

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in The Students Association, The Pleasance, Edinburgh, on Sunday
30th November 2008.**

Band representatives present:

W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
R.Fairnie	Prestonpans
A. Lyon	Tweedvale
J.Brand	Penicuik
G.Craig	Lothian & Borders police
A. Cook	Lothian & Borders police
V.McMorran	Glencorse
S.Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
F.Philip	Torphichen & Bathgate
G.Whitmore	Stockbridge
E.Hanratty	Penicuik
C.Ferguson	Linlithgow
H.Ferguson	Linlithgow
A.McLaughlan	Linlithgow
C.McCluckie	Bo'ness
A. McNeill	Newtongrange
I. Simpson	George Watsons College
P.Starr	Bo'ness
S.Hazzard	Bo'ness
D.Brand	Newtongrange

Apologies:

C.Gray, N.Purves.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also welcomed and introduced Ian Embelton, Chief executive of the R.S.P.B.A.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM:

The minutes of the 2007 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by George Watsons College and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Correspondence:

There had been no correspondence.

Chairman's report:

This has been another busy year for the Branch, and I would like to thank all members of the committee and their families for the help and assistance given to me during the year.

This year's indoor solo and mini band competition was another successful event. This is now the largest indoor competition in the UK. As ever, volunteer helpers are critical to the success of this event, and we could do with some more help to ensure this contest runs smoothly. We are still looking for a band or organisation to run the catering for this event in 2009.

We again ran six outdoor contests during the year, with Hawick still not back on schedule. We had discussions regarding the introduction of a small Grade 4 contest at Tweedbank but unfortunately the sponsorship fell through at the last moment. The weather was a bit mixed this year resulting in a change of venue for Peebles late in the season.

My thanks again to the Promoters of these contests for working in partnership with the Branch to ensure we continue to provide the facilities for the bands to compete at the highest level. As everyone knows sponsorship is difficult to come by, so the Branch needs to be as helpful as possible to ensure that these contests if at all possible.

If re-elected as Chairman, I intend to meet with all of the Promoters early in 2009 to ensure we run these contests as efficiently as possible. Both the Secretary and Vice Chairman will join me at these meetings to ensure continuity and effective information sharing.

Unfortunately we were not in a position to run any educational courses this year due to changes in the syllabus and a need for clarification on the provision of instructors. It is hoped we will get back on stream with our education programme as soon as possible.

Congratulations to our Branch bands who achieved success in the major championships, and to Torphichen & Bathgate who gained promotion to Grade 1, and to Stockbridge who gained promotion to Grade 4A.

The Branch continues to be one of the more active in the R.S.P.B.A. and thanks go to the committee for their continued efforts, time and commitment to make this happen. As I do each year, I would ask as many bands as possible to send along a representative to the Branch meetings. This is the bands opportunity to get involved and have a say in how the Branch operates.

Secretary's report:

As a Branch we have had a very successful season and there were no major problems at any of the Branch contests this year other than those caused by the weather. The Peebles contest was changed to another venue just days before the contest due to the poor condition of the park but the contest still went ahead with no real problems.

I would like to congratulate:

George Watsons College Novice Juvenile
Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Novice Juvenile
Seafield & District
Stockbridge
Prestonpans
Hawick
George Watsons College Juvenile
Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Juvenile
Penicuik & District
Torphichen & Bathgate
Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Grade 1.

All were all placed in the major championships this year with a special mention to both Stockbridge and Torphichen & Bathgate who took both Champion of Champions both as a band and drumming and also George Watsons College Novice Juvenile and Juvenile bands who took both Champion of Champions for drumming.

Our own Champion of Champions was as follows:

Novice Juvenile	George Watsons College who also took the drumming.
Grade 4	Stockbridge who also took the drumming.
Juvenile	George Watsons College who also took the drumming.
Grade 3	Tweedvale who took the band and Bo'ness took the drumming.
Grade 2	Torphichen & Bathgate who also took the drumming.
Grade 1	Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia who also took the drumming.

Andy Lyon is Branch Drum major Champion of Champions.

I would like to thank everyone from the bands and committee for their support over the last two years and hopefully, with the continued hard work from everyone, the Branch will continue to be as successful in the future.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented an account of the Branch funds and asked for any questions regarding them.
There were no questions.

National Council report:

Our National councillors have had a very busy year and had attended all but one meeting.

It was said that all adjudicators at the Majors championships are to have a tent each.

Music Board report:

The 2009 Major Championships have been selected.

Competition procedures have been completed.

Job descriptions for the Music Board are complete.

There have been 22 gradings throughout the season.

This is the end of the third year for the MAP contests, comments and feed back is asked from the bands.

Integration of PDQB and SQA accredited certificates.

Input and discussion on

1 World Championships

2 Northern Ireland proposals, 2 piping, 2 drumming and 2 ensemble Adjudicators.

3 Indoor Mini band rules.

These have all to be ratified at the next National Council meeting.

Education report:

There was no report.

Trophy Convenor's report:

There was no report.

Election of Office Bearers:

At this time Ian Embelton took the chair to oversee the elections.

Nominations:

Chairperson. John Hughes. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

Minute Secretary. Donald Brand. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

Magazine reporter. Joan Brand. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

Trophy Convenor. Wilma Dalziel. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

National Council. Bill McMorrان. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

Committee member. Stuart Orr. Nominated by Stow, Torphichen & Bathgate, Glencorse, Peebles, Stockbridge and Bo'ness.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria remain at the same level.

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £400

Book of Eminence:

It was agreed to include Nail Fairgrieve, a drummer with Haddington Pipe band into the Book of Eminence.

Changes to Constitution:

As there had been no written Branch Constitution & Rules one was drawn up. It was discussed at the meeting and with some minor alterations was accepted by all bands present

The agreed fine for non return of trophies and the non appearance of bands and drum majors was to be £50

New amended copies of the Constitution and Rules will be sent out to all branch bands.

A.O.C.B.

All job descriptions are in and are to be discussed at the January 2009 Branch meeting.

There have been some issues with getting items posted onto the Branch website. Future inclusions will be on within forty-eight hours of them being received by the web manager.

There followed a presentation from Ian Embelton on The Way Forward. There was some discussion and questions were asked for. Feedback from the bands was encouraged and this will be transmitted to the R.S.P.B.A.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.