

**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 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Band representatives present:**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
D. Brand	Newtongrange
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College Juvenile & Police Scotland
Fife	
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder	Stockbridge
S. Easton	Wallacestone & District
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies:**

G. Bruce, P. White, M. Reilly, E. Whitmore, B. Watt, W. McMorrان, S. Orr

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 77th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch and also welcomed the representatives of the Fife bands to the Lothian & Borders Branch.

**Minutes of the 2015 AGM:**

The minutes of the 2015 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by Craigmount Caledonia and seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia.

**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.

2016 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 the possibility of the Edinburgh contest being re-established thanks to support from The Lord Provost of Edinburgh. We have also been asked by Headquarters to

take on responsibility for the Bridge of Allan contest going forward.

At the start of last Season, the Board of Directors asked if this Branch would help support some of the bands based in Stirlingshire, similar to the approach with Fife in 2015. As a result we were delighted to welcome Wallacestone & District, Stirling & District, Stirling & District Schools, Denny & Dunipace, and Camelon & District pipe bands into the Branch, and this year they will be hopefully be joined by more of the Stirling based bands.

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.

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 I'm delighted to present this year's awards to the following bands.

For full attendance at all 6 Branch Contests:  
£650 - Davidson's Mains & District Grade 4

For attendance at 5 out of 6 Branch Contests:  
£450 - Tweedvale Pipe Band  
£450 - Stockbridge Grade 4  
£450 - Stockbridge Grade 3

### **Secretary's report:**

This is our first season of online payment of Branch Fees, this seems to be working well although some bands have asked if they can pay their fees by cheque as they have done in the past.

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

### **Treasurer's report:**

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

There was some discussion on Branch Fees but it was decided that they should remain the same for the coming year.

There was a discussion around the Branch funds and what we could do to help our bands. We will look at the possibility of Workshops and education courses.

It was also said that the end of season would probably be the best time for these courses as if it was left too late in the close season the bands would not have the best chance to get the best from these courses before the start of the new season.

This report was formally adopted by George Watson's College and seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia.

**Directors report:**

The meeting to review the previous year went well and 2016 was another successful year.

There was some discussion on the 2 day format of the worlds and it would still be very difficult to change this.

The World Solo Drumming was once again very successful and the new venue for the Adult Finals was much better for everyone concerned, the final tuning areas for the competitors was much better and worked well for everyone as well as working better for the stewards.

With the introduction of registration checks at contests 47% of bands were identified to have errors in 2015. This dropped to only 3% in 2016. It is expected that registration checks will continue in the coming season.

The Child Safety Policy will be on the website to assist band Instructors and Tutors.

There was a discussion on band members registration and it was reported that it would be very difficult to roll new procedures out to all grades and all bands in one go. There will be a presentation at the AGM of the association on the new proposals.

Individual membership could help Drum Majors with the problems they have entering the grounds without being asked for payment

It was asked if band supporters could be allowed free admission to contests as some of these supporters play a major part in the preparation of the bands, however it would be difficult to prevent this system being abused by some.

Headquarters premises now require some essential repairs to the roof and a feasibility study will be done to look into the financial viability of making some major changes to the building at the same time as this work is being done. As well as looking at how the building can be used for the benefit of the Association and the bands it is essential to ensure that we have adequate storage area for trophies, tents and everything else required for the championships.

It has been proposed that a restructure of the make-up of committees is undertaken within the organisation to ensure that the Company is properly managed and supported.

We are in year one of the three year term for promoters of the major championships and the association is currently working on securing promoters and venues from 2019 onward with the exception of the worlds which have a five year contract.

The directors have agreed a proposal by the Music Board that there will now be two qualifiers going forward to the WSD Semi-Final from regional heats.

There was some discussion on the rules regarding bands tuning up at the worlds on both the Friday and Saturday. As long as bands are within the fenced off area there should be no problems.

It was asked if it would be possible to keep July as a free from championships in order to give bands a better break, this would possibly mean having 2 majors on consecutive weekends. It was pointed out that this would not be logistically possible due to the amount of work required in the run up to each major championship.

### **Music Board report:**

World Solo Drumming - Regional Qualifiers now have 2 places each. There will still be qualifying on the day of the World Solos but the number of places will be reduced.

Certificate of Pipe Band Musicianship Part 2 - The first weekend of this course was held in Glasgow earlier this year with approx 16 students. The second weekend will be in January 2017 and the exam on 17/18 March 2017.

Summer School - 2016 was a great success. Next year it will be held again in the Glasgow Gaelic College. Provisional dates are 31 July - 4 August.  
Would other branches like to offer a summer school?

PDQB Outreach Workshops - Held in Huntly & Midlands  
PDQB Assessors will all be PVG'd by Decemeber 2016

MB are keen to resurrect the Liaison Meetings between the APMB and MB now that the new management team have been established.

MB Graded 75 Bands in 2016

There were 227 Higher to Lower transfers in 2016

Ongoing projects - Re-alignment of adult grades and registration system for players

### **Stewards Report:**

Nothing to reports although we will require new tents for the start of the coming season.

### **Education Report:**

Nothing to reports at the moment.

### **Trophy Convenors report**

The Moir Trophy has now been returned and everything is fine

### **Elections:**

President ..... Bill McMorran..... Unanimous 1 Yr  
Vice Chairman ..... Alex Dalziel ..... Unanimous 3 Yrs

Treasurer ..... Lesley Ann Riad..... Unanimous 3 yrs  
Magazine Reporter..... Michael Binder ..... Unanimous 3yrs

We would like to welcome Michael Binder as our Magazine Reporter and would like to ask all branch bands if they have any information they would like to have in the Pipe Band Magazine can they please give information to Michael.

**Honoraria:**

It was decided that the Honoraria for this year will be as follows

Secretary	£600
Treasurer	£600
Minute Secretary	£350

**Book of Eminence:**

We will try to encourage bands to put forward entries for the Book of Eminence. Any information will be uploaded to the branch website.

**Branch Fees:**

Branch fees for 2017/2018 have been set at:

£80 including Education Fee for Adult Bands if paid prior to the 2017 AGM and £100 including education fee if paid after the 2017 AGM.

£60 including Education Fee for Juvenile bands if paid prior to the 2017 AGM and £80 including education fee if paid after the 2017 AGM.

**Adoption of Auditors:**

Status quo

**AOCB**

There were no other points raised.

Meeting Closed 16.30