

**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 29th November 2015**

Band representatives present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Hughes, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorran	President
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
D. Brand	Newtongrange
V. McMorran	Glencorse
E. Orr	Craigmount Caledonia
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
P. White	City of Edinburgh
M. Rieley	Police Scotland Fife
J. Carson	Kirkcaldy & District
L. Scott	Kirkcaldy & District
D. Flynn	Burnisland & District
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

Apologies:

E. Whitmore, C. Millar, A. Smith, N. Purves, G. Purves

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 76th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch and also welcomed the representatives of the Fife bands to the Lothian & Borders Branch.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM:

The minutes of the 2013 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by The City of Edinburgh and seconded by George Watson's College

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's report:

2015 has been another successful year for the Branch, and we managed to maintain most of our regular contests this year in spite of the continued challenging financial climate. 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to hold most of the regular contests again next year, with exception of the Edinburgh contest, as the sponsor has withdrawn. However, we do have West Lothian Highland Games back in the calendar for 2016. And

thanks to support of Fife Council and Burntisland & District Pipe Band, we also managed to add a new contest at Burntisland this year with confirmed funding for two more years.

At the start of last Season, the Board of Directors asked if this Branch would help support some of the bands based in Fife, while that Branch re-organises. As a result we were delighted to welcome Burntisland and Kirkcaldy pipe bands into the Branch, and this year they will be joined by Inverkeithing and Police Scotland Fife.

The Chairman thanked all of the Bands for their continued support of the Branch and offered his congratulations to the various Branch Champion of Champions and those Branch bands that were successful in the Major Championships this year.

We were also joined at the start of the season by Brian Watt, who took up the position of Trophy Convenor, and the Chairman thanked Brian for his help in his first season, and of course Wilma and Alex's help in getting Brian up to speed.

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 continued support throughout the year.

Loyalty Scheme:

At last year's AGM we agreed to introduce a 'Loyalty Scheme' for Branch bands, and the Treasurer advised that a fund of £2,000 would be set aside for this. So the first ever awards under this scheme went to the following bands.

For full attendance at all 6 Branch Contests:
£500 - Davidson's Mains & District Grade 4

For attendance at 5 out of 6 Branch Contests:
£375 - Davidson's Mains & District Junior
£375 - Hawick Pipe Band
£375 - Stockbridge Grade 4
£375 - Stockbridge Grade 3

Secretary's report:

We have had another successful season as a branch and all the contests went well. We had another record entry at North Berwick with over 100 band performances.

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

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and hope we can continue the success of the Lothian and Borders Branch and wish all the bands the best of luck for the 2016 season.

I would also like to welcome all the bands who have joined us from the Fife Branch.

Treasurer's report:

Our Treasurer gave her report and any questions asked were answered satisfactorily. Details are available from the secretary by request.

This report was formally adopted by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and seconded by George Watson's College

Directors report:

All Major Championships went well with no major issues.

At the European Championships at Forres there were some problems with the bands wristbands and also some bandsmen not wearing them this caused some issues at the park entrances. This will be looked at for next year.

The 2 day format for the Worlds went well and will remain for the foreseeable future. There were some issues once again with the event stewards taking a hard line with people entering the park. It was also asked if parking of the coaches on the Friday could be looked at as some coaches were parked a long way from the competition arena when there was adequate room for the coaches close by.

The World Solo Drumming went well once again with no real issues and will remain at the Glasgow Caledonian University for 2016. Andante Percussion have agreed a sponsorship deal for the next 5 years.

The search for new premises for Headquarters is ongoing.

There was some discussion on Registrations 2 bands were disqualified in 2015 with the registration checks being carried out many of the anomalies discovered were due to poor administration on the part of the bands. The registration checks will continue in 2016.

There was some discussion on individual memberships for the association.

The BBC asked some Novice and Juvenile bands for permission to use footage of the band, it was said that this would require consent from all individuals concerned and the parents of members under 18 years of age. It was asked if permission could be obtained by bands at the induction of new members, this would allow the BBC more freedom when filming and broadcasting the Worlds.

There was some discussion about bands not being allowed to tune up at their coach, depending on where they were parked, this will be taken back to the Board for discussion.

It was suggested that a site plan specifically for RSPBA use is created as two tents were missed at this year's event.

Music Board report:

World Solo Drumming - Adult Grade

Adult Regional Qualification Heats have been agreed and implemented.

These heats will give drummers the chance to qualify for the semi final stage of the World Solo Drumming. These places are in addition to the existing 12 semi final places on the day.

Certificate of Pipe Band Musicianship.

Part 2 of this course has been discussed and a "draft" syllabus has been looked at by the Education Management Group.

Novice Juvenile grade is split into A & B for season 2016.
NJ 'A' will play same criteria as Grade 4A and NJ 'B' will play same criteria as 4B
This will hopefully assist the transition from NJ to Juvenile Grade.

Music Board is now looking at re-aligning Adult Grades from Grade 1 down.
Possibly creating Grade 1A & B and Grade 2A & B making grades smaller and more competitive. Also need to look at impact on majors/minors. Lots of discussion required.

Band/Player movement

Music Board graded 65 bands this year.

Higher to Lower Transfers remain high and a group are looking at this to ascertain the best way forward.

PDQB - Looking at ways to increase uptake of these exams

Workshops - Music Board encourage branches to facilitate these.

Summer School - 2015 school in the Glasgow Gaelic School was a huge success. 2016 will take place on 1 - 5 August same place.

Stewards Report:

Alex thanked all Stewards and Compilers for their work during the season and said that we would have 2 new Stewards for the majors next season.

Education report:

The outreach program did not take place this year due to lack of interest from the bands. It was asked if we could look at the timing of the courses could be looked at as this may possibly increase the number of people showing interest. The Branch may subsidise the cost of getting more bands interested. We will try and get some feedback from band leaders about regarding the best time of year to run these courses.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Brian said that he had only been involved in 3 contests this season but that all had went well.

Wilma gave an update on the trophies for the Dunfermline and Melrose contests, these have all been returned to the promoters. There is still some doubt as to the whereabouts of one of the Dunfermline trophies. Brian will create a data base with band contact details to make it easier to contact the various bands to get all trophies returned on time. It was asked who owns the Bathgate Trophies, these trophies are owned by Bathgate Highland Games. It was also said that no one should get access to the storage unit where the trophies are kept without the Trophy Convenor being present.

Elections:

President	Bill McMorran.....	Unanimous 1 Yr
Secretary.....	Ann Hazzard	Unanimous 3 Yrs
Magazine Reporter.....	Vacant	
Trophy Convenor.....	Brian Watt	Unanimous 3 Yrs
Director	William McCafferty.....	Unanimous 3 Yrs
Music Board Piping.....	Iain Simpson	Unanimous 3 Yrs
Music Board Drumming	Mick O'Neill	Unanimous 3 Yrs

There were no additional nominations and support for the existing Committee members and Officials was confirmed.

The Chairman asked anyone who has any information or items they would like to see published in the Pipe Band Magazine to give them to P. Hazzard or himself.

Honoraria:

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

Secretary	£550
Treasurer	£450
Minute Secretary	£300

Book of Eminence:

We will try to encourage bands to put forward entries for the Book of Eminence.

Branch Fees:

There was a discussion on Branch Fees with various ideas being put forward, as these proposals may require a change of rule it was agreed that for them to succeed then they would have to be put forward as a proposed change of rule for next year's AGM.

There was also a discussion on whether Branch Fees should be compulsory and what the alternatives could be.

AOCB

There were no other points raised.

Meeting Closed 16.30