

The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2005

<u>Present:</u>	J.Hughes, Chairman	Drambuie Kirkliston
	G.Craig, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
	W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
	T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School
	P.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	B.Black	Newtongrange
	R.Fairnie	Tranent
	S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	K.Dawes	Lothian & Borders Police
	A.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	T.Clarke	Craigmount High School
	A. Cook	Lothian & Borders Police
	I. Simpson	George Watson's College
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	D.Brand	Newtongrange

Apologies: J.McNeill, T.Colquhoun, M.O'Neill, J.Brand, N.Purves.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2005 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by Glencorse.

Matters arising:

There has been no reply from headquarters regarding a Drum Majors course.

Secretary's report:

The Secretary thanked all those who helped in many ways at the recent Branch indoor contest. It had been a hectic day and there had been several problems.

Treasurer's report:

The bill for the school and the canteen for the Branch indoor solo contest are yet to be presented.

The rest of the treasurer's report appears separately and might be had by applying to the Branch Secretary.

National Council report:

As there has been no meeting since the last Branch meeting, there was no report.

Music Board report:

Re-grading for this season was approved. The only one concerning the Branch was that Bo'ness Novice Juvenile move up into Grade 4B.

There was discussion on the playing requirements for Novice Juvenile and Grade 4 in the 2006 season. There is more information on this on the RSPBA website. There will be 10 x 2/4 marches available for bands who will require to select any two for the Musical Appreciation Performance (MAP). There will also be a DVD and educational booklet provided to support the sheet music. Each tune will be rated in terms of musical complexity, which will allow the Pipe Major to select a tune to suit the ability of each individual band. Drumming scores will be included but are purely a suggestion as to how the drum score could enhance the musical performance, and are therefore not mandatory. The sheet music and supporting material is planned to be with the bands by September 2005.

As part of the educational support for this change, it is intended to run regional workshops/seminars where information and guidance will be provided. Feedback from the bands who received the questionnaire relating to these changes has been very positive.

It was asked if all bands had received a questionnaire sent out from headquarters. Some bands indicated that they had not received anything. The Chairman directed them to the RSPBA Website for information.

Education report:

Fourteen students have sat the Elementary and Intermediate exams. All seemed to go well. It is expected that the results will be in HQ by the end of April, and made available to the Branch Secretary soon.

Lothian & Borders were the only Branch running courses this year.

Two pipers and two drummers are to be selected by the Education Co-ordinator (I Simpson) to attending the Summer School in Glasgow.

Cameron Drummond and Craig Drummond (not related) are to represent the Branch at the Willie Fergusson contest later this year.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Linda Whitecross has asked if a trophy might be donated in memory of her late father. This would be for Grade 3 at North Berwick contest. This was welcomed. The Trophy Convenor to identify a suitable opportunity in the Confined Grade at North Berwick.

### Website:

The Branch website is now up and running as from 5<sup>th</sup> April. Bands are encouraged to look at this. It can be found at [rspba-landb.org](http://rspba-landb.org).

Feedback so far from the initial users has been excellent. We will use the website as the main means of communicating with the Branch Bands. We have used the technology provided by Scotia Web Design to manage the registrations for the forthcoming Bass and Tenor Workshop.

Our thanks to Scotia Web Design for their sterling work in producing and excellent site in such a short time.

### Indoor contest:

The recent indoor contest was a hectic day, and the Chairman and members of the Committee expressed their thanks to all who helped on a very long and tiring day.

With some 420 separate contestants this was a record for the Branch. However there were several problem areas. The kitchen was seriously undermanned and those working there did exceptionally well.

Due to the over-running of the solo events this had an effect on the timings of the mini band contest with them running late.

The Chairman published an explanation and apology for the delays on the website.

As a result of the issues, there was much discussion on this contest and there were several proposals for change. There included a change of venue, getting outside caterers, more programmes (these sold out early) professionally produced, reducing final tuning times and some changes to events.

It was agreed that the solo piping and solo drumming events be:

- 14 and under play MSR 4-2-2 parts,
- 16 and under Novice March 4 parts march,
- 15 to 18 MSR 4 parts each minimum, and
- over 18 MSR 4 parts each tune minimum.

Prize giving for chanters and stick and pad contest should be given out at lunch time. There was also a suggestion that all Solo Results should be given out at lunchtime, however, it was thought that this might impact the preparation for the mini-bands with players waiting for results. This will be considered for next year's contest.

Placing for all contestants should be on the judge's sheets and not just the first six.

The contest would remain open to all branches.

Mini bands are limited to two per band.

The whole contest event needs to be discussed further and this will be done at the September or October meeting.

Tenor Workshop:

This takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005 in Craigmount High School. There are some twenty entrants. Arthur Cook to confirm the names of the Craigmount HS players who will be attending.

A.O.C.B.:

As intimated in last months National Council report, a grant of £500 is available from Head Quarters for each Branch to celebrate The RSPBA 05/75 event.

No decision on what the Branch might do was taken, but suggestions are welcome. It was thought some sort of social event for the Branch Bands might be appropriate.

Clarification was sought about whether a Drum Majors course was going ahead this year. The feedback from the Music Board was that there were no plans to run an adjudicators course from Drum Majors this year.

Grant Craig has been invited to 'shadow judge' in Northern Ireland, and needs clarification if shadow judging would go ahead using only qualified judges.

Thanks were given to John Hughes for supplying the catering at the Structured Learning exams.

Thanks too to Bill and Co for organising the Branch contest. It was a mammoth task.

There being no further business the Chairman wished all bands the best of luck in the forthcoming season and then closed the meeting.

**The date of the next meeting. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005 in Beechwood Bowling Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, at 6.00pm.**

Donald Brand