

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 25th March 2012**

Present:

W. McMorran, President	Glencorse
J. Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
I. Simpson	George Watsons College
D. Brand	Newtongrange
V. McMorran	Glencorse
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate

Apologies: M. O'Neill, S. Orr, W. McIntyre

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 26th February were approved by Torphichen & Bathgate and Seconded by Newtongrange.

Matters arising:

We have had confirmation that the Melrose contest has now been cancelled.

Secretary's report:

The secretary received an email advising of an error in the Adult Solo Tenor contest and that the correct result was 1st Alan Townsend Torphichen & Bathgate and 2nd Alan Jordan Pryde of East Lothian. Ann will contact the competitors and arrange for the trophy to be returned. An additional cheque for the balance in the prize money will be sent to Alan Townsend.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and details are available on request.

There was a discussion on the fact that we are getting almost no interest on the money in the Branch account. It was suggested that we look at other accounts to see if there are other accounts which may be more beneficial to the branch, possibly transferring a portion of the funds into an investment account which may pay more interest. It was also suggested that there may be other accounts which may enable us to make electronic payments rather than paying everything by cheque.

Treasurer to investigate the options and report back.

National Council report:

Scottish Borders Novice Juvenile have been re-graded to Grade 4
Davidson Mains Novice Juvenile and George Heriots Junior Novice Juvenile are new bands.

There was some discussion on Self Certification for Officials to state that they are fit and healthy enough to carry out their required duties.

New name badges have been purchased as many of the original badges are getting a bit worse for wear.

Pat Wheelan has now taken up his post as Education Officer.

There is a new part time member of staff in HQ, Rachael Gillespie.

Music Board report: Nothing to report.

Trophy Convenor's report: Nothing to report.

Steward's report:

Alex Dalziel will enquire about the stewards allocations for this year's Major Championships.

There was some discussion on accommodation for the major planned for Forres in 2013-2015.

Education report: Nothing to report.

Indoor Contest:

We have had a lot of positive feedback for the new venue. There was quite a distance from some classrooms to the competition rooms but there were no complaints from the competitors. It was said that the competition rooms on the whole were good although the Dance Studio was not ideal, It was suggested that we could look at using the Staff Room for a band event as well.

There were minor problems with parking but this may have been due to the fact that there were still a few other events taking place in the school that day.

It was pointed out that we should ensure that everyone is aware that the gym halls are not to be used by competitors.

The catering was excellent and well used and the prices were very reasonable.

The Treasurer gave a breakdown of the expenditure and income from the indoor contest and for the first time in a few years we have shown a small profit.

It was also pointed out that some of the adjudicators were sitting the wrong way round to accommodate the bands marching in and positioning themselves in the correct place.

It was asked if tenor drummers were optional in grade 1 and it was confirmed that they are optional in all grades.

Outdoor Contests:

Dunbar are very happy with the way things are proceeding and have said that we wouldn't have any big generators or noisy cars to contend with this year. During the meeting, East Lothian Council expressed an interest in applying to have a major championship in the future, possible in the round of bids for 2016-2018.

With Melrose being cancelled this left the Saturday open for a contest but Edinburgh have asked to keep their contest on the Sunday as planned.

2013 Championships:

The British Championship at Bathgate will take place the last Saturday in May with their local contest being 1 week before this. The European Championship at Forres will be held at the end of June and the Scottish Championships at Dumbarton will be held at the end of July.

There was a short discussion on whether it would be good to have the World Championship as the last major.

After this year there will currently be no Major Championship in Ireland for 3 years.

A.O.C.B.

A question was asked why representatives at the AGM had more than one voting card. It was explained that the proxy voting system at this year's RSPBA AGM was a requirement as a company limited by guarantee.

John Hughes explained that it was not the role of the Branch Chairman to make decisions on the contest rules and these should be made by our nominated Directors. This is the first time the Branch has been in the position where the Chairman is not also one of the nominated Directors, hence the need for clarification.

One member stated that they felt some committee members were doing more than others at contests and said that it would be better if everyone pulled together. It was also asked when the secretaries duties were complete. This was confirmed as being when all the paper work on the day of a contest is issued, then that is their secretarial duties complete but this should not prevent the secretary helping out wherever required. It would be good to have more people involved at some events but as it is we can only do the best we can with the people available.

During the indoor contest, the process for returning adjudicators sheets was not clear to all involved. This needs some clarification for next year.

Although Directors are only required to check the results of the mini band events and not the solo events, they still have an overall responsibility for the accuracy of the results from any contest.

It was suggested, that if it would make things easier on the compilers, the sheets from the indoor contests did not need to be folded as they were all being put into C4 envelopes for each band.

One band, and one solo competitor have not received their adjudicators critique sheets. Ann will try to trace these sheets and get them delivered to the correct people.

It was decided to cancel the April Branch meeting due to a few committee members not being available.

The Chairman wished all bands an official's a successful and enjoyable competition season.

Meeting Closed 19.50

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 30th September 2012 at 6.00pm.