

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 26th October 2014**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA. Hughes	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards/Craigmount Caledonia
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Juv
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College N/J

Apologies: W. McCafferty.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 28th September were approved by George Watson's College and seconded by Glencorse.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

The dates for the 2015 contests have now been confirmed as:-

Indoors.....	28 th March
Dunbar	16 th May
Dunfermline	23 rd May
Melrose	1 st August
North Berwick.....	8 th August
Edinburgh	22 nd August
Peebles.....	5 th September
Innerleithen	12 th September

The possibility of a contest at Berwick on Tweed on the Sunday 21st June was discussed as our chairman has been asked to assist with this contest. Our chairman will speak to the North East of England Branch with regards to this and we can offer our support if needed.

Treasurer's report:

The books are now closed and everything has been prepared ready to present to the auditors.

Directors report:

There was a Directors meeting on 4th October and discussions were mostly around internal administration. A bid was put in for new premises for Headquarters although this bid was unsuccessful.

The new Adjudicator Training Course will start on 3rd February 2015 for ensemble with the course for piping and drumming starting in March. It is hoped that these courses will be run annually.

The survey carried out at the Scottish Championships on band registrations showed that more than 30% of the pipers and drummers selected were not on the band registration sheets. There is a group working on band registrations who are looking at ways to improve the current system.

Music Board report:

There was some discussion on the World Solo Drumming and the branch were asked if they would support proposals to introduce pre qualifying rounds at branch level for the Adult contest. After discussion on the proposed changes the branch agreed to support the proposal.

Trophy Convenor's report:

The Trophy Convenor confirmed that the comment in the September minutes relating to trophies for the major championships also applied to trophies for branch contests.

Steward's report:

Alex thanked all the stewards for their efforts at the World Solo Drumming.

It was pointed out at this point that some stewards were going to collect competitors early which can upset the timings of the tutors for some of the larger bands or organisations. But when tutors spoke to the stewards they were obliging and happy to return later to collect competitors who did not wish to play early.

Education report:

Alex said that he was disappointed at the turnout for the recent outreach training course as only 9 individuals representing 3 bands attended the course. An email has been sent to the branch bands asking for confirmation of the number of people who will attend the second part of the course on 22/23 November.

Indoor Contest:

The date of the contest has still to be confirmed by the school, there was some discussion on the format of the contest and what changes if any could be made.

It was agreed that the age ranges would be altered to be in line with the Constitution & Rules relating to juvenile players. So the events will be 14 & Under, 15 to Under 18, and 18 & Over.

It was also agreed that Event 6, 15 to under 18 Confined March will be removed and the Branch representative for the P/M William Ferguson contest will be selected from the 15 to Under 18 MSR (Event 5)

Another major change discussed would be the possible change from mini band contests to full band contests. It was agreed to trial this proposal at the 2015 contest.

It was also said that we would have to ensure that the rooms being used for tenor drumming events would have to have a high enough ceiling to allow the taller competitors to flourish comfortably.

AOCB

Grade 4 MSR

It was asked if the current Grade 4/Novice Juvenile MSR contests within the branch could introduce more prizes to bring them in line with the other grades. It was said that it would very much depend on the promoters as this would increase the overall cost to them. It was suggested that one solution may be to add more trophies but without a monetary prize. The Chairman agreed to discuss with the Promoters to see what could be achieved.

World Championship

Directors have been asked to discuss this event with their branches and ask for any ideas the branches may have for improvement.

Changes to Constitution & Rules

The Chairman asked if there was any additional changes to the Branch Constitution & Rules coming forward from any Bands for the AGM on 30th November. There were no new proposals for changes.

The changes which will be going forward to the AGM will be forwarded to the Branch Bands for consideration. These relate to:

- Change to how the Branch Champion of Champions is calculated
- Administrative tidy up throughout the Branch Constitution & Rules of the references to National Council.

Branch Loyalty Scheme

Good discussion on the options to introduce a loyalty scheme for Branch bands. This will be presented for discussion at the AGM.

AGM

All Bands are reminded to have their fees and nominations for Branch Committee to the Branch Secretary prior to the AGM.

Meeting Closed 19.30

Next Meeting AGM 30th November 2014 at 3.00pm which will be followed by a short break and then the first Branch meeting of the new season.