

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Present:**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
L.A. Hughes	Boghall & Bathgate
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
S. Easton	Boghall & Bathgate
H. Cranston	Boghall & Bathgate
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

**Apologies:** R. Burns, Duns Pipe Band, E. Whitmore, W. McCafferty, J. Barnes, L.J. Barnes, Donald Brand

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> October were approved by the George Watson's College and seconded by Craigmount.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's report:**

The dates of the Branch contests are as follows.

Dunbar .....	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Dunfermline .....	24 <sup>th</sup> May
Melrose .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> August
North Berwick.....	9 <sup>th</sup> August
Edinburgh (Ingliston) .....	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
Peebles.....	6 <sup>th</sup> September
Innerleithen .....	13 <sup>th</sup> September

There is a possibility of a small contest in Princes Street Gardens although this is still under discussion.

**Treasurer's report:**

As per the AGM.

**Directors report:**

Covered in the AGM.

### **Music Board report:**

Torphichan & Bathgate have registered a new Novice Juvenile Band  
George Watson's College Novice Juvenile band regraded to Juvenile have successfully appealed the promotion and are regraded back down to Novice Juvenile.

The Summer School planned for this year is going ahead as planned.

It was viewed that the Live Draw for Worlds Grade 1 Final proposed for the Friday of the G1 qualifiers would be unfair as all grades should use the pre-draw process as agreed. This will be included in the MB report to the Board of Directors for consideration.

There was some discussion on the following points: -

Restructuring of the Grading System around Grade 4A and 4B and the introduction of a Grade 5. In general that Branch was not in favour of this proposal.

Splitting Novice Juvenile into an A and B to help bridge the gap between Novice Juvenile and Juvenile. In general that Branch was not in favour of this proposal.

The ruling on Pipes Down at the start line and the proposal to make this optional. In general that Branch were supportive of this proposal.

Capping of number of members playing in a band at competitions. One suggestion was 24 Pipers, 12 Snare Drummers, 6 Tenor Drummers and 1 Bass. One of the reasons given for this proposal is to try and get players to move from the bigger bands to help develop the smaller bands and bands at lower grades.

After discussion, as a branch we really do not see that limiting the number of players in a band will necessarily deliver the expected benefits to the lower grade or smaller bands. It was felt that some players are quite happy to be associated with the bigger bands whether they are being played or not.

### **Trophy Convenor's report:**

Nothing to report

### **Steward's report:**

Nothing to report

### **Education report:**

Nothing to report

### **Indoor Contest:**

The date has been confirmed as 29<sup>th</sup> March and will be at the James Young High School again. It may be possible to change the position of the adjudicators in both the Drama Room and the Lecture Theatre. It had been mentioned by the adjudicators last year that if they were further away from the competitors this may provide an opportunity to hear a better overall sound.

George Watson's College indoor contest will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Broughton High School Indoor Contest will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

It may be necessary to look at the number of solo entries and if we are getting pushed to the limits then we need to consider the combination of open and confined contests.

### **A.O.C.B.**

#### **Entry Forms**

When the 2014 entry forms are created they are to be sent to John Hughes, Alex Dalziel, Stewart Orr, William McCafferty and the relevant promoter to be approved.

A note is to be added to the drum majors entry stating that for safety reasons they must use the designated practice areas where provided.

#### **Adjudicators for Indoors**

Headquarters will now supply all adjudicators for our indoor contest. We normally use 8 Piping and 6 Drumming adjudicators. The Secretary will contact HQ and request the relevant numbers.