

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch
Of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club, Edinburgh
On Sunday 25th November 2007

Band representatives present:

W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
G.Craig, Vice Chairman	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School
J.Brand	Penicuik
W.Dalziel	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Dalziel	Lothian & Borders Police
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
LA Oubbaih	Linlithgow
S.Hazzard	Bo'ness
P.Starr	Duns
T.Fergusson	North Berwick
A. Cook	Lothian & Borders Police
I. Simpson	George Watson's Collage
C.Galleitch	Duns
C.McLuckie	Bo'ness
D.Brand	Newtongrange
Kevin Rielly, Chairman	R.S.P.B.A.

Apologies:

N.Purves, A. Angus, D.Barnes

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also welcomed and introduced Kevin Rielly, Chairman of the R.S.P.B.A.

Minutes of the 2006 AGM:

The minutes of the 2006 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by Craigmount High School and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Chairman's report:

This year we ran one indoor and six outdoor contests. This was one less than last year as Hawick was cancelled.

We also ran a successful structured learning course with twenty-two candidates taking the exam in April. This was the very first course run under the new Piping and Drumming Qualification Board, and we had an excellent success rate of 96%.

My thanks this year to our two new instructors John Connor and Bill Black for their commitment and determination to get the candidates ready.

My congratulations also go to the bands who won the Branch Champion of Champions:-

Novice Juvenile	George Watson's College
Grade 4	Newtongrange
Juvenile	George Watson's College
Grade 3	Tweedvale
Grade 2	Torphichen & Bathgate
Grade 1	Lothian & Borders Police

This year was a little lean for the Branch in terms of success at the Majors. The exception being the Juvenile Grade where the Branch took first and second spot, with George Watson's College topping the table and second place going to Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia, and the Grade 1 Drumming award which went to Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia.

Next year we will again be running one indoor and seven outdoor contests and the Secretary will give you more details in her report.

The 2008 Major Championships are:

Scottish Championships-May 24th at Dumbarton.

British Championships-June 28th at Birmingham

European Championships-July 26th at Lisburn

World Championships-August 16th at Glasgow

Cowal Championships-August 30th at Dunoon.This contest has yet to be confirmed.

There were two regradings within the Branch:

Bo'ness 3A to 3B by request

Duns 4A to 3B

In closing, I would like to extend my thanks to the Branch bands, their representatives and the Branch Committee and Office Bearers for their help and support during the past year, and for making this Branch one of the best run and most active Branch in the R.S.P.B.A.

Secretary's report:

I have enjoyed my first year as secretary and found the position to be quite a challenge at times but also very enjoyable and rewarding. I think that everything went well at all the contests this season and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support.

It is now time to start working towards next season and we have already started working on next seasons events including the Structured Learning course and the Indoor Contests.

All the contest dates for next season have been confirmed with the exception of the Indoor Contest. We have had confirmation that the Hawick contest will not go ahead this year again.

I am sure with the continued hard work and support of the committee and also the bands themselves we will continue to have the success that the Branch has had in recent years.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented an account of the Branch funds and asked for any questions regarding them.

National Council report:

There had been a number of long meetings throughout the year and a lot of business had been done, but the National Council is becoming more structured and efficient with it's business.

There are a good number of sub committee reports that are presented at the meetings, and we do our best to distil this information at the Branch meetings.

Music Board report:

The Championship criteria are reversed for 2008. So if you played an MSR last year in say the Scottish, you will play a medley in 2008 at the same contest.

The Worlds Grade 2 split (28 bands). It has been reported by the Music Board that no Music board members were consulted. However this statement was contested by G Purves and will be discussed at the National Council meeting on 1st December. Music Board members must be involved prior to any decisions.

PBQB update. Instructor's course starting January 2008.Branches to forward names to headquarters.

Pipe band studies, well advanced but still one or two points to overcome.

Regradings are subject to National Council approval.

The Music Board would like the Chief Executive Officer and two National Councillors to facilitate Adjudicators allocations for all contests.

The Music Board will produce a document on Competition Procedures.

The MAP contest now has three tunes and the timings will remain the same.

Education report:

The Branch ran a Level 2 PDQB course at which nineteen sat and all passed. This was the first time any organisation had run the exams under PDQB syllabus. As a result there were a few differences from the RSPBA Structured Learning exams. A level 3 or 4 course will start either February or March next year. Pibroch will be included this time, with a Ground and one variation for Level 3 and a full Pibroch for Level 4.

A venue is still to be found for the courses.

When questioned on the detail of the exam results it was explained that only a pass or fail was given. No further breakdown of the exams could be given.

Trophy Convenor's report:

By the end of the season bands were returning trophies on time. All trophies must be returned at least four weeks prior to the contest they are for. Bands failing to do so risk disqualification and fines.

Election of Office Bearers:

At this time Kevin Reilly took the chair to oversee the elections.

Nominations:

Vice Chair. Alex Dalziel.nominated by Torphichen & Bathgate, Linlithgow.

Treasurer. Lesley Anne Oubbaih.nominated by Linlithgow, Craigmount High School.

National Council. John Hughes. Nominated by Linlithgow, Torphichen & Bathgate

Music Board (Piping) Iain Simpson. Nominated by Torphichen & batgate, Craigmount High School, Linlithgow

Music Board (Drumming) Arthur Cook. Nominated by Torphichen & Bathgate, Craigmount High School, and Linlithgow.

Committee members: Grant Craig, Teresa Clarke, Peter Hazzard and George Purves were all nominated by George Watson's College and North Berwick.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria should be:

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £400

Book of Eminence:

It was asked the Gordon Blaikie be included in this book. Teresa Clarke to provide some background on Gordon.

A.O.C.B.:

The Branch website now mimics the R.S.P.B.A. site and has had 4 million "hits".
The advertiser's fees now cover the cost of the website

The Branch will have been in existence for 70 years on January 2009. It was asked if the Branch might do something to celebrate this milestone.

At this time the Kevin Reilly gave the Branch a very interesting and informed plan/slide show on how we might like to see the Association move forward over the next 75 years. There was much debate and many questions were asked. The questions will all be answered once all the other Branches have had a chance to hear Kevin's talk.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Kevin and then closed the meeting.