

**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 25th November 2012.**

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 Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
I. Simpson	George Watsons College
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
D. Paton	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorran	Glencorse
J. Starr	North Berwick
A. Brown	Craigmount PB
S. Brown	Craigmount PB
W. McCafferty	Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
J. Barnes	Craigmount PB
L Barnes	Craigmount PB

Apologies:

W. McIntyre, E. Whitmore, I. Simpson, M. O'Neill, D. Brand, J. Brand

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM:

The minutes of the 2011 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by Craigmount PB and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's report:

Welcome to the 77th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

In spite of the challenging financial climate, we managed to maintain most of current suite of contests, and actually added a new promoter and a new venue to our schedule.

On behalf of the Branch my thanks go out to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment to the Branch which has enabled us to sustain a very healthy contest schedule. Without their support and hard work, we would not be in a position to run some of the most successful contests in the country.

At this point I'm pleased to say that we have commitment to hold all of the contests again next year, including the reintroduction of Melrose although on a July date rather than August.

We are indeed fortunate within the Branch to have people committed to working together to develop and support the aims and objectives of the Association, so my thanks as always goes to the members of the Branch committee, and their families, for their support during the year.

I would also like to thank the Bands for their continued support of the Branch and offer my congratulations to the various Branch Champion of Champions and those Branch bands that were successful in the Major Championships this year.

The Board of Directors have again agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGM's unless this is specifically requested. 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:

As a Branch we have had another successful season. Unfortunately we did not have the Melrose contest last year but we did have a contest at Bo'ness. Kineill House proved to be a good venue for this contest and this turned out to be a successful day, with a change of date for next year hopefully this contest will attract more bands. We will also have the Melrose contest again next year and this will put the Branch outdoor contests up to eight.

As well as West Lothian Highland Games, Bathgate will also be hosting the British Championship for the next 3 years.

We had a very successful day at the Branch indoor contest and the James young High School proved to be a very good venue for this event.

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.

Once again 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 regarding them.

All signatories are to be re-registered.

Account signatories are as follows:

Treasurer: Lesley Anne Oubbaih

Secretary: Ann Hazzard

Chairman: John B Hughes

Any two from the above list are required for approval of any cheque.

Directors report:

The Major Championships all went reasonably well and we will have 2 new venues for the coming Seasons, Bathgate and Forres. Next year also sees the introduction of a two day Worlds.

Last season has been a good season and it is hoped that this success can be continued in 2013.

There was some discussion on how the venues for major championships are decided and also whether or not things like transport and accommodation for the bands is taken into account. Our chairman replied and said that each venue was selected on merit and in the case of some venues local accommodation for bands is looked at and that in the case of Forres accommodation is available for bands although for some bands the accommodation will still be a fair distance from the venue they will still be required to travel by coach on the day of the contest.

There was also some discussion on Cowal and what would happen if this contest loses it's major status. It was pointed out that if Cowal were to lose it's Major status then this would possibly allow the Worlds to become the last Major of the season which would also make this the contest where Champion of Champions is decided.

Music Board report:

Education - Pipe Band Studies has unfortunately met a brick wall and has now ceased to exist. Education Management Group is looking at a new "Diploma in Pipe Band Musicianship". Although nothing confirmed, this certificate will meet the long term needs of the RSPBA hopefully covering selected items that were in the old Intermediate and Advanced books. It will also cover pipe band management and other relevant items. PDQB Exams - Approx. 110 in NI. Approx. 40 in Scotland.

Grading - Over 60 UK bands were either graded or re graded.

19 overseas bands also graded or re graded

2 Day World Championships in 2013 - You know the details of this.

Summer School - July 2013 - Dates/venue to be confirmed.

MAP tunes - There will be new tunes added for season 2014.

Education report:

It was asked if we have any information on the PDQB courses for Tenor Drumming and it was confirmed that we could cover this up to level 4. The main problem with tenor drumming courses would be the cost of the practical section of the course if you have only a very small number of students.

If we have anyone who holds the Level 4 certificate in tenor drumming we could possibly use those individuals to adjudicate at local indoor solo events.

At present we have 3 pipers and 7 drummers showing interest in the PDQB course planned for January.

It was reported that the Northern Ireland Branch hold an After School Club to attract youngsters to come along and learn to play pipes and drums and that there may also be one in Edinburgh.

Our PDQB course is due to start on the 6th January and will run for 8 weeks from 10.am – 2.00pm and will be held in the Partnership Centre, Bathgate.

It was pointed out that the timing of our course may not be ideal as some students may also be studying for their school exams at this time. It was said that if a students do the required studying for the PDQB course at band for example they could sit the exam even if they have not attended the full course. This may be a huge benefit for bands who have several students who wish to gain the PDQB qualifications.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Everything is fine with the trophies, there is one trophy still to be returned for the PM William Fergusson Contest but this is in hand.

There was some discussion on this contest at this point and there were a few points of concern raised.

This contest has been held twice in one year, this is because the contest moves from branch to branch and each branch tries to hold this in conjunction with their own contests.

At this years contest the two adjudicators were sitting next to each other and were conferring throughout the contest.

Would it be possible to revert back to the way this contest used to be run and play both march tunes separately.

Stewards Report:

The Branch Chief Steward thanked everyone for their help over the past season.

Nominations:

President	Bill McMorran	Unanimous
Secretary.....	Ann Hazzard.....	Unanimous
Trophy Convenor	Wilma Dalziel	Unanimous
Director.....	William McCafferty.....	Unanimous
Minute Secretary.....	Peter Hazzard	Unanimous
Committee.....	Vi McMorran	Unanimous
Committee.....	Norma Purves	Unanimous
Music Board.....	Iain Simpson.....	Unanimous
Music Board.....	Mick O'Neill	Unanimous
Magazine Reporter	Peter Hazzard	

Honoraria:

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

Book of Eminence:

It was said that as no one ever sees the Book of Eminence people often do not supply information for the book and it was asked if we could put the Book of Eminence onto the Branch Website.

Branch Fees:

Branch Fees are to remain the same at £80 per Adult band and £60 per Novice or Juvenile band with a £20 reduction to both for fees paid prior to the AGM. The £10 Education fee also remains the same.

Appointment of Auditors:

Our Chairman will approach Lloyds Banking Group to ask if they would audit our accounts for next year.

Notice of Motion and alterations to the constitution & rules:

None

A.O.C.B.

Torphichen & Bathgate Pipe Band have an internal Solo Contest on the 1st of December.

Craigmount Also have their annual solo contests on the 1st December.

Broughton High School will hold a schools contest on 10th March 2013, this will be a Schools Mini Band contest and as such will not come under RSPBA ruling.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 16.25.