

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 28th April 2013**

Present:

W. McMorran, President	Glencorse
J. Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
D. Brand	Newtongrange
V. McMorran	Glencorse
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
L. J. Barnes	Craigmount
J. Barnes	Craigmount

Apologies: M. O'Neill, I. Simpson, G. Purves, W. McCafferty, LA Oubbaih

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 24th March were approved by Glencorse and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate.

It was also recorded that the January minutes were approved by Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by Craigmount.

Matters arising:

Peebles have still to confirm the venue for this years contest as Haylodge Park might not be available due to drainage work being done in the park.

Secretary's report:

We are still waiting on confirmation on whether the Bo'ness contest will go ahead as planned this year, we have asked that we get confirmation by 3rd May if possible.

We Received an email from one of the adjudicators for West Lothian Highland Games. As this adjudicator is travelling from Ireland he wants to work with us to keep his expenses down to a minimum. Our chairman will discuss this with the adjudicator to see what the best option will be.

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman gave the report. Details are available from the Branch Secretary upon request.

Directors report:

There was a briefing on education and the planned Diploma course is going ahead although it will possibly be under a different name. The syllabus for this course has been agreed and the course should start at the end of the playing season.

The Adjudicator Panel Management Board will have discussions on the best way forward for adjudicators, They also discussed the possibility piloting Consultative Adjudication and said that they would possibly like to reduce the number of bands in any one heat to 15-20 bands.

There will be no Summer School this year as there have been problems securing a suitable venue, this will go ahead next year again and it will now come under the remit of the Education officer.

There will be an international conference prior to the world championships this year to establish the operations procedures.

There has been a meeting to discuss the situation at Cowal, a bid has been received from Cowal to hold the 5th Major in 2014 and this will be considered in light of the feedback from the branches and also the other bids received.

It is hoped that the 5th major may be allocated for 2 years to bring it in line with the others, although our chairman said that at present we have 3 contest changing venue on a 3 year contract if the 5th major will be the same it may be more manageable to have these contracts split so that only 2 contests will be changing venues in any one year. Bids have been requested from interested parties.

Music Board report:

There have been some regradings however none of these affect the Lothian & Borders Branch.

The Adjudicator Panel Management Board and Music Board will be revising the MAP tunes for 2015 and any changes will be advised in the Worlds programme 2014. There are no planned changes to the MAP tunes for 2013/4

Trophy Convenor's report:

We are currently sitting with a bill of over £400 for repairing trophies and one trophy is being replaced.

The condition of trophies being returned is not acceptable.

A trophy being donated by Mrs Moir will be used for 2nd place in Grade 4 MSR at North Berwick.

Steward's report:

We have 3 new stewards for the branch this year, Alan Richards, Gary Dyet and Glen Millar.

We will require 4 tents per arena at Dunbar, Bathgate and North Berwick this year.

A new job description is being prepared for the stewards and compilers.

Education report:

The drummers who completed the PDQB course have not had any results back yet. It was asked if a time limit could be put on when the students should expect to get their results back.

There may be a possibility that Pat Wheelan could give a talk to bands at the end of the season on education but we would require to have a good interest from the bands for this to take place.

Indoor Contest:

It was asked if it would be possible to position the classrooms allocated to the bigger bands more centrally to help the stewards. It was agreed that this could be looked at for next year.

There was some discussion as to whether we should retain the confined events (1 piping and 1 drumming).

There was some discussion on whether we could change this to a 2 day event and if we could do this could we reintroduce the quartet contests.

A.O.C.B.

There was some discussion on the 'Debut Bands' and is there anything we could do as a branch to support these bands.

We discussed the possibility of the RSPBA supporting an entertainment band similar to the Pipers Trail who would play at events such as the tattoo. It was agreed that this will be discussed further and that we would be happy to be associated with this band.

Dunbar have said that they would like to move the contest back into the football park and after discussing the various options available with regards to positioning of stalls, coach parking etc, it has been agreed that we will look at the layout of everything on the morning of the contest and place the contest in the best place available on the day.

The Pipe Major of Craigmount Pipe band asked for clarification on the rules with regards to dual registration for Pipe Major and Pipe Majors Assistant for their novice band. Our chairman explained the rules regarding this.

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 29th September 2013 at 6.00pm.