

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 27th January 2013**

Present:

j.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A.Dalzeil, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W.Dalzeil, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
V.McMorran	Glencorse
D.Brand	Newtongrange
L.Barnes	Craigmount
J.Barnes	Craigmount
W.McCafferty	Boghall & Bathgate
S.Orr	R.S.D.G
N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
I. Simpson	G.W.C. N/J
M.O'Neill	G.W.C.Juv

Apologies: P.Hazzard, LA Oubbaih.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The branch wish to extend their condolences to John Hepburn's family on their recent loss. John was the RSPBA Chief Steward for a number of years and will be sadly missed.

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November 2013 were approved by Glencorse and seconded by Craigmount.

Matters arising: All matters arising covered by the agenda.

Secretary's report:

Entry forms for the branch contests are to be sent out by email or post. They will also be available on the branch website.

A letter was received from W.McMorran thanking the branch for his presentation.

To date only two entries have been received for the branch indoors.

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman gave the report.

Director's report:

The last Director's meeting was held on 8th December 2012.

W.McMorran is to be made an honorary Life Member of the R.S.P.B.A.

The Structured Learning books are being converted to digital format and the RSPBA intends to make these available for down loading from the R.S.P.B.A website.

The Board approved revised fees and expenses for all officials.

At a meeting between the RSPBA and Cowal Highland Games Committee, the Cowal Committee asked the RSPBA to consider downgrading the Cowal to a minor contest. This proposal was put before the Board of Directors at their December meeting and the decision was unanimous to agree to the proposal. As a result, the 2013 Cowal would be the last time it was a Major championship.

The RSPBA will be contacting interested parties with a view to securing bids for the fifth major of 2014 and beyond.

Consideration is being given in the future to having the Worlds as the final Major Championship of the season. This would result in the Champion of Champions results being announced at the Worlds.

Music Board report:

The Education Officer was engaged for an initial period of one year. The Music Board expressed support for an extension to that period of engagement.

Part 1 of the diploma in Pipe Band studies is expected to start in September 2013. Part 2 may not start until January 2014.

There were several rule changes spoken about. These will be put forward at the R.S.P.B.A's A.G.M. in March.

A liaison group has been set up to look into the World Solo Drumming Championship.

Thought on the capping of numbers of players in a band was discussed. It was the general feeling of the branch that it did not support this suggestion.

Trophy Convenor's report:

All bands have been notified about the dates the trophies have to be returned by.

Education report:

PDQB started on 8th December 2012 and has nine doing the course and four taking the exam only.

Indoor contest:

A meeting is to be held with the school re the allocation of rooms and to consider cancelling other events in the school on that day. Access should be available on the Friday night to set up the school.

It was agreed that if there was only one Grade 1 band entered into the mini band contest, then there may be an opportunity to submit more than two mini bands.

Steward's report:

It was said that the minutes of the last Steward's meeting will be sent out with the notification of the next Steward's meeting.

HQ are purchasing new tents which are being made especially for the RSPBA. Branches were asked if they wished to order any of these tents. Following discussion and as a result of the expected costs, the Branch decided not to order any.

A.O.C.B.:

It is hoped that the Board of Directors will be able to update progress on the fifth major by the R.S.P.B.A's A.G.M. on 9th March

The Branch fully supported the nomination of Alex Dalziel for the post of R.S.P.B.A Chief Steward at the next Director's meeting.

The draw for the indoor contest will be held on 24th February at 5pm in Bellsquarry Village Hall, one hour prior to the branch meeting.

It was agreed that the dates of the branch meetings will be;

Sunday 24th February

Sunday 24th March

Sunday 28th April

Sunday 29th September

Sunday 27th October

Sunday 24th November

All these meeting will be held in Bellsquarry Hall at six o'clock.

The branch A.G.M. will take place on Sunday 24th November at three o'clock in Bellsquarry Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.