

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 29th March 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
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J
LA Hughes	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

Apologies: W. McCafferty, S. Orr, N. Purves, G. Purves

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

After amendments to Members Present and also Paragraph 1 on Page 2 the minutes were approved by Bo'ness and seconded by Craigmount Caledonia.

This paragraph now reads:

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.

Matters arising:

The required changes to the constitution and rules to remove the reference to National Council is still ongoing.

Action: Chairman

No venue has yet been selected for the fifth Major for 2016 and beyond. There was some discussion on the dates for the majors from 2016 and the likely impact on local contests.

Secretary's report:

Entries are coming in for our Dunbar contest. The permit for the Dunbar contest has been completed and a signed copy will be returned to Headquarters.

Treasurer's report:

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

Directors report:

There was no Directors report, John Hughes reported that at the meeting following the AGM the Directors were allocated their responsibilities for the various sub-committees.

John Hughes advised that he has been asked to lead the current working groups looking at registration and organisational structure.

Music Board report:

There was nothing to report as the next meeting will be on the 11th April 2015.

Trophies:

All trophies were returned for the indoor contest, including one which had to be replaced.

the Secretary will contact one band who has returned a trophy in a damaged condition with regards to having this repaired.

Action: Secretary

Steward's report:

There is another prospective steward who is interested in working at both the Major and Minor contests.

Education report:

We have the following dates set in our calendar for the next round of courses. Part 1 - 24th October and Part 2 - 7th November. There are quite a few bands showing interest in the Outreach program again this year. However there is some confusion over the costs of this course. In the absence of our Directors, our Chairman will ask for clarity at the next Directors meeting.

Action: Chairman

Indoor Contest:

We have had some excellent feedback from the indoor contest it all ran very smoothly with no complaints. The numbers were slightly down this year, due to the change in format to full band.

There was mixed reactions to whether a Mini Band or Full Band contest is preferred. The Novice and Juvenile grades in particular preferred having a full band contest. We will ask all branch bands to provide feedback regarding their preference for mini band or full band contests. This may allow us to vary the format by Grade.

The Lecture Theatre at the school was an very good venue for the band performances with the acoustics being as good as possible indoors.

With the layout of the seating and position of the adjudicators it was felt that the bands were just too close to the adjudicators. This will be looked at for the future.

Overall this contest has run at slight loss this year due to the reduced numbers.

Due to the lack of personnel available on the day the possibility of using an external group to collect the entry fees at the door and sell programs will be looked at. We will be responsible for Registration and also the Raffle.

Action: Chairman

It was suggested that the price of the programme could be increased to £1.00 but it was also pointed out that the presentation of the programme was not up to our usual standard this year.

Praise was given to the Janitors for their help on both the Friday evening when preparing the school and also during the contest itself. The canteen staff once again provided an excellent service.

It was asked if more care could be taken with the spelling of competitors names as there were some errors in the programme. This was accepted and although the number of errors was very small given the number of entries received we will look to improve the accuracy.

It was also asked on the day why grade 4 bands were given the opportunity to play up but grade 3 bands were not given this option. It was replied that the decision not to ask the grade 3 bands was due to the fact that there were no grade 2 band entries. Also the timing for the day was based on having no Grade 2 contest.

The entry forms for the rest of the contests have all been prepared and are with our chairman for approval, they will be published as soon as possible.

AOCB

Photographs of the prize winners will be forwarded to Jason to have a gallery created on the website.

Meeting Closed 18.50.

Next Meeting 26th April at 6.00pm.