

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

J. B. Hughes, President	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
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
G. Dyet, Chief Steward	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
L. Moore, Education	Preston Lodge High School
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
K. Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
M. Watters	Scottish Fire and Rescue
M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairperson	Scottish Fire and Rescue
E. Scott	Scottish Fire and Rescue

Apologies

S. Orr RVM, L. Riad, M. Rieley, M. Binder, M. O'Neill, B. Watt

Welcome

As the Chairman was unable to attend the Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the September Meeting Proposed by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by The City of Edinburgh.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer's report was provided on her behalf and details are available by request.

The accounts had been closed as of 30 September, and are ready for the audit prior to the AGM.

Secretary's report

There was nothing to report.

Director's report:

There is limited access to headquarters, due to the street closures that are in place due to COP26 taking place.

The Board have agreed to approach to the Royal Household to ask them to consider becoming a Patrons of the Association.

A gentle reminder that there are currently vacancies within the Pipe Band College, and applications are welcome.

Music Board Report

S. McQuillan advised the branch of the following points that were covered at the last Music Board Meeting.

- Correspondence has been received where two music board reps have resigned. The music board have discussed the contents of the resignation letters noting their concerns and disappointment and now wish to have a follow up with the Board of Directors. A letter is being prepared by the MB Administrator.
- A successful meeting has been completed with the EUSPBA, who will host the first event of the new international solo drumming circuit. The event will be held in February 2022, in Florida and it's also supported by the Dunedin Scottish Arts foundation.
- All Host Branches are requested to forward details for the press release based on email what is known, some are already preparing a plan B
- The MB/Format Group have issued the survey inviting bands to consider the UK Indoor Contest for March 2022. 75% of the respondents believe the event is a good idea (to date, 52 responses - 159 invites)
- All other MB projects are ongoing. These include the G1 World Pipe Band Championship development and the docuseries.
- As intimated at the 2021 Association AGM, the Novice Juvenile B and Grade 4 be *static start* will be piloted at the Championship in Inverness, and three minor competitions prior to that date. This being subject to the Championships season going ahead. All Branch Bands please take this reminder back to your bands as required.
- The Playing requirements for the season 2022 are to be discussed in full at the next Music Board meeting to consider amongst other things any easements.
- The MB have asked for clarity on how Standing Committees bring items to be placed on the Association AGM order paper.
- Next meeting- 20th October, 2021.

Stewards Report

There was nothing to report.

Education Report

There have been 2 recent meetings of the PBC.

The meeting on 28th September was inconvenient to most of the members so a second meeting was held on Saturday 23rd October.

The main items discussed were:

- The process of appointing the principals. – It is the View of the elected members to appoint the principals by election as per the current standing orders and that going forward these should be elected posts rather than selected.
- The AGM will take place on the 13 November when the post of Principal of Piping and the Principal of the Summer School will take place
- Discussions with SQA are ongoing as the SQA have currently put a hold on the certification of exams due to issues around the videoing the assessment process while it took place online. This is obviously a problem for our own members who have sat exams or want to sit exams. The internal verifiers and college principals have asked to be present at future meetings to lend their expertise to help resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

- There are clear views amongst the elected college members concerning the assessment and it should be made clear we have always conducted live assessments. Videos were not used as the source of evidence. This matter needs further discussion with SQA where the Principles and our Internal Verifiers are present. Our assessments are carried out live on an online meet platform so were essentially exactly the same as face-to-face assessments so why should they be treated differently. Also, the college hadn't received prior communication from the SQA that this would be required.
- The SQA demanding videos of all online assessments creates an unfair and equitable situation for candidates. Different local authorities have different policies around recording live online events.
- East Lothian Council for example use Google Meet for online activity but do not subscribe to the record facility. Other platforms like zoom where you can record are blocked by the school's internet service.
- Regarding payment for instructors for our own online PDQB course delivery
- We are proposing to charge a total of 30 hours between the 5 of us, charging only for the time spent on-line with the pupils. We have agreed not to charge for the preparation and admin time involved which it was substantial. We are happy to let that go as voluntary time worked for the branch.
- I am also working on producing videos covering the theory syllabus for all PDQB levels in piping which will be freely available for the branch and anyone else to use for future courses.

Trophy Convener's Report

The President has provided the list of Branch Band Details provided prior to the last AGM to assist with arranging the return of Trophies.

AOCB

Indoors.

The president has confirmed that James Young High school has been booked for 2 April 2022 for the contest to be held and the School are delighted to be holding the event again and have been very supportive.

Outdoors.

All contests have confirmed dates except for Edinburgh.

Vi McMorran

The President advised that a gift has been purchased and that arrangements will be made to present Vi with this.

The meeting was closed at 18.55

Next online meeting will be 28 November 2021 at 3pm for the AGM and closely followed by the November meeting.