

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 30th October**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Dalziel Vice Chairman	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorran	Glencorse
Stephen MacDonald	Wallacestone and Distict
Iain Simpson	George Watson's College B
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Apologies: B. McMorran, D. Brand, M. O'Neill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2016 were approved by Craigmount Caledonia and seconded by George Watson's College Juvenile B, incorporating the correction of the date for the previous minutes referred to to 24th April 2016 instead of 28th February 2016.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

All bands have been emailed the AGM documents. Branch registration fees have started coming in via the online registration system.

Treasurer's report:

The accounts for this year are now closed for auditing.

Directors report: (given by J. Hughes)

The RSPBA are working with Disclosure Scotland to ensure all our officials are covered by the correct accreditation. Once the processes are established, the Branch will look to provide assistance to any Branch bands who may need guidance on this subject.

The Adjudicator Panel AGM will be held on the 6th November 2016. There are a number of posts up for election with multiple nominations for each. So it is expected that there will be some discussion regarding the previous resignations as some of these individuals who we understand to have put there name forward for re-election.

It has been proposed that an Honorary Award will be made to J.McInnes for his services to the Association.

We were advised that Pipe Majors and Leading Drummers of our Grade 1 & 2 bands had been asked to fill out a survey by a commercial website which asks them to grade RSPBA Adjudicators based on a number of criteria. HQ has written to all Grade 1 & 2 bands to confirm that The RSPBA have had no involvement with this survey.

Proposals for work on Headquarters building are ongoing and updated drawing have been submitted, these plans will be looked at and discussed by the directors at a meeting on 12th November.

There will be no increase to the prize money or entry fees for the 2017 Major championships.

Adjudicators fees at local contests will increase to £75 and all other officials at local contests will increase to £50.

Headquarters are looking at advertising for a part time member of staff to focus on fundraising.

There has been a donation from an Honorary Life Member to the Juvenile section fund. The RSPBA will also donate 1% of its surplus this year.

Alex and Wilma Dalziel are to be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of the work they have done for the Association. The Branch congratulated them on this award which will be presented at the RSPBA AGM in March 2017.

Music Board report:

There has been no Music Board meeting.

There was some discussion on the playing requirements for juvenile bands at the Major championships and clarity was provided by I Simpson that in previous years this has mirrored the grade 2 requirements, with the exception of the Worlds. The Chairman asked if consideration had been given to re-aligning the Juvenile grade with Grade 2 rather than Grade 3 as it is at present. It was considered that this could cause several problems for juvenile bands, especially those being recently promoted to the grade.

World Solo Drumming. It has been agreed that branches holding a qualifier for the Adult contest will now have 2 qualifiers going straight through to the WSD semi-finals. The number of qualifiers from the morning heats of the WSD will be reduced as a result.

Trophies:

Everything is fine however emails are still going back and forward with regards to the Robert Moir Trophy.

Steward's report:

Thanks was given to all stewards at the WSD event. It was also said that the new venue for the Adult Final is much better for the competitors and the stewards.

We will also need some new tents for next season. It is hoped that we could trial a new type of tent at Dunbar 2017.

Education

There was nothing to report

Indoor Contest

The proposed date of 1st April 2017 has now been confirmed.

Outdoor Contests

We will contact the promoters to confirm that dates for the outdoor contests.

The proposed dates for next year's Branch contests are:-

Dunbar	13 th May
Bathgate.....	27 th May
Burntisland	22 nd July
North Berwick.....	5 th August
Bridge of Allan.....	6 th August
Peebles.....	2 nd September
Innerleithen	9 th September

Entry for all of this year's outdoor contests will be through the Online system.

Branch Loyalty Scheme

This year's Loyalty Scheme will make awards to the following bands:

Davidson's Mains and District for attending all 6 contests, Stockbridge Grade 3, Stockbridge Grade 4B, and Tweedvale, all of whom attended 5 contests.

The awards will be made at the Branch AGM on 27th November.

AOCB

Our Chairman also thanked Davidson's Mains & District for their help in supporting the Lord Provost of Edinburgh at an event in the EICC at very short notice.

We have been advised that this year's P/M William Fergusson contest will be held on the 12th November at the College of Piping in Otago Street in Glasgow. The Branch Secretary will confirm the start time of the contest and notify the 2 qualifiers from our indoor contest.

In order to process the financial transactions associated with the online entry system, it was agreed that our Chairman, Mr John B Hughes, be allowed to apply for access to the Internet Banking facilities associated with the Branch bank accounts. The relevant paperwork would be countersigned by the Branch Treasurer, and Branch Secretary.

Meeting closed 7.00

Next meeting

Branch AGM 27th November 2016 at 3.00pm
Followed by our Branch meeting at approx. 5.00pm