then report to full MB meeting.

There was some discussion on the following:-

Tom Brown from PB College presented a document to the Music Board for Discussion – with 3 main items.

NJB/Grade 4B (Development?) Standing start to help band improve their intro.

Halt at Line. Proceed to circle not playing. Once in place start as normal with 2 rolls.

Alternative Medley Intro (NOT MSR) for Grades 3, 2 & 1

As above ie march to circle not playing then either

A – Pipe Intro

B – Drum Intro

C- Combined Intro

All to be no more than 16 bars long

Open Circle Formation – All Grades – ie Edinburgh (But needs more admin/thought/logistics etc

It was asked if there would be an Adult Tenor Drumming contest at the International Tenor Drumming contest held in conjunction with the World Solo Drumming Championships. It was confirmed that there are no plans to introduce an adult section. This contest was always focused only on the juvenile players.

It was pointed out that there is an Adult contest at the Branch Indoors but this has been poorly attended in recent years.

Stewards Report

There was a Stewards meeting in December. It was said that the arena for March Past at the worlds was too small. It was also reported that there are still some directors who do not assist the stewards at the end of the day. It was said that this can be difficult when there is only one director in the arena as this director has to deliver the results to the compilers and also stays with the compilers until results are all entered.

It was reported that the poles from some tents tend to get quite dirty particularly when they are in the same bag as the tent pegs, this causes problems for the people dismantling the tents and packing them at the end of the day trying to keep their uniforms clean.

Education

There has been a presentation on the Certificate in Pipe Band Musicianship (CPBM) which is being opened up to bass and tenor and the criteria has still to be decided.

There has also been a presentation on a software package (ensemble) for recording where the Pipes, Snare and Tenor scores can all be seen together, this was very interesting and this could be good for learners and new members as this can help them understand how the integration from each comes together.

Trophies

Four new trophies have been purchased for the Branch champion of champions contest. The Trophy convenor for North Berwick has retired and Brian is happy to receive all trophies prior to the contest.

AOCB

Indoors

After consultation with the branch grade 3 and 4 bands on the playing format for the indoors i.e. whether they would prefer to have a mini band or full band contest. The response from grade 4 bands was 3 bands in favour of mini bands and 2 in favour of full bands. And the response from Grade 3 was 1 for full bands and 1 for mini bands and 1 who had no preference.

It has been decided that both grades will be mini band contests with Grade 3 being allowed to play up into Grade 2 which is a full band contest.

1st place winners at the juvenile piping and juvenile drumming events at the indoors will get the opportunity to attend the Summer School.

Outdoor Contests.

The Dunbar contests will both go ahead although sponsorship for this event is still being sought.

We have a small amount of sponsorship for the Edinburgh contest and more support is being discussed with Edinburgh Council.

Innerleithen, Bridge of Allan, North Berwick and Peebles are all confirmed.

RSPBA HQ Renovation

A discussion on the Headquarters renovation took place. The Board were approached by an architect firm way back in 2016 regarding the refurbishment of HQ. The Board commissioned this company to carry out a feasibility study and were encouraged by the options presented. Due to the depth of knowledge, skills, and experience of this company in renovating building like our own, and the range of services that they could provide, the Board of Directors were confident that they offered the best value for the Association. It was confirmed that a number of building contractors had bid for the work. The Board of Directors accepted the proposal made by the independent quantity surveyors to accept the lowest price tender.

A number of members at the meeting had been involved in meetings and education workshops over the last two weekends, and were impressed by the excellent facilities that have been provided to support the operation of the Pipe band College and the wider administration of the Association.

Meeting Closed 19.40pm.

Next meeting will be 23rd February at 6pm