

**The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Community Hall, Bellsquarry, on Sunday 12th December
2010**

Band representatives present:

W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA.Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
D.Brand, Minute Secretary	Newtongrange
S.Hazard	Newtongrange
V.McMorran	Glencorse
I. Bowden	Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
J.Brand	Penicuik
M.O'Neill	George Watson's College
L.McLaughlin	Craigmount High School
J.Barnes	Craigmount High School
A. Brown	Craigmount High School
S.Brown	Craigmount High School
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
W.McIntyre	George Herriot's School
P.Hazard	Bo'ness

Apologies:

A. McLaughlin, C.Ferguson, C.McCluckie.

Minutes of the 2009 AGM:

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were read and formally adopted by Newtongrange and seconded by George Watson's College. There was one change to be made in the minutes and this was corrected.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He then went on to present his report:

Welcome to the 75th Annual General meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

During this past year, we have sadly lost a number of friends and colleagues from across the pipe band world. At this point a moment of silence of remembrance was called for.

2010 brought many challenges but especially in relation to the widespread financial crisis which has had an effect on many areas of society and the Branch was no exception. A few weeks after the AGM last year we were

advised that the promoters of the Dunbar contest were withdrawing support due to lack of finance. Fortunately we were able to develop a existing relationship with East Lothian Council we were able to provide both financial and logistical support for the contest, and we successfully ran the contest at the new venue of Hallhill Healthy Living Centre.

Thankfully all of our other sponsors managed to support the Branch although all said that finances were difficult. So my thanks to all of them and their organising committees, as without their support and hard work, we would not be in a position to run some of the most successful contests in the country. And I am pleased to say at this point we have commitment to hold all of the contests again next year, plus the addition of a 7th outdoor contest at The Royal Highland Centre in July 2011.

My thanks also to the members of the Branch committee and their families for their support during the year. The key to a successful branch is the members of that branch working together for a common aim. Yes, at some points we may disagree, but it's critical to remember that everyone is working for the benefit of the bands and the long term future of the Branch. So your patience, resourcefulness and tireless dedication are a credit to you all.

Donald and Joan Brand have intimated that they will not be standing for re-election this year, so I would like to offer my thanks for their many years of support, and I hope that they will consider being members of the wider branch committee.

This year the National Council have agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGM's unless this is specifically requested by the Branch. Therefore, as per our constitution and rules, and as a member of the RSPBA Executive Committee, it will be my responsibility to take the chair for the election of office bearers.

Secretary's report:

Once again we have had a very successful and enjoyable season. We have had a few challenges this year; the biggest was having to find a new sponsor for the Dunbar contest. After a lot of hard work from our chairman a new sponsor and a new venue was secured and everyone seemed to have a good day. Thanks to the hard work from everyone involved all our contests went without any major issues.

I would like to thank all the bands who attended our Branch contests this year, without your continued support these contests would not be as successful. I would like to congratulate all Branch bands who were successful at both Branch and Major Championships.

I would like to thank everyone from the bands and committee for their continued support and look forward to the continued success of the Branch.

Treasurer's report:

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

It was agreed that Janice Simpson be given a cheque for £50 for her work in auditing the Branch accounts.

National Council report:

General:

It was agreed that the full National Council meetings in December and May would be trialled as Executive meetings to try and improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Some issues with overseas adjudicators were satisfactorily resolved.

Contests:

This year was the first year of the three year deal for the Scottish at Dumbarton, British at Annan, and Europeans at Belfast. The World's also started its latest three year stint at Glasgow.

The playing requirements for 2010 followed the established rule of reversing the previous year's requirements at each of the championships.

We successfully kept the start times for all majors except the Worlds to 10am at the earliest.

There was a proposal for a solo tenor drumming contest to be run by the association, however a venue could not be found so it will attempt to be rescheduled for 2011.

Agreed that the English Championships should rotate around the larger English contests.

Marketing & Media:

This year we agreed to outsource the production of Association merchandising to an external company called BIG. This company has taken over the responsibility for creating a new logo for the merchandise and the creation of a range of clothing and other items. These were retailed at all major championships with growing success.

Finance:

It was agreed to consider the creation of centralised funding for adjudicators. The necessary data is being gathered from the branches. Our average cost was just under £43 per adjudicator.

Standing Orders:

David Murdoch has advised of his intention to take a year out. J.Hughes was approached to take over as convenor for the standards committee.

Adjudicators:

Updates to the Adjudicators code of practice were agreed and published.

A document was produced looking at the future adjudicator requirements over the next 5 years. It has identified that we may experience a shortfall in all areas and steps are being taken to address.

Projects:

We had the first meeting of the Worlds Development Group and also put out a questionnaire on the website. Still waiting on the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire.

The date for bids for the major championships for 2013 onwards was agreed as 2nd September 2011. The CEO will write to all parties who have noted an interest.

Music Board report:

In 2010 an MSR for grade 4A was introduced at the majors and also some minor contests.

PDQB exams were held at the end of the courses and included L&B. These were well received.

During 2010 18 bands were graded of regarded. 52 overseas bands registrations were received and checked

Future World Championships were discussed.

A summer workshop will take place in Headquarters from 17th to 22nd July 2011.

Education report:

The course had 9 pupils of which 2 failed the exam. However everyone seemed to enjoy the course. The Branch has been contacted by players keen to attend future courses. It is hope to have a course up and running by January 2011. Bands will be notified of the dates.

Trophy Convenors report:

Six bands were fined during the season. Other than that there were no problems.

Election of Office Bearers:

Vice Chair. Alex Dalziel. Nominated by Penicuik and Newtongrange.

Treasurer. LA Oubbaith. Nominated by Bo'ness and Newtongrange.

Minute Secretary. Peter Hazzard. Nominated by Bo'ness and Linlithgow.

Magazine reporter. Peter Hazzard. Nominated by Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and Linlithgow.

Trophy Convenor. Wilma Dalziel. Nominated by Bo'ness and Penicuik.

Music Board. M.O'Neill. Nominated by George Watson's College and Glencorse.

Committee:

Donald Brand. Nominated by Bo'ness and Newtongrange.

Joan Brand. Nominated by Bo'ness and Newtongrange.

Annette Brown. Nominated by Craigmount High School and Penicuik.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria be as follows:

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £300

Book of Eminence:

It was agreed that Bob Martin and Neil Cranston's names be added. The bands are to be asked for information.

Changes to the Constitution and Rules:

It was agreed to accept the following changes:

Add new heading

3.5 Supreme Awards and Points Allocation

Add new rule:

3.5.1 The recipient of these awards shall be the Band/Drum corps with the highest overall points accumulated from any of the 5 Branch contests. Points being awarded as follows: - First place 6 points; second place 5 points; and so on. In the event of a tie in total points, preference shall be:-

1. Band/Drum Corps with most FIRST PRIZES.

2. Band/Drum Corps with most points in the Branch Championships.

Add new rule:

3.5.2 For these awards, Bands are confined to their own grades.

Branch Fees:

It was agreed that the Branch fees will be:

Adult band £80 or £60 if paid by the AGM

Novice and Juvenile bands £60 and £40 if paid by the AGM.

There will also be a £10 education fee.

AOCB:

There was some concern expressed that some Branch contests were not being supported by Branch bands. Also some bands were not appearing or pulling out during the contests.

Four of the Branch contests in 2011 will include a grade 1 contest.

Costs of transport and other expenses were a problem for all the bands.

The website needs to be updated. There has been some discussion with Jason and suggestions were asked for changes to the website.

It was asked if there could be a separate gallery for photographs. It was agreed to speak to Jason about this.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.