

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 31st January 2016**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Hughes, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorran	President
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
D. Brand	Newtongrange
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorran	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

Apologies: Alex Dalziel

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

After one spelling correction the minutes of the meeting of 29th November 2015 were approved by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia and were seconded by George Watson's College.

It was with regret that the Chairman updated the branch on the passing of both David Urquhart and Iain Widdowson of Forres Events over the festive period. These were two of the key drivers of the Forres event and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of both. The RSPBA were represented at the funeral of both men by members of the Executive.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

We have had an email from the promoters of a Belgian Contest asking for the contact details of the Branch bands. It was suggested that we reply to their email offering to distribute any information they wish to give us to the branch bands on their behalf.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and details will be available from the secretary by request.

Directors report:

A property developer has made an offer to headquarters to purchase the building but this was rejected. Headquarters have agreed a maintenance plan for their premises but are also still looking for new premises.

The PDG are looking at our vulnerable adults and children policies and these policies may be updated.

The Summer School is scheduled to be on the 1st – 4th of August 2016.

It was agreed that the directors present at Music Board meetings can ratify re-gradings on behalf of the Board of Directors'.

There was a discussion document presented to the Board, proposing the splitting of Grades 1 and 2 to A and B grades. Following a lengthy discussion, this was rejected by the Board.

The results of PDQB/SQA exams were discussed and new Adjudicators appointed.

The cost of new sporrans for officials was discussed and it was decided not to proceed with these at present.

There is a clash of dates between the Shotts contest and the Cupar contest, Cupar have been asked to look at other dates. This was followed by a discussion on clarity on the 50 mile rule.

We were informed that it may be possible to make Branch fees compulsory but this would require a change to our constitution and rules at an AGM.

There was some discussion on the ongoing work within the registration working group, and the Chairman confirmed that a Presentation on the proposals is scheduled to be given at HQ AGM in March.

There was also some discussion on band transfers and possibility of fees being charged if transfers are made out with the allocated transfer window. There were suggestions that it may be an idea to have exemptions made for school bands or organisations with more than one band to allow the tutors to move player from one band to another.

There was also some discussion on Associate Membership which could possibly allow parents etc. to gain access to the events.

Music Board report:

There was some discussion around this was on the back of adjudicators speaking to their Music Board reps with regards to the playing standards of some players.

Pat Whellan presented a paper on how to progress with education. This should involve representatives from all areas.

There is no further update on the World Solo Drumming.

There was some discussion on final tuning areas at the Worlds

A request to ensure the approach to the start line was in line has been made to the Board. There was some discussion around this point as the start line is always in line and centred with the circle. However it appears that this relates to the approach to the start line, which in the case of the G1 at the Worlds is not directly in line due to the positioning of the circle for access by the TV cameras. This was followed by a discussion on whether it is best to mark the line with cones or flags.

It was said that Burntisland may require an additional arena if their entries increase this year.

Trophies:

There are no issues relating to Trophies. Bathgate trophies have not yet been returned to Bathgate as no contact has been made by the games committee.

Steward's report:

Wilma informed the meeting that Alex was working on the Stewards allocation for the coming season.

Education

There was no report

AOCB:

It appears one of the links for the minutes on the website is not correct, peter will check and discuss with Jason if this is the case.

It was suggested that we look at getting the banner photographs on the home page updated. We will need to identify appropriate photographs for this.

It was said that the North Berwick contest is the only branch contest which charges the coach drivers to get into the park. There was some discussion around this and this will be up to the promoter whether they are charged or not.

With the Novice Juvenile grade being split into A & B Headquarters will require a full set of trophies for each major. If band, organisation or individual wishes to donate a trophy please contact Headquarters or their Trophy Officer Wilma Dalziel.

In relation to the above, the Branch approved the donation of 4 trophies , one for each of the majors excluding Forres. A decision on the trophy position for Forres is with HQ.

Meeting Closed 19.40pm

Next Meeting 28th February at 6.00pm.