

**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 24th November 2013.**

Band representatives present:

W. McMorran, President	Glencorse
J. Hughes, Chairman	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA Hughes, Treasurer	Boghall & Bathgate
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
D. Brand	Newtongrange
H. Cranston	Boghall & Bathgate
S. Easton	Boghall & Bathgate
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorran	Glencorse
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College

Apologies:

R. Burns, Duns Pipe Band, E. Whitmore, W. McCafferty, J. Barnes, LJ. Barnes

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 74th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch.

Minutes of the 2012 AGM:

The minutes of the 2012 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's report:

In spite of the continued challenging financial climate, we managed to maintain most of our regular contests, and made a pleasant return to Melrose again this year. My thanks to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment, which enabled us to sustain a healthy contest schedule.

At this point I'm pleased to say that we have commitment to hold most of the regular contests again next year, although some with revised dates due to the new UK Championship being in mid June.

Can I thank all of 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.

As a Branch, our bands hold 4 of the 8 national Champion of Champions titles and were runners up in two others, so a tremendous result for our Branch bands.

We also managed to run some education courses this year again and the candidates did extremely well with a 100% pass rate. We hope to continue in this vein next year and would encourage all of our bands to consider making use of the Education Outreach facility being offered by the organisation.

This coming year is the 75th Anniversary of the branch becoming a member of the RSPBA and we hope to arrange something special to celebrate the event. Any and all suggestions would be welcome.

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.

Secretary's report:

As a Branch we have had another successful season where we seen the Melrose contest start up again, although there was a smaller entry it was a good day and I would like to wish them all the best for the future. Unfortunately the Bo'ness contest did not take place this year and talks are ongoing for next year. The Peebles contest was also cancelled for 1 year due to major drainage works being undertaken at the park and this contest will go ahead next year but will now be held on a Saturday and not a Sunday.

All other contests went well and it was good to see a Major Championship at Bathgate again.

I would also like to congratulate all the Branch bands who were successful at both Major and Local contests.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that we can continue the success of the Lothian & Borders Branch.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts of the Branch funds and asked for any questions regarding them.

Craigmount proposed these accounts as true and accurate and this was seconded by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

It was asked from the floor if we could use some of the Branch funds to help Branch Bands. It was agreed by the meeting that this should be considered and the Chairman asked for any suggestions on the model and approach to be used.

Directors report:

The 5 major championships were all a success.

There was only a 25% response to the questionnaire put out to bands with regards to the 2 day format for the worlds.

2014 Worlds will again be held as a 2 day event however this time it will be held over the Friday and Saturday with only the Grade 1 Qualifying taking place on the Friday and all other events will be held on the Saturday. Admission to the Park on the Friday will be free.

There was also some discussion on the 'hard handed security' on the event this year and this will be taken up with Glasgow City Council.

The new major Championship will be called the UK Championship and will be held at Ormeau Park Belfast for the next 2 years and the 14th June is the date for 2014.

The vast discrepancies from some of the results at Major Championships continues to be reviewed by the Adjudicator Panel Management Board.

The Board of Directors have approved the new Part 1 of the Pipe Band Musicianship course and it is hoped that this will be run for the first time in 2014.

There is some work ongoing with regards to looking at the committee structure of the Association with a view to improving the efficiency and consistency of reporting.

Music Board report:

This has been a very busy year and it has been well acknowledged that there has been some differences between the Adjudicator Panel Management Board and the Music Board. However following some good work by both groups these differences have now been addressed.

Part 1 of the Pipe Band Musicianship Course (PBMC) has now been approved, this is now available to be downloaded by Branches.

It is hoped that part 2 of the PBMC will be ready to be rolled out some time next year.

265 candidates sat PDQB courses this year which is 100 more than last year, 70 of these candidates were from the Lothian and Borders Branch.

Jim Campbell has been working on the 'Outreach Programme' which will help bands branches to hold these education courses themselves. It will enable individual bands to run a course for all their members in the band environment, or for branches to run courses. Instructors will visit bands or branches wishing to run the courses to discuss the syllabus and course lessons to ensure that all courses are run properly. The cost of these courses may be split between the association, branches and the bands in order to keep the cost to a minimum for individuals.

Craigmount have already indicated that they would like to hold a course early next year.

A team will be put together with 3 Music Board and 3 Adjudicator Panel members to look at the current MAP tunes and consider how the approach for the 2015 season. As part of the continued MAP development, there will also be a Pilot Workshop for Novice and Grade 4 bands which will take the bands through the process of tune selection, creating drum scores which complement the pipe tunes, selecting tunes which complement each other etc.

World Solo Drumming, there were 2 new Juvenile events this year and this seemed to be a great success and the same format will be used for next year. Discussions are ongoing with a view to possibly having Branch or Local qualifying rounds for this contest. In the Adult Final, the points from the MSR contest carried double the weight of the Medley.

There is to be a review of the International Solo Tenor Drumming Contest.

Education report:

We had 9 pupils attend our last education course and all passed.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Headquarters are to make an appeal for trophies for the new UK Championships, they will require 59 trophies in total. The Association will purchase all the trophies to ensure that there is a uniformity throughout the trophies.

If anyone would like to purchase a trophy for this contest please contact the Trophy Convenor.

Stewards Report:

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

We had a number of new stewards joined the team over last year and this year and all have performed well at both Branch and National level. The Branch are always keen to provide an opportunity for anyone who would like to try their hand at stewarding. If anyone is interested please get in touch with the Chief Steward.

Nominations:

<u>President</u>	Bill McMorran	Unanimous
<u>Vice Chair</u>	Alex Dalziel	Unanimous
<u>Treasurer</u>	Lesley Anne Hughes ..	Unanimous
<u>Committee</u>	George Purves	Unanimous
<u>Director</u>	Stewart Orr	Unanimous
<u>Magazine Reporter</u>	Peter Hazzard	

Peter has agreed to continue to act as Magazine Reporter for this year, but asked the Branch Bands to please consider providing some content for inclusion in the magazine.

Honoraria:

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

Book of Eminence:

Work is still ongoing here to see if we can get this published on the website, however, in order for this to be successful specific and detailed information on the names to be included would be required from Branch Bands.

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 one of the major banking groups to ask if they would audit our accounts again for next year.

Notice of Motion and alterations to the constitution & rules:

None

Drum Majors

It was intimated that a change of rule would be coming to the association AGM in March around clarification on the breaking of a Tie. This would apply to Major contests but Branches would be able to adopt this for their Branch Championships. This new rule is in the line with the current rule contained within our Branch Constitution & Rules.

Photographs

It was asked if we should allow photographs of young band members to be taken. This is a very difficult subject at an open event covering all age groups and it was suggested that it may be up to the parents or guardians of children to make it known if they do not wish their children to be photographed.

Minutes

It was agreed that we will put a draft copy of the minutes onto the website as soon as possible but it will be stated that these are only a draft copy until the minutes are ratified at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed 16.15