

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

S. Orr, Chairman	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
A. Dalziel, Vice Chairman	Craigmount
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder, Reporter	Stockbridge
V. McMorran	Glencorse
W. Dalziel	Craigmount
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
I. Simpson	George Watson's College NJB
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
G. Cameron	Camelon & District
A Rae	West Fife Schools
M. Rieley	Police Scotland Fife
P. Starr	Penicuik & District
C. Miller	Davidson's Mains & District
K. Napier	Davidson's Mains & District
G. Carruthers	City of Edinburgh Schools
S. Easton	Wallacestone & District

**Apologies:** M. Campbell, E. Hanratty, A. Hazzard, C. Marr, J. Gavin,  
S. McDonald,

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October were approved by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and Seconded by George Watson's College.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report**

John continued in the chair for this meeting.

**Secretary's report:**

There was no Secretary's report, but it was said that the online registrations for bands was working well.

**Treasurer's report:**

As AGM

**Directors report:**

There has not been a Directors meeting and the next meeting for the Directors will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.

Headquarters, the roof cover is now on the building making the building weather proof to allow work to continue.

### **Music Board report:**

New exam question papers have been prepared for next year's PDQB.

A questionnaire will go out to grade 4 bands to ask their opinion on the choice of tunes for Grade 4.

At some majors the qualifying heats may have more of the top bands in one heat, it was asked if this can be the same as the worlds and look at the places of the bands in the other majors then seed up to 10 bands with the remaining bands will be drawn randomly.

The Branch President, and RSPBA Vice Chairman, explained the process for band placement for all Grades at the World's as agreed with the Music Board a number of years ago. The bands position is taken from the CofC table for the preceding three Major Championships. They are split into two groups with 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> on the CofC Table being put into one group, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> being put into another group. All remaining bands were then randomly allocated to one group or the other. The Grade 1 allocation is slightly different as that is taken from the previous year's Worlds Final.

There was some discussion on introducing more adjudicators for major championships. There is a proposal to continue the pilot to allow adjudicators the option to confer.

### **Stewards Report:**

We have a few new stewards who have made themselves available for next season.

### **Education**

We are trying to make arrangement for some form of education course for in the first quarter of 2018.

We will also be organising a Drum Majors workshop around the same time.

West Fife Schools have registered an interest in any education courses run by the Branch.

### **Trophies:**

Everything is in hand with the trophies and the new Bathgate trophy in memory of George Purves will go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place band in Grade 2.

West Fife Schools indoor trophies will be taken to Headquarters.

### **Outdoor Contests:**

We are still looking for a sponsor for the Burntisland contest, however finances are in place to run this year's contest.

A CD of the photographs from this year's Edinburgh contest has been requested for the main sponsor Axios Systems.

There was some discussion on Grade 4 and Novice bands playing in combined grades. It is not ideal, but we cannot run an event for each grade of band. Further discussion on this at next month's Branch meeting where a decision will be made on which contests have combined grades.

It was confirmed by all that as a Branch we should continue to do our best to ensure that each grade gets the opportunity to play the criteria they will be playing at the next major championship.

Meeting Closed 17.30

Next Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January