

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 25th October 2020**

John B Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Stewart Orr RVM, Chairman	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
Lesley Anne Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Peter Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
Wilma Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
Vi McMorran	Glencorse
Stephen McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Malcolm Brown Scott, Director	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Iain Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
Michael Binder, Magazine Reporter	Royal High
Brian Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
James McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
Margaret Watters	Scottish Fire & Rescue
Murray Cameron	Camelon and District
Kevin Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
Christine Reid	Police Scotland Fife
Susan Starr	Peebles Ex-Servicemens
Euan Whitmore	Stockbridge
Elizabeth Scott	Scottish Fire and Rescue

Apologies: W McIntyre

Welcome

As the Branch Chairman was delayed in joining the meeting, the Branch President took the chair. The meeting was again conducted online due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the President thanked everyone for attending using this new approach.

Minutes

The Minutes of the September Meeting Proposed by Police Fife Scotland and seconded by Camelon & District.

Directors report:

Discussions have been held with the Music Board regarding online competitions, and the suggestion is that these should be more from the education point of view instead of a competition.

Marketing and Media committee are continuing to looking into several parties for the new webpage

It is extremely likely that the competition season 2021 will need to be held under continued CoViD-19 restrictions, but Directors will have to wait for more guidelines and announcements from the Government. A working group has been convened under the RSPBA Vice President Paul L Brown to work on what exactly needs to be done. This working party includes representatives from the Board of Directors, Music Board, and the Adjudicators Panel.

The RSPBA have met with Paisley and they are very keen to have the event if at all possible. It may be necessary to move Paisley to July, if it is impossible to held the event in May due to restrictions still being in place. Glasgow Life are also keen to engage with other promoters to see where they can share learning and possibly solutions.

Music Board:

World Solo Drumming: Health and Safety risk assessment will be necessary due the Covid. First draft is out for the music board.

In 2021, the Juvenile International Tenor Drumming Championship, will change to World Tenor Drumming Championship.

Discussions about the format for bands still ongoing and the group has extended.

Standing start for NJB + 4B possible as trial at one of the majors and a possible minor competition before it.

The competition format reference document has been updated, and is currently being reviewed and corrections being made before it is published.

I Simpson asked if we could add to the minutes, the item on 2021 considerations which had been discussed at music board, and he had quickly covered at the September meeting.

Trophies:

No topics for discussion.

Education:

No topics for discussion.

AOCB:

2021 Contests:

The President is in touch with James Young High School regarding the Indoor Contest, but at the moment, no indoor events can happen.

Still in the process of contacting promoters for the outdoor competitions to confirm viability of the events and any proposed dates.

Dates and locations are expected to be roughly similar to 2020

No funding is yet available for the Dunbar contest from East Lothian Council, but the President will try again.

It is expected that CoVid will have a direct impact on areas such as social distancing, maximum numbers in the venue, and the requirement to track and trace each of these individuals.

AGM set for next time 29/11/2020 online. Relevant information will be sent out to the bands beforehand. A reminder that some roles in the branch are vacant and need nominees,

Scottish Fire Rescue advised that their new secretary for now is Margaret Watters. Margaret was asked to advise HQ via the New Secretary form online.

Question raised as to why Royal Scot Dragoon Guards Band are noted to playing at remembrance? The President advised that as they are regarded as professional musicians, they have different regulations than non- professional bands.

Next Meeting AGM 29th November 2020 at 3.00pm and this will be followed by our 1st branch meeting of the 2020/21 year.

Appendix:

Season 2021 - Iain Simpson had a few thoughts which he shared with the MB: -

Will councils/local authorities still have cash available to fund Majors? Lots of budget cuts. It was in the news that Glasgow Life was struggling financially.

- Do we need a back-up venue in case Major Championship town is locked down?

The next three items refer to number of people attending an outdoor event. How can we police the number of people or in other words how can we guarantee the maximum number of people attending our event?

- Will spectators be allowed and if yes how many?
- Should we cap number of bands entering?
- Should we cap number of players?

The next three also try to limit the numbers. I envisage bands turning up 90 minutes before the play, warm up, perform then leave. We could create a "channel" for them to tune up in and they'd move forward every 8/10 minutes as previous band finished competing. No real need for stewards here.

- 3 blocks of 3 grades in 3 rings. Block 1 starts at 9am. Block 2 starts at 12noon. Block 3 starts at 3pm
- 2 blocks of 4 grades in 4 rings. Block 1 starts at 10am and block 2 starts at 2pm. (I'm thinking NJA & Juv could be in same ring as they're very small grades)
- 4 blocks of 2 grades in 2 rings over 2 days (NJA & Juv as before) 10am and 2pm starts both days.

General points

- Band formation - circle or concert formation?
- Adjudicators - will some of them be "shielding"? Will we need 4 or 5 panels as 2019?
- Could the closing date for all 5 Majors be the same time to allow some forward planning?
- Could the first 3 Majors be "Localised"?
 - Paisley - Central belt of Scotland and SOUTH
 - UK in Ireland - for all bands in North and South Ireland
 - Inverness - NORTH of Central belt
- Dumbarton and Worlds for all (Hopefully we have a vaccine by then)
- Will bands be able to travel in coaches or cars? If cars, huge car park required.
- Will the March Past take place? Perhaps just one grade to attend? Hold results online?