

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 29th October 2017**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
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
D. Brand	Newtongrange
C. Marr	The Highlanders (4 Scots)
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
O. Brownlie	Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Novice
M. Clark	Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Novice
C. MacKinnon	Scottish Fire & Rescue Services
A. McLaughlan	Scottish Fire & Rescue Services
C. Fergusson	Scottish Fire & Rescue Services
G. Cameron	Camelon & District

Apologies: I. Simpson, L.A. Riad, S. Orr

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present especially bands not represented previously and also welcomed Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Bands to the Lothian & Borders Branch.

The minutes of the meeting 24th September were approved Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and Seconded by Stockbridge.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

Ann welcomed Scottish Fire and Rescue Services bands to the branch and confirmed receipt of letters from Headquarters confirming this.

Treasurer's report:

The Chairman advised that the books are now closed for auditing, therefore there was no report.

Directors report:

Headquarters are still looking for someone to take on the role of fundraiser.

A temporary roof cover will be put over Headquarters building to make the building weatherproof. This will allow the continued use of the building until March 2018 when

it is hoped that everyone will then be decanted out to other premises to allow all the repairs and refurbishment to go ahead unhindered.

There was a discussion to get a bulletin on the front page of the RSPBA website with clear links to date with the outcome of Directors meetings.

Music Board report:

There was considerable discussion on playing requirement of grade 4B bands, it was said that the 4B bands may benefit from playing march tunes of different time signatures as opposed to the current 2/4 tunes being played. This could mean that the Novice B bands and Four B bands are separated at branch contests, which could put a considerable financial burden on the promoters of some contests. This will require further discussion with information given and feedback requested from the bands. No other grades will be affected.

Trophies:

Brian and John have had a meeting with Bathgate Highland Games with a view to cutting the number of trophies and prize money being reduced. It is proposed that 19 trophies be cut from the list. The proposed list is

Nov & Four B 6 places
Grade Four A 7 places
Juvenile 6 places
Grade 3 6 Places
Grade 2 6 Places.

There will be no change to the Drum Majors trophies

Steward's report:

Thanks was given to the stewards for their hard work at the World Solo Drumming. It was asked why there was a delay in getting the information out to Stewards and also bands. The draw was later this year with a knock on effect to all concerned. This left many competitors having much less time to arrange pipers to play for them. If the draw is done earlier more time is given for all competitors and also officials to better plan their day.

Education

Davidson's Mains and District would like to get something organised for sometime after the year. In general the response from the bands is slow. The bands will be asked what would suit them better, an outreach course or would it be better to have a more experienced Pipe Major and Leading Drummer to attend some of their practices to give advice on how to structure of practice nights to improve the band. This is aimed towards the Novice and Grade 4 bands, but this could also include new grade 3 bands.

AOCB

Indoors:

The contest will be run on the same format as last year with the same bands entering full or mini bands as required. Once again playing up will not be allowed for some grades.

We will also host the P/M William Ferguson contest at this years event.

Outdoor Contests

Edinburgh are still looking for continuing sponsorship for this contest to allow this event to carry on in future years.

Burntisland are also looking for continued sponsorship with local businesses showing some interest.

There was a discussion on the Novice and Grade 4 bands playing in the same contest. It was said that one difficulty in splitting the individual grades is that it would require the promoters to put up more prize money and new trophies for the extra grades.

There was also some discussion on the fact that at branch level there is only one Novice Grade and one Grade 4 grade but these grades have been split into A and B grades at major championships. This causes some confusion when calculating Branch Champion of Champion points.

Loyalty Scheme

This year's Branch Loyalty Scheme awards will be presented at the AGM

Facebook Page

Michael now has access to edit the Branch Facebook Page.

New Trophy for BHG

There has been some discussion with W. Spence with regards to a trophy being donated in memory of George Purves, there may also be an ongoing payment of £500 as prize money for this trophy. The preference would be for this to go Grade 2 but Bathgate Highland Games would have the agree to which grade or event this goes to. It was also asked if Norma Purves could be consulted on the choice of trophy.

Child & Vulnerable Groups Protection Policy

Headquarters are putting together the above Policy and will publish it on the website once complete. Bands requesting information should be directed to our Education Officer, Pat Wheelan, who will be the contact for this.

Headquarters are currently redesigning their website and information will be available with clear links to information pages.

Meeting Closed 19.05

Next Meeting AGM on 26th November. The November Branch meeting will follow after a break for Refreshments and a small buffet.