

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Juv
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
D. Brand	Newtongrange
LA Hughes, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies:** J. Barnes, LJ Barnes,

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

After corrections for spelling and also the date of the February meeting, the minutes of the meeting of 25th January were approved by Glencorse and seconded by Bo'ness.

**Matters arising:**

On page 3 of the minutes under Education the date 14<sup>th</sup> November should read 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**Secretary's report:**

There has been contact from the promoter for the Berwick upon Tweed contest. Our chairman will take this up and liaise with him with regards to the contest.

**Treasurer's report:**

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

**Directors report:**

There has been an approach from an individual who asked permission to create a mobile application for pipe bands which would allow individuals to enter their placing of the bands at major contests. This has been passed to the Adjudicators Panel Management Board for discussion

Funds have been pledged from an individual to provide financial assistance for Novice Juvenile bands which would help these bands with their expenses for travel to contests. If this goes ahead The RSPBA would be responsible for managing this and bands would have to apply to the RSPBA for this help.

Ian Embelton attended the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations (ANAPBA) conference in Kansas which was met with great enthusiasm. The RSPBA were acknowledged as the parent body but it was felt that communication to the affiliated associations could be improved including more use of the website and social media.

There was more discussion on the registration system and it was decided to leave the rules as they are with players having to be registered 14 days prior to playing with a band when they transfer. It was commented that the previous proposed change could have had an effect on organisations involved in teaching as it could be restrictive for young players moving up through the system.

There is limited Ferry spaces for the UK Championships this year due to the Ireland v Scotland international being on the same day.

The venue for four of the Majors has been decided for 2016/7/8.  
The European Championship has been awarded to Forres  
The UK Championships have been awarded to Belfast  
The Scottish Championships have been awarded to Dumbarton  
The Worlds will remain in Glasgow until 2021 as reported previously.  
The dates for these contests are still to be confirmed.

The discussions on reverting back to a one day worlds is ongoing.

### **Music Board report:**

There has been no Music Board meeting since the last Branch meeting.

### **Trophies:**

A secure Storage unit has now been organised and all trophies will be stored here at the moment.

The bands are concerned with the current situation with regards to having been asked to return trophies sooner than normal. This is to assist us through the period where we have no Trophy Convenor. There will be a large amount of trophies returned to the indoor contest. Wilma Dalziel has very kindly offered to assist us with the trophies this year and it is hoped that we can find a volunteer for this post.

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

There was a Stewards meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> February.  
Drum Majors practice areas were discussed and it was said that with the change of venue at Bathgate this year this should be better at this contest.

It was said that it would be good if we could get the van out of the park earlier after the worlds but it was pointed out that this would be very difficult.

Arena entrance and exit areas at Forres are being looked at as there have been problems here with public making it difficult to get through.

### **Education report:**

The forthcoming Outreach Workshops will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> October and the 7<sup>th</sup> November with the Exam taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> November

## **Indoor Contest:**

The Draw has been made and we have 239 solo performances and 21 band performances.

We are still awaiting confirmation on the Adjudicator allocation.

The contests will start at 9.00 and prize giving is expected to be around 17.30. Prizes for the stick & pad and chanter events will be given out at 12.00 as per normal.

Due to the number of entries for this contest we would welcome more volunteers for Stewarding.

The 2 highest placed contestants from the Lothian & Borders Branch in event 5 will represent the Branch in the P/M William Fergusson Contest.

We will sponsor 1 Piper and 1 Drummer for this year's Summer School and the candidates will be the winners of events 3 and 9 at the indoor contest.

Duties to be carried out by our committee members at the indoor contest was discussed and agreed.

The raffle tickets will be £1.00 per strip. Entry will be £4.00 per adult with concessions at £2.00 and children free.

We will check with the school whether they are happy to take photographs during the event.

Our Chairman will check with the school to see if the canteen arrangements will be the same and will also liaise with Thistle shoes regarding their support for the event.

Our Secretary will approach our usual sponsors including St Ronan's Piping Society, Peebles Highland Games, and the Chairman will approach Edinburgh PBC and Burntisland PBC.

It is hoped that everyone will work together again this year to clear and check the classrooms and also help to ensure that the trophies are all cleaned prior to the contest.

## **AOCB**

Trophies will be returned to the promoters where appropriate and they will be responsible for ensuring they are cleaned and taken to the contest on the day.

North Berwick would like to have their trophies back before the draw if this is possible.

It was pointed out that our constitution and rules still use the title National Council. This will be rectified as agreed at our AGM. Action: Chairman.

Trophy return dates will be by Branch request. Wilma will be happy to help the bands with this.

Some bands are not happy at being asked to return the trophies earlier this year. We are happy to hear approaches from Bands where there are special requirements.

George Watson's College contest is on 1<sup>st</sup> March with the solos starting at 9.30 and bands starting at 13.30.

The Scottish Schools contest is on the 8<sup>th</sup> March

Meeting Closed 19.10.

Next Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm.