

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 30th April 2017**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
S. Easton	Wallacestone & District
B. Watt	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
M. Binder	Stockbridge
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Juvenilee

Apologies: B. McMorran, V. McMorran, A. Dalziel, W. Dalziel, S. MacDonald, T. Thomson, M. O'Neill, D. Brand

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting 30th April were approved by Stockbridge and Seconded by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

Preparing everything for the AGM. A letter received from Headquarters asking for date and venue for the AGM and another requesting the dates for next year's contests and also the Adjudicator requirements for these contests.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and details are available from our secretary by request.

Directors report:

Higher to lower transfers were discussed.

Headquarters insurers have made a financial settlement to cover the repairs to the building following the fire, this has been accepted. A decision to go ahead to refurbish the building has been agreed and the work is planned to start around March 2018 and will take around 6 months to complete. Headquarters are looking to relocate to other premises whilst this work goes on.

There was a discussion on the Adjudicators Training and the adjudicators would prefer to continue with the option to Confer, but only on the musical performance and not the placing of bands. The consultative sessions following the grade will be utilised as an education activity for the adjudicators as and when required by the Adjudicator Development Group.

This cannot be applied to Drum Majors as, with the exception of the Worlds, each adjudicator is judging a different discipline.

Music Board report:

The Music Board are still without a convenor and it is hoped that a new convenor will be elected at the January meeting.

There was some discussions on the re-grading, there are a few Branch bands who have been promoted this year including:

Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles from 4A to 3B

The Highlanders 4 Scots from 3B to 3A

Wallacestone and District from 3A to 2

Denny & Dunipace Gleneagles from Grade 2 to Grade 1.

Congratulations to all of these bands on the promotion.

All re-gradings have been published on the RSPBA website.

There was a discussion on the playing criteria for some of the grades, there was also a discussion around the possibility of further splitting Grade 4B.

Further discussion was held about Grade 4B bands, some of these bands are happy to continue playing in the position they are but there are also good numbers of 4B bands who are striving to move up from this grade. There has also been discussion on Grade 4B bands playing 3/4 or 4/4 marches, this could lead to a more musical performance from some of these bands.

There was a discussion around using the Friday of the Worlds as a qualifying day. However the majority of the lower grade bands have rejected this suggestion previously due to the additional cost of accommodation/travel and the reduced numbers due to members having to take time off. It was also mentioned that some of the Grade 1 are down on numbers on the Friday as not all of their players can get the time off work either.

There was a discussion on having the draw for grade 1 on the Friday due to seeding bands for the heats.

The results from the first 3 majors are currently put into a table to allow better placement of the bands in the heats to prevent the majority of the top bands playing in the same heat.

A question was asked as to why the Adult Drum Majors at the worlds had a final of only 4, it was pointed out that prior to the final there had been a semi final of two heats of 4.

Trophies:

Everything is good and a new length of tartan for the display tables has been purchased

Steward's report:

No report

Education

There has been some discussion on workshops but there has not been much response. It is planned to run workshops for Grade 4 Pipe Majors and Leading Drummers towards the end of October. This will focus on discussions with band leaders and Tutors to determine what they would like from the workshops. John will liaise with John Nevans to discuss what we can do to get the best from these workshops

We will speak to John Noble about having a Drum Majors workhop.

There workshops will be provided by the Branch at no cost to the Branch Bands.

AOCB

INDOORS

The James young High School have proposed the 24th March for the indoor contest after a discussion we decided to accept this date

OUTDOOR CONTESTS

The dates for the outdoor contest will be:-

Dunbar	12 th May – to be confirmed
Bathgate	26 th May
Edinburgh	24 th June - Date only confirmed
Burntisland	21 st July – Date only confirmed
Inverkeithing	4 th August – This is run by the games committee and has no L&B Branch involvement at this time.
Bridge of Allan	5 th August
North Berwick	11 th August
Peebles	1 st September
Innerleithen	8 th September

LOYALTY SCHEME

This year's Branch Loyalty Scheme awards are as follows:-

Camelon & District	8 contests	£800
Stockbridge Grade 4B	7 Contests	£500
Stockbridge Grade 3A	6 Contests	£300
Davidson's Mains & District	6 Contests	£300

These awards will be made at the AGM on 26th November 2017.

RESIGNATIONS

William McCafferty has tendered his resignation as a Director, due to limited time being available and other personal commitments . The Branch wish to thank William for all of his work over the last few years, and wish him all the best for the future.

A letter of thanks will be sent to William for all the good work he has done for the Branch.

Gordon Hamill will be standing down from his position as Chairman of the RSPBA and the Branch will support John Hughes with his nomination for this position.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Michael Binder has agreed to take over the Branch Facebook page.

Wallacestone and District Pipe Band are celebrating their 130th year and will hold a Ceilidh on 24th November to celebrate. Tickets are priced at £24 and are available from the band.

Meeting Closed 19.15
Next Meeting 29th October