

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 27th November 2011**

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
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
I. Simpson	George Watsons College
D. Brand	Newtongrange
G. Clark	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorran	Glencorse

Apologies:

N. Purves, G. Purves, C. McCluckie, M. O'Neill, J. Brand, B. Tait, W. McCafferty

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

W Dalziel requested a correction to the Secretary's Report in the minutes of the meeting of 25th September to accurately record that a letter of apology had been received.

With this correction, the minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2011 were approved by Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and seconded by George Watson's College.

Matters arising:

None

Secretary's report:

William Baxter wishes to put up a trophy in memorial to his wife Mary Baxter. Wilma will look to see where this could be best used.

Lorretto School have said that we may be able to get the use of the school for some of our events. The Secretary is to make enquiries.

Treasurer's report:

As Per the AGM balance sheet.

National Council report:

The next National Council meeting will be on the 3rd December when the bids for the 2013 world championships will be discussed.

Bids for the Scottish, British, and European championships are scheduled to be received by the end of February

Music Board report:

Appeals for regarding have been discussed and the only Branch band concerned is George Watson's College Novice band who appealed their promotion to Juvenile on the grounds of players a number of players moving on and several new members being taken on. Their appeal was upheld and they will now remain in the Novice Grade.

PDQB – there are 250 candidates sitting exams.

NI Branch are to hold a Grade 4 MSR Workshop.

A questionnaire has been sent to all Grade 4 and Novice bands offering a MSR workshop. These may be run on a regional basis. Branches have been asked for estimated costs of running these workshops.

The Branch were asked to consider whether or not we should introduce a maximum number of players for competing bands, either a maximum number should of registered members or playing members on the day. Views were expressed supporting both sides of the argument and our MB reps will take this feedback back to the next meeting.

There was a discussion on the format for a 2 day world championship. Ian Simpson has produced a document for discussion which will be sent out to the attendees of the meeting for feedback.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Nothing to report

Steward's report:

Nothing to report

Education report:

After some discussion it was agreed to move our indoor contest to the James Young High School, Livingston for 2012. Talks are being finalised and the school may also be available for our education courses. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will confirm progress to the committee.

Lorretto High School at Musselburgh may also be a possibility for our education courses. The Secretary is to make enquiries.

AOCB

A complaint from Peebles Highland Games with regards to the positioning of the arenas was discussed and also a complaint received by Peebles from a member of the public who complained about the PA system and in particular the commentary being given for the heavy events which spoiled the quality of the contest for some spectators. We will ensure that clear communication on the arena numbering is given to the organising committee at the draw.

There was also a discussion on whether we could proof the programmes for the contests to ensure that the correct details have been entered for the bands competing. This offer is to be made to the promoters at the various meetings.

It was asked if we had any objections to Bathgate and Peebles both introducing a separate Juvenile grade to their contests. After discussion it was agreed that the introduction of a separate Juvenile contest would be an advantage to both these contests and may even increase the total number of entries received.

We are still working towards introducing a fixed price contract for each contest. This would ensure that the promoters know in advance exactly what it will cost to hold the contest.

A band have asked for advice on how to get Headquarters to remove their ex members from their members list. They were advised to send in a registration/transfer form with the individual's details stating that they had now left the band.

The following dates have been set for the Branch meetings for the coming year.

Sunday 29th January – 18.00
Sunday 26th February – 18.00
Sunday 25th March – 18.00
Sunday 29th April – 18.00
Sunday 30th September – 18.00
Sunday 28th October – 18.00
Sunday 25th November (AGM) – 15.00

The Chairman wished all present a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

There being no more business the chairman closed the meeting at 5.50pm.

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 29th January 2012 at 6.00pm.