

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
On Sunday 31 January 2021**

M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairman	Scottish Fire & Rescue
J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
S. Starr, Minute Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
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
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
G. Dyet, Chief Steward	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
V. McMorrnan	Glencorse
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Watters	Scottish Fire & Rescue
G. Cameron	Camelon & District
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
K. Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
L. Moore	Preston Lodge High School
B. Duncan	Royal Scot Dragoon Guards
M. Rieley	Police Scotland Fife
J. Kay	Wallacestone and District

**Apologies:** S. Orr RVM, E. Scott

**Welcome**

As the Branch Chairman was unable to attend due to work commitments, the Branch Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the October Meeting Proposed by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by Wallacestone

**Matters arising:**

There were no Matters arising.

**Treasurer's report:**

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

**Secretary's report**

There was nothing to report

### **Directors report:**

A reminder to all bands on the importance of paying Headquarter Fees, as this will allow them to vote at the RSPBA AGM.

The AGM is being held virtually on 13 March 2021.

There have been around 150 exams which have taken place, in line with the current Coronavirus restrictions, during December and January, with all practical assessment being done virtually. The results are currently being assessed.

### **Steward's Report**

Nothing to report

### **Education Report**

The next meeting of the Pipe Band College is on 6 February.

They are looking into the possibility of running SVQ Level 6. They are currently trying to see if there is a possibility of producing a theory paper which could be completed online.

J. Hughes asked if the Branch should do anything to assist the bands with some educational material. There is a potential of producing videos to be placed on social media platforms to assist community bands with their development. S. McQuillan was also in favour of this idea. It was agreed to wait until the Pipe Band College meets to move this forward. L. Moore advised that schools are still teaching although mostly using virtual platforms.

J. Hughes asked Ben Duncan if due to the current restriction in place, has his band found anything different. Ben advised that they had been issued with strict guidelines, published by the MOD, that they were required to follow, but were managing to have in-person practices within these guidelines.

### **Music Board Report**

Music board met on 9 January 2021, and discussed some of the following:-

Liaison Group – presented the Grade 4/NJ Static start, which ultimately may be delayed. The survey that was sent to all bands was valuable in understanding their views.

There is some discussion around the possibility of easing playing requirements for the 2021 season. There is guidance being released early February. It was asked for thoughts of Branch Bands. L. Moore asked how this would affect Juvenile bands. S. McQuillan advised that it would still be the same playing requirement, but just not the need to submit two sets. J. Hughes asked if only one set was to be submitted, then how would the World Qualifying rounds work. S. McQuillan advised there is potential for one set to be played in the qualifier and the other in the final. I. Simpson suggested that both are sets are played in both qualifier and final. S. McQuillan advised the Worlds will be getting looked at in a separate meeting.

There was some discussion about having the draws for Major Championships broadcast live. This will be discussed within the Marketing and Media Group.

WSD Group is currently working on options for qualifying events, for this year's event.

Player Transfers – it has been asked for this to be monitored closely should there be any sort of season this year.

### **Trophy Convenor Report**

Nothing to report, as we are currently in Lockdown the bands have not been asked to return the trophies.

### **Contests**

All promoters have confirmed that, if they were able, they would hold contests. It is looking doubtful that the first half of the season will run.

Meetings are being held early February with the promoters of the Major Championships. It is hoped that there will be confirmation of the first three Majors by early March, which in turn may have a knock-on effect for the proposed branch contests.

A small amount of funding has been secured from Event Scotland for the Edinburgh contest. This funding will be able to be carried over to 2022 if the 2021 event does not happen. The funding is yet to be received.

### **AOCB**

Headquarters Website – I. Simpson asked for clarification on this. J. Hughes advised that a new supplier has been found, but this comes with a cost. Scotia Web Design have agreed to continue to support the existing solution at the moment. Funding has also been applied for to cover the cost, but as of yet no decision has been received.

W. Dalziel asked the Branch Chief Steward to pass on here sincere thanks to all the Stewards for her lovely surprise that she received in December.

The Branch unanimously confirmed its support for the nomination of J Hughes as RSPBA Chairman at the upcoming RSPBA AGM.

Meeting Closed 18.55

Next online meeting will be 28 February 2021 at 6.00pm