

**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 30th November 2014.**

Band representatives present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
D. Brand	Newtongrange
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College Juv
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
P. White	City of Edinburgh & College of Piping (Edinburgh) Youth
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
G. Bruce	West Lothian Schools

Apologies:

W. McMorrان, L A Hughes, J. Barnes, LJ. Barnes

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 75th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch.

Minutes of the 2013 AGM:

The minutes of the 2013 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Seconded by Craigmount Caledonia.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's report:

Welcome to the 75th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the R.S.P.B.A.

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

At this point I am pleased to say that we have commitment to hold most of the regular contests again next year on similar dates as last year due to the UK Championship being in mid June. We have also been in discussion with a promoter in Berwick on Tweed who is keen to run an event in June next year.

Can I thank all the bands for their continued support of the Branch and offer my congratulations to the various Branch Champion of Champions and those Branch bands who were successful in the Major Championships this year.

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.

This year Wilma Dalziel has advised the Committee that she wishes to stand down from the post of Trophy Convenor. Wilma has carried out this role with great efficiency over a number of years and we are sad to lose her services in relation to Trophies, but hope that she will assist in the Compiling duties going forward. My own personal thanks to Wilma, and Alex of course, for all their work on the trophies over the years.

Election of Office Bearers:

The Board of Directors have agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGMs unless this is specifically requested. Therefore 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:

We have had another successful season as a branch and all contests this year went well, although it would have been nice to see a bigger entry at some contests, we did have a record entry at North Berwick with 94 bands entries and 11 drum majors and then we still had a few late entries.

Our indoor contest also continues to be very well attended with a good number of both solo and band entries.

I would also like to congratulate all the branch bands who were successful at both branch contests and major championships.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that we can continue the success of the Lothian & Borders Branch and I also wish all the branch bands all the best for next season.

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of our Treasurer our Chairman gave an account of the Branch finances and asked for any questions afterwards.

There was a question from the floor asking what we could do with the funds which are accruing and this was followed by a discussion on prize money and what we could do to help the bands.

Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia 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.

The Chairman offered his thanks to our Treasurer.

Directors report:

The 5 major championships this year all went well.

At Bathgate there were problems with the bridge and space in the park was tight but otherwise everything went well. A new venue is being investigated for this year's British at Bathgate which is hoped will resolve the issues. The proposed new venue is the Balbardie Park of Peace which is about 0.5 mile from Meadow Park.

Stormont replaced Ormeau Park as the venue for the UK Championships and will also be the chosen venue for next year.

Forres once again was an excellent contest with no problems.

Dumbarton went very well with no problems.

The 2 day Worlds on the Friday and Saturday was more successful and will remain the format for next Year.

There has been a restructuring of the Adjudicator Panel Management Board and they had their first meeting on the 20th November.

The Adjudicator Development Group which takes care of Adjudicator training is now up and running. It is proposed that they hold Piping Drumming and Ensemble courses annually. A Drum Major course is also scheduled for this year.

The trial of consultative adjudication at North Berwick went well. There was some discussion with the adjudicators around placings and in general the results were very good. This will be trialled at two Major Championships during 2015 and is intended to help ensure that the critique sheets justify the placing given.

A bid was submitted for new premises for Headquarters but was outbid by a property developer, the search for new premises will be ongoing.

Officials fees and expenses will remain the same for 2015 with the exception of overnight accommodation where the maximum allowance will increase from £80 to £120, but for Glasgow City Centre only.

Bids for the Worlds have been reviewed by the Board of Directors and Glasgow have been awarded the contract to host the Worlds until 2021.

Music Board report:

World Solo Drumming

Changes introduced to Juvenile Sections were well received.

Adult Regional Qualification Heats is proving more difficult to agree.

Certificate of Pipe Band Musicianship.

Part 1 - First exams took place in NI in March this year .

After Intensive Study weekend, Exams took place in HQ in November.

6 pipers (4 from L&B) and 10 drummers (1 from L&B) sat exams.

Grade 4 & NJ Prescribed Tunes

Music for 2 parted Strathspeys and Reels all updated and on website.

4 parted Marches have been added (25 in total) for Grade 4A bands however Grade 4B and NJ bands may play first 2 parts of a 4 parted tune.

Hoping to add 4 parted strathspeys and reels for the 2015 Worlds Program so bands can play them in season 2016.

Looking to split Novice Juvenile grade into 2 separate grades at Majors similar to Grade 4 A & B. (season 2016)

Novice bands attended November Music Board meeting and gave a largely positive response towards splitting the grade.

Band/Player movement

Music Board graded 52 bands between April and August mainly foreign bands coming to World Championships

April to July there were 187 Higher to Lower Transfers. This is becoming unmanageable.

Looking at ways to reduce this trend.

Stewards Report:

Everything is going well and stewards are now starting to work as a team. Headquarters now have 27 stewards on board and the Branch has 9 Stewards.

Education report:

The second workshop has not been finalised yet there have been problems with the dates.

The feedback from the first course was sometimes less than positive it is hoped that this can be looked at and improved for future courses.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Everything is fine and up to date.

