

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 30th January 2011**

Present: W.McMorran, President Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary Bo'ness
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor Lothian & Borders Police
P.Hazzard, Minute Secretary Bo'ness
S.Hazzard Newtongrange
V.McMorran Glencorse
J.Brand Penicuik
M.O'Neill George Watson's college
I. Simpson George Watson's college
G.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
N.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
D.Brand Newtongrange

Apologies: C.McCluckie, J. Barnes, LJ. McGlaughlan, W. McIntyre. L. A. Oubbaih

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2010 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by Penicuik & District

Matters arising:

The Chairman advised us that as Headquarters are looking to purchase Flags and Banners for the Major Championships if we place an order for the Branch at the same time we will probably make a saving on the overall cost.

Gordon Hamill confirmed will now be standing for the post of Chairman at the RSPBA AGM and has invited our Branch Chairman to stand as his Vice Chairman. John Hughes intimated that he would be happy to stand for the post of Vice Chairman and it was agreed that the branch send a letter to Headquarters nominating both Gordon and John for these post.

It was pointed out that the playing requirements for grades 1 and Juvenile will be reversed as well as grades 3 and 2 as reported in the previous minutes.

Secretary's report:

Entries have started to come in for the indoor solos and mini bands.

We have a request from the Pryde of East Lothian Pipe Band to register with the branch and they would also like to compete at the mini bands, we are waiting on confirmation of the grading for this band.

All bands that were reported as not having paid their fees to Headquarters have been contacted with the exception of the Army bands who are overseas at the moment.

Treasurer's report:

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

National Council report:

National Council have agreed to move to a company limited by guarantee on the 28th February 2011 as instructed by the 2010 AGM.

The Articles of Association which form the basis of this change of legal status are being reviewed.

Jason Lafferty has donated a trophy to Headquarters to be used at one of the Major Championships.

Adjudicators management board asked for the critique sheets to be supplied as a 3 copy set instead of the current 2 copy set, this was rejected.

The updated Adjudicators code of practice was approved.

At the AGM, the Standing Orders and Steering Committee will propose that Novice and Juvenile bands can have dual registered Pipe Majors and Assistant Pipe Majors but Grade 4 bands can only have a dual registered Pipe Major. Drummers cannot be dual registered. There are also changes proposed which relate to the breaking of ties, distribution of critique sheets for disqualified bands, and reference to the Drum Majors handbook in the Drum Majors section.

There has been an application for two new contests this year, Dornoch on 11th June and Isle of Wight 21st August.

There was a suggestion that bands carry a card with the bands details printed which should be handed in when going on to the March Past to ensure that all announcements are correct.

It has been decided that there is no need to continue with the Ladies Committee at Major Championships.

Mervin Heron will meet with Jason Lafferty to discuss Headquarters website. John Hughes has agreed to speak to Jason with regards to a review of the Branch website.

It was asked if we could have an advert on the website and in the Pipe Band Magazine for the forthcoming Edinburgh Pipe Band Championships.

Music Board report:

The Advanced course that was under discussion will not now be taking place.

Bands that leave the march past early without obtaining prior permission may be liable to a fine. This has always been in the rules but has not been enforced for some time.

To avoid any confusion the criteria for breaking ties has been standardised across all contests.

Drum Majors will be judged according to the procedures set out in the Drum Majors Manual.

Trophy Convenor's report:

All bands who still have trophies to return for the solos and mini bands have now been notified. It was agreed that we should purchase more medals this year.

Steward's report:

Availability sheets have been handed out and it was pointed out how important it is to be at the contests in plenty time to get the tents all set up.

Education report:

The Vice Chairman confirmed that Jim Clark is happy to do a course in September 2011.

There was a discussion on whether it would be better holding the course over a shorter period of time. It was agreed that having the course run over fewer days may be more suited to pipers than drummer. However an assessment day might help to decide what time schedule best suits the individuals attending the course.

Work is ongoing to find a venue for these courses.

AOCB

We have had a request from Hawick and Stow asking for the correct procedures for amalgamating the two bands. Bill McMorran will respond in his role as National Councillor.

The contract for the Edinburgh Pipe Band Championship has now been signed.

Dunbar's contract has also gone out to them and John Hughes will meet with Dunbar to discuss this year's contest on 10th February.

We have requested a full complement of adjudicators at Dunbar, Edinburgh, Innerleithen, and North Berwick contests.

Gordon Stafford would like to donate 2 bagpipe backpacks and Calum Firth would like to donate 5 sets of sticks and pads to be given as prizes at the indoor contest.

Nominations have been asked for a National Councillor for the branch in the event that John Hughes is elected as Vice Chairman. Nominations should be in by the next Branch meeting.

There being no more business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.10pm. Next meeting at Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 27th February at 6.00pm.