

**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 September 2015**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
J. Carson	Kirkcaldy and District
L. Scott	Kirkcaldy and District
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Juv
D. Brand	Newtongrange
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Apologies: W. McCafferty, G. Purves, N. Purves, L.A. Hughes, W. McMorran, V. McMorran. B. Watt

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

A special welcome to two representatives from Kirkcaldy Pipe Band on their first visit to the L&B Branch meeting.

The minutes from the March meeting were Proposed by George Watson's College N/J and seconded by Craigmount Caledonia.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising

Secretary's report:

I was forwarded an email from John Starr of North Berwick Highland Games from Belhaven Brewery asking if we know of a band who will be taking part in the Tartan Parade in New York on 9th April 2016.

Although the Belhaven cannot formally sponsor a band they may be able to get the band in to some of the events taking place and they would also be topped up with beer and in return the band would play at some of these events.

Please let us know if this is something which would interest your band.

The Chairman agreed to put something on the Branch Facebook page.

Action: Chairman

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of our Treasurer our Chairman gave the report and details are available from the Secretary by request.

Directors report:

There is not a Directors meeting until next week but the finance committee will be discussing the bids for the 5th major for 2016. They expect to have had bids from a number of promoters including:-

- Ingliston, Edinburgh, Battery Park Greenock, and possible one or two others.

Music Board report:

Novice Juvenile Split for 2016 season complete and posted on the website.

58 NJ bands registered in total.

15 will be in Novice Juvenile A (3 are overseas). This is roughly 50% of NJ bands competing at Majors

Grade NJA bands will play MSR at Majors (Same as Grade 4A)

The others will all be graded NJB. These bands will play 4 x 2 parted marches at Majors. (Same as Grade 4B)

4 L & B Branch bands have been graded NJA. Erskine Stewart's Melville, George Heriots, George Watson's and Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate.

All grading decisions are on RSPBA website and are subject to B of D approval.

Music Board shall be looking at "re-aligning" all grades.

Education - SCQF level 6 exam will contain questions on sound going forward.

Rests will be included in level 2 monotones

2016 Major Championship Requirements

First & Third Championship - Grade 1 and 3A&B will be Medley. Grade 2 and Juvenile will be MSR

Second & Fourth Championship will be the opposite

World Adult Solo Drumming Qualifying Proposal was discussed.

1 - Plan is to have one additional semi final place awarded to as a result of local contests ran by the Branches, subject to the contests meeting certain criteria. (This is in addition to the existing pre-qualification semi final places)

2 - Look at replacing Hornpipe & Jig competition (in Final) with a 4-6 minute medley

Trophies:

Everything is ok with the branch trophies, we still have trophies for Melrose and Bathgate but they may be handed over to the promoters.

Steward's report:

Alex Thanked all the stewards for their hard work.

Education report:

Unfortunately only 5 individuals are showing interest in the upcoming Outreach Programme of PDQB courses and this includes 1 tenor drummer. If there are any others interested in this course then a decision will be required soon

This years course dates are Part 1 24th October, Part 2 7th November and the exam will be on 28th November.

There was a discussion on the format and duration of the courses and the dates of the course.

Outdoor Contests:

It was felt that the catering at Dunbar was not up to our usual standards and the Chairman will take this up with the organisers.

The size of the North Berwick contest was discussed and a few suggestions were tabled. Would it help if a third arena was used, should we stop bands playing up when the contest is as big as this year. It was said that it is a very long day for some people with one band tutor telling us that he left home at 6.15am and was still on the park at 6.15pm this is a total of 12 hours and that does not include travel home.

There was also some discussion on the best format for grades Novice A&B and Grade 4 A&B at North Berwick.

All present were asked to consider the question of how we should address the position of large entries at North Berwick, and also whether splitting Grade 4 into A & B would be helpful.

Action: All

Indoor Contest

The proposed date for the indoors for 2016 is the 16th April. The Chairman will contact James Young High School to ascertain if the venue is available. **Action: Chairman**

The feedback from the bands on Full band versus Mini Band contests was mixed and varied. The general feeling though was that a full band contest is best suited to Novice Juvenile, Juvenile, Grade 2 and Grade 1. Mini bands still look to be the best format for Grades 4 and 3. There may still be a need to only allow certain grades to play up, due to numbers. It was suggested that Juvenile and Grade 3 be allowed to play up into Grade 2.

Loyalty Scheme Awards

The loyalty scheme awards were discussed and the following bands will be presented with an award at the Branch AGM.

- Davidson's Mains and District,
- Davidson's Mains and District Junior,
- Hawick,
- Stockbridge Grade 4 and
- Stockbridge Grade 3.

Proposed Dates for Branch Contests 2016

Dunbar	14 th May
Bathgate	28 th May
Dunfermline	TBC
Burntisland	23 rd July
North Berwick	6 th August
Edinburgh	20 th August
Peebles	3 rd September
Innerleithen	10 th September

AOCB

There was some discussion on the ruling for Branch bands who pay their dues to Headquarters but not to the Branch, the rule was questioned but as it stands Branch bands who do not pay their Branch fees can compete in all open contests but cannot accrue any points in the Branch Championships or compete in Confined contests.

Police Scotland Fife have asked to be a member band of the Lothian and Borders Branch. The Chairman has discussed this with the Dundee, Perth, & Angus Branch and the necessary agreement made. Our Chairman will write to the band and advise them of the decision.

Action: Chairman

AGM

Any items for discussion at the AGM will have to be submitted at the next Branch meeting in order to be added to the agenda.

Innerleithen

There was some confusion with regards to the prizes for the Juvenile Drum Majors, A silver plate should have been given to the second place competitor but there was no plate to be handed out this year. It was therefore requested that the signing sheet for this trophy was cancelled.

There was also some confusion over the provision of medals for the Juvenile Drum Majors. This will be clarified with the Trophy Convenor and Promoters of Innerleithen prior to next year's contest.

Next Meeting

The next Branch Meeting is on 25th October at 18:00 in the Bellsquarry Village Hall.