

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 26th April 2015**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
W. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J
LA Hughes	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
D. Brand	Newtongrange
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate

Apologies: W. McCafferty, I. Simpson

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes from the March meeting were Proposed by Bo'ness and seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia.

Matters arising:

All tidying up of the Constitution and change of wording as approved at the AGM is now complete.

No final decision has been made on the venue for the 5th Major from 2016.

Secretary's report:

The Dunbar draw has now been done and is on the website.

We have had confirmation that the Berwick Upon Tweed contest has been cancelled for this year.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available from the Branch Secretary upon request.

Directors report:

There have been some changes in the Fife Branch and all the Fife Branch bands will be notified of these changes.

We will contact the two Branch nominees for this years Summer School and pass all the information on to them.

There will be some changes made to the Drum Major's Manual after some discussion on the number of lengths which will be used in both major and minor contests, qualifying rounds and finals.

There will be some improvements made to Headquarters building and costs are being looked at. It is hoped that Headquarters will be able to be used for some of the Education events after this work has been completed.

Music Board report:

The Branch/Country is to be added to the Gradings list.

There will be a review of the proposals around the opportunity to qualify for the semi-final round of the World Solo Drumming Championships via local contests. One of the proposals being looked at is the possibility of awarding a Semi-Final place to the 'Branch Champions' but only if there are sufficient participants in the contest.

There has been further discussion on Distance Learning (using Skype and other means).

There was some discussion on the split the Novice Juvenile Grade into an A and B Grade as approved at the AGM. Novice Juvenile A & B grades playing the same as the Grade 4 A and B grades.

There have been some 4 parted marches added to the list of approved tunes for the Grade 4 A bands. Grade 4 B bands can also play these tunes, but only the first two parts, as explained in the Worlds 2014 program.

The Liaison group received a proposal from the Adjudicator Panel Management Board regarding the trial of a Consultative Adjudication process at 2 off the Major Championships this year. The objective being to minimise large placing discrepancies. It was again confirmed that the Critique sheets from each adjudicator should reflect their placing of a band. This consultative process will be led by the Directors. No results will be altered as a result of the trial of this process, and feedback will be gathered after the trials, to review the next steps.

Trophies:

There are still 2 bands who have not returned their trophies for Dunbar, these bands will be contacted and arrangements made for the return of these trophies.

Steward's report:

Nothing to report

Education report:

Nothing to report

Indoor Contest:

Our Chairman has been looking at options for outside assistance for next year's indoor contest and has spoken to the Army Cadets as one group who may be interested.

Our Chairman and Treasurer will also look at the possibility of moving our account to one providing better services and interest rates. Due to our charitable status, one of the banks being looked at may also provide some assistance with additional resources that could be used to assist at our indoor contest.

Dunbar

We have had a good entry for the Dunbar contest and the Draw has been and has been posted on the website.

AOCB

The Venue for this year's Championship at Bathgate is Balbardie Park of Peace. Bathgate Highland Games are considering also using this new venue for their own games and pipe band contest in 2016.

The Drum Major Adjudicator for the Dunbar contest will be Heather Finlay

The Chairman wished all present a successful and enjoyable outdoor season.

Meeting Closed 18.50.

Next Meeting Sunday 27th September at 6.00pm.