

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 28th September 2014**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorrان, President	Glencorse
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
J. Barnes	Craigmount Caledonia
L.J. Barnes	Craigmount Caledonia

Apologies: D. Brand, W. McCafferty, M. O'Neill, S. Orr, N. Purves, G. Purves,
LA Hughes

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd February were read and approved.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

An error on the Branch website concerning the Champion of Champions has been corrected.

An email with the proposed dates for next season has been sent to all our promoters and Dunbar, Melrose, Edinburgh and Dunfermline have still to respond.

The chairman informed the meeting of the proposed dates for next year's contests. Some of which are still to be confirmed.

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

John has also had contact from Berwick Upon Tweed to assist them in getting a contest up and running in Berwick and there has also been a request from another branch to assist with a new contest in July.

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of our treasurer the Chairman gave the report, details will be available from the secretary by request.

Directors report:

The next Directors meeting is on 4th October. There is currently some work going on looking at the structure of the organisation and work is also on going with regards to revising the registration system.

The Directors checked the registration details of some bands at the Scottish Championships and although no action was taken against any minor discrepancies it was made clear that these would all have to be in order for the World Championships.

Music Board report:

The Music Board are asking for feedback from branches with regards to the introducing pre-qualifying for the World Solo Drumming contest. There may be some problems in running a pre-qualifier for some branches as not all branches have a suitable contest which could be used as a qualifier. The main reason for this is to provide a bit of a solo circuit for drummers, provide drumming adjudicators more opportunity to judge solo's, and also reduce the number of heats for the adult solo drumming. Any alterations would not take effect until at least the 2016 event.

Between 1st November and 30th August there were 212 higher to lower transfers of individuals, it is suspected that some bands are trying to play the system by only transferring 2 or 3 players on different times throughout the season. A number of alternatives are being considered including, the possibility of introducing a transfer window when members could be transferred without cost, if they wished to transfer outwith the transfer window then a fee would be applied was discussed. The idea is to reduce the number of transfers during the playing season.

It was also said that with today's technology it should be easier to introduce photo ID for registered members which could be accessed by the Directors at a contests on their tablets, this would make checking registrations much easier.

It is hoped that there will also be a survey on the setup used at this year's World Championships.

A proposal is going to the AGM which will result in the Novice Juvenile bands being split into an A and B Grade with the Novice A playing the same criteria as grade 4A and Novice B will play the same as Grade 4B. Any proposals approved by this year's AGM would not be implemented until the 2016 season.

We were also asked if Branches could sponsor two students for the summer school and as Lothian & Borders branch have sponsored a piper and drummer in the past for this course it was agreed that this could be started up again.

Trophy Convenor's report:

It was said that the cost of repairing trophies for majors is getting higher as more trophies are being returned without being cleaned and also in a damaged condition.

Steward's report:

Alex thanked all the stewards for their hard work also reported that I. Crookston is retiring from stewarding, however there are another 2 or 3 who are interested on coming on board. Alex said that in general there is an improvement with everyone working together at the end of the day, although improvements can still be made.

Education report:

A total of 13 individuals are showing an interest In the Outreach Programme and our 1st workshop will be on the 4th October with the second will be on the 22nd/23rd November but it is still to be decided if we will require 1 or 2 days.

Alex Dalziel has also emailed the majority of the bands with regards to the outreach programme.

West Lothian Council are supporting our activities by providing classrooms at a reduced rate.

Indoor Contest:

There was some discussion on our indoor contest and whether we could reduce the number of solo events by dropping the confined events.

There was also some discussion on whether we could move from mini bands to full bands. This may cause some logistical problems but this will be discussed further.

These suggestions will be considered by the Chairman and a proposal brought to the October Branch meeting.

75th Anniversary

The Branch celebrated it's 75th year this year, and the specially prepared trophies were presented to the winning Branch bands at our Branch Championship at North Berwick.

AOCB

There was some discussion about what we can do to encourage more branch bands to attend branch contests and also if we could have some kind of loyalty scheme as an incentive. More than one system was discussed and this will be discussed further at the next Branch meeting.

It was asked if we should consider the way champion of champions are decided and whether or not we should continue on the basis of best 5 performances across all of the Branch outdoor contests, or whether we should revert to counting all results from all contests. If we wish to change this it would require a change of rule and would have to be decided at the A.G.M.

It was also suggested that the number of tickets given to bands for the Friday of the worlds was not enough in all cases but it was pointed out that this is out of our control.

Other issues from the Worlds on Saturday were pointed out.

- 1 There seemed to be some confusion over the Grade 1 seating on the Saturday. It was said that the seating for arena 1 ended up a free for all with public who had not purchased tickets just walking in.
- 2 It was also pointed out that the Juvenile grade started before the BBC were ready to start the Live Streaming so the first bands were not broadcast.

Meeting Closed: 19.35

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 26th October 2014 at 6.00pm.