

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Polbeth Village Hall, Polbeth
On Sunday 30th September 2018**

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
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder, Reporter	Stockbridge
V. McMorran	Glencorse
W. Dalziel	Craigmount
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
S. Easton	Wallacestone & District
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Clark	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
O. Brownlie	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
D. Martin	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
I. Simpson	George Watson's College

Apologies: S. Orr, I. Simpson, S. McDonald, M. O'Neill, E. Todd, D. Todd

Welcome:

John Hughes took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 29th April were approved by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by Craigmount.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

Ann congratulated all bands who were successful at our contests and major championships this year

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report, details available from the secretary by request.

Directors report:

The major championships for 2019 were confirmed as follows:-

British Championship	Paisley	18 th May
United Kingdom Championship	Lurgan	15 th June
European Championship	Inverness	29 th June
Scottish Championship	Dumbarton	27 th July
World Championship	Glasgow	16 th & 17 th August

It was asked if the RSPBA van would get access to the park at Lurgan or if we would get assistance to unload and load the van. Branch President will progress with the event organisers.

GDPR regulations have been implemented and new documents are available on the RSPBA Website for registrations and transfers. As a branch we do not hold any information not

held by Headquarters, however we must be mindful about giving out any information held by individual officials.

The Adjudicator Panel Management Board have been asked to re-vamp information on the website relating to applications to become an adjudicator.

Work is in hand by RSPBA Marketing and Media Committee to upload a bulletin to the RSPBA website giving information on the key issues discussed at Directors meetings.

There was discussion on the Outreach Program, this seems to work for some branches but not for others. Branches seem open to share the courses they are running with other Branches, this will allow both bands and branches to benefit.

Headquarters – Planning Consent for the refurbishment has all been approved and work is ongoing to secure funding.

Music Board Report

It is hoped that sample drum scores for approved tunes to act as a guide will be put onto the website.

The Education Management Group has now been restructured in to The Pipe Band College as intimated at the RSPBA AGM.

Various courses are running and funding is available to support instructor costs.

The Drumming syllabus for the PDQB courses has now been revised.

The re-gradings are now up on the RSPBA Website. There are a also some higher to lower transfers which will be looked at by the Grading Group.

A group has been formed to look at the Competition Format Reviews and will report back at the November meeting.

Grade 4 Survey – It was said that Grade 4A bands should not be allowed to play down to Grade 4B and on the whole Grade 4 bands are happy with the playing requirements.

At the World Solo Drumming the Tenor Drumming will remain to be called the International Tenor Drumming

World Solo Drumming Review:-

- a) Changes that were implemented last year will be monitored to ensure that they are giving the desired results.
- b) No critique sheets for Adult Semi-Finalists and Finalists this year.
- c) In Juvenile tenor drumming there are 5 age groups as snare drumming, it would help if branches could organise their contests in similar age groups.
- d) A questionnaire is being put together to determine the tenor playing requirements to be compatible with the equivalent snare drumming World status.
- e) A form of training is required to produce Tenor Drumming Adjudicators/Instructors for the Solo Tenor Drumming Championships.
- f) Current adjudication is being criticised for not taking into consideration the flourishing aspect of tenor drumming.
- g) There is currently no internationally recognised symbols or names for flourishing techniques, it was suggested that other bodies like the army be contacted to enquire about their methods.

There has been discussions in the liaison group on the number of adjudicators at major championships. One suggestion was to increase the number to 6 – 2 piping, 2 drumming and 2 ensemble. The meeting felt that increasing the number of adjudicators may increase the problems with more opportunity for discrepancies in results. There was however support for a pilot to experiment with extra drumming and ensemble adjudicators at 1 of the majors next year across all grades. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

There was unanimous support for a one day World Championship for future years. A question arose as to whether there was a contractual obligation to hold a two day event with either the BBC or Glasgow City Council. The President confirmed that the two day worlds was at the RSPBA's request, and not the BBC or Glasgow Life. However, we have committed to let members know of any material changes to format one year in advance, and usually include it in the Worlds programme.

It was stated that there appeared to be no support for a Friday Juvenile Championship, however a formal approach does not seem to have been made. This to be taken back to the Music Board.

There was a complaint from a band having qualified for a place in the final being asked to play for Drum Majors between the heat and the final. Could non qualifying bands be asked to do this task or could bands be paid to do this job that may be prepared to play for all performances required producing a consistent performance. The President confirmed that at the point when a band is asked to play for Drum Majors they do not know if they have qualified or not. No band played more than once for Drum Majors on the day.

The pilot for an eight drum major semi-final and 4 person final in 2017 was not well received and reverted back to the normal.

Stewards Report

Thanks was given to all stewards for their work during the season.

There was a complaint from one director saying that there were too many people directing bands for massed bands. This will be taken up with the RSPBA Vice Chairman.

Due to the wet weather at the Worlds this year all tents were returned to headquarters wet and it was a mammoth task getting them all dried out and repacked as these tents need to be dried by hand unlike the previous tents.

Education

The Branch are not running any outreach programme this year, however a number of students from Branch bands are taking part in the session run by Dundee Perth and Angus branch.

Trophies

There is not much to report and the Thomas Grotian has been returned.

There were problems with the laying out and presentation of the trophies mainly due to the fact that Peebles officials thought that the trophies were presented in reverse order. It was asked if we could take over Peebles trophies but after discussion it was decided to discuss the issue with Peebles next year and ensure everyone is aware how the presentation will run.

I was agreed that the address for trophy returns would be highlighted on the contest information sheet on the website.

Indoor Contest

This contest will be held on the 6th April next year, this date works out well with school holidays, giving staff more time to ensure everything is returned to normal for the start of the next term.

Outdoor Contests:

The proposed dates for next year's contest are:-

Dunbar.....	11 th May
West Lothian Highland Games.....	25 th May
Edinburgh.....	23 rd June
Burntisland	20 th July
Inverkeithen	3 rd August
Bridge of Allan	4 th August
North Berwick	10 th August
Peebles	7 th September
Innerleithen.....	14 th September

As in previous years there will be no Drum Majors contest at Edinburgh due to the limitations of the venue.

Letters will be sent out by the Branch Secretary to allow the promoters to confirm the above dates. Meetings will be arranged with promoters where necessary.

AOCB:

It was asked if the cheque for grade 4 MSR at Innerleithen had been received after mix up with the information in the program on the day and it was confirmed this was received. The approved contest information sheet clearly states that there will be only three prizes in the Grade 4 MSR, however in the programme it said there were four.

It was asked if the branch could hold more solo contests. The President supported this idea, however there would need to be additional external sponsorship for these events.

The Scottish Schools Contest will be on 10th March at Inveralmond School.

It was reported that there was an issue at the Worlds with the big screen showing the wrong times which affected one of the Branch Bands. It appears that one time for one band was incorrect, however the times for the band before and after were correct.

There were issues with tuning areas for Arena 7 and 8 at the Worlds. This will be picked up by the RSPBA Vice Chairman.

The AGM will be on 25th November at 3.00pm and this will be followed after a short break by our November Branch meeting

Meeting closed 19.15

Next meeting 18:00 on 28th October at Bellsquarry Village Hall