

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 23<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Present:**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
LJ. Barnes	Craigmount
J. Barnes	Craigmount
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College

**Apologies:** D. Brand, S. Orr. W. McCafferty LA. Hughes.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 26th January were approved after corrections by Craigmount and seconded by Torphichen and Bathgate.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's report:**

Everything is going well for the indoors and once again we have a very good entry which is just slightly down on last year.

**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:**

In the absence of S Orr and W McCafferty, the Directors update was given by the Chairman.

Tablets have been issued to the directors which will be used at their meetings with everything required at the meetings being issued electronically it will cut down on the vast amount of paperwork required by each director, documents will be easier to find and this should help the meetings to run more smoothly and efficiently.

The Education Officer gave an update on the statistics from last years education programmes. The RSPBA are responsible for over 50% of the PDQB education courses provided by all partner organisation.

Life Memberships have been proposed for the following D. Clark, R Shepherd, A Aitken, N Hodgson and Mr & Mrs McFetridge.

A directors sub group has been set up to look at the band registration process and will consider improvements including possibly individual membership and the introduction of transfer periods.

The draw for the Worlds Grade 1 Final will be made in advance of the Championship in line with the process for all other grades.

Changes of rules for the AGM have been discussed, many of which are a tidy up of the wording e.g. ensuring that Board of Directors is used and not National Council.

The Supreme awards for Drum Majors has been discussed and a change of rule proposed for the breaking of ties.

Some proposed changes around the roll of Education Officers and a change to the Directors role at Music Board are also proposed.

Pipes down at the line was discussed again and this is proposed to be made optional for the bands. When the band comes to a halt at the line the Pipe Major will have the choice of standing at attention or standing at ease, with pipes up or pipes down whichever they prefers.

Action is to be taken to discourage members from leaving the park before the end of the march past.

Online registration for the Major Championships will be going live soon and an instructional flyer will be distributed to bands along with the AGM information pack.

### **Music Board report:**

There will be a summer school run in Glasgow in July this year, as well as an additional event in Dumfries.

The digitalisation of the training resources is ongoing.

There was a discussion on the competition format and only 1 branch was in favour of splitting grade 4. The splitting of novice juvenile is favoured by some branches and will be discussed further.

At this years worlds grade 1 heats will be pre-drawn and there will be 2 sections and each will play in both arenas being used on the Friday playing their Medley in one and their MSR in the other.

If there are 3 grade 4 heats then there will be an 18 band final taking the top six from each of the three heats.

Bands who wish to appeal grading decisions should take the opportunity speak to their music board reps in the first instance as they may be able to help them or to explain the decisions made.

### **Trophy Convenor's report:**

The trophies for the indoors are slow in being returned this year with bands still asking if they can return them on the day. The convenor confirmed that fines will be liable for all trophies not returned by the due date.

All Bathgate trophies returned to date are now stored in a secure unit and any more bathgate trophies coming in will be added to this unit as they come in.

### **Steward's report:**

All allocations for stewards have been completed. Although four stewards have been selected for some of our contests, if there is only one arena then we will only require 2 stewards. This will only be know once the entry numbers are confirmed.

It was asked if we could ensure that where there were multiple adjudicators on an event at this years indoors that there was sufficient space between them.

At the major championships, we are considering putting up a tent for the Directors rather than having them share with the adjudicators. This may be outside the arena in a position that does not have as much impact on spectators.

### **Education report:**

Feedback from the outreach programme has been discussed.

### **Indoor Contest:**

The fee for the use of the school will be as agreed last year and once again the school will print the programmes and provide the canteen facilities. St Andrew first aid have still to be confirmed.

Raffle tickets will be £1.00 per strip

Admission will be £4.00 for adults £1.00 for concessions and children free.

Programmes will be 50p

### **AOCB**

There have been no further suggestions on celebrating the Branches 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the meeting it was suggested that we get pens to sell to mark the anniversary. It was agreed that we will purchase 'glass' trophies to present to the winning bands at the Branch Championships.

It was suggested that the branch pay an honorarium to the Trophy Convenor. The current convenor stressed that she does not wish to receive an honorarium. However it was agreed that this will be discussed further at our next AGM.

**Next meeting:** Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm