

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

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
D. Brand	Newtongrange
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
Alex Dalziel Vice Chairman	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorran	Glencorse
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Sonia Easton	Wallacestone and Distict
Iain Simpson	George Watson's College B
Mick O'Neill	George Watson's College Juvenile

**Apologies:** B. McMorran

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were approved by and seconded by

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's report:**

Ann has received a copy of the proposed entry form for 2017 from Bathgate. There was a discussion about this and John will take this up with Bathgate Highland Games.

The Chairman read out a letter of thanks from John McInnes thanking everyone for the warm reception he had from everyone on what was his last contest as an Adjudicator.

**Treasurer's report:**

The Treasurer gave her report, details available from the secretary by request.

Some extra funding has been received for the Burntisland contest which the Branch shall hold to be used to support the Burntisland contest in the years following the existing funding deal with Fife Council.

**Directors report:**

The next directors meeting is on the 1st of October

## **Music Board report:**

There was a question from J Campbell asking if the list of approved tunes could be split into major and minor key's to help the bands in their tune selection.

There was some discussion around dual registration and in particular the dual registration of instructors. This will be going forward to the Standing Orders & Steering Committee for consideration.

There was also a discussion around trying to get more bands involved with their Branch and attending Branch meetings. It was also reported that other branches may be giving bands a payment for attending meetings.

There has also be a request to extend the duration of the time allowed for Grade 3 bands be increased from 3.5 minutes to 5.5 minutes.

There was also some discussion around grade 3 bands playing both criteria at the worlds was too much for some bands and it was suggested we get feedback from the grade 3 bands how they feel about this.

Education - The Certificate in Pipe Band Musicianship part 2 will be run out starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

There was also some discussion on the possibility of increasing the 7 minutes allowed for grade 4 could be increased to 8 minutes to ensure adequate time is allowed between bands to ensure the contest does not start to run over their time.

There is a new proposal for World Solo Drumming Adult qualification as the regional qualifying was not as well attended as it was thought.

Novice A and Novice B will be an March contest at this yers event. There is a proposal that the World Solo Drumming entry form allows Novice and Grade 4 players to enter either the MSR contest or March contest but not both.

It was asked if the RSPBA could run a freestyle contest as the Scottish Schools contest does. It was suggested that the Wm Fergusson contest may benefit from being tied into a Freestyle contest.

## **Trophies:**

Everything is fine with the exception of North Berwick. Some of their trophies are labelled incorrectly with the wrong return details. The trophy convenor has said that he would be happy to take over all North Berwick trophies as well for this contest but it would mean that all their trophies come to him and none going back to North Berwick.

## **Steward's report:**

Everything is ok but we will require a number of new tents for next season.

## **Education**

There was nothing to report

## **Indoor Contest**

The indoor contest will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April if the school is available then. This will be the week before the Kingdom Thistle solos.

We will try once again to ask for some assistance with manning the door.

## **Outdoor Contests**

We will contact the promoters for the outdoor contests.

Talks are ongoing with Edinburgh City Council regarding the possibility of a contest on the Castle Esplanade.

Contest Entries for the majors next year will have to be made online.

Other branches have used this method this year and Lothian and Borders Branch will also be moving to this method.

There will be development costs to the branch for getting this set up and there will also be charges for secure payments from Pay Pal.

## **AOCB**

The worlds will be one week later in 2018 and there is a suggestion that we could possibly have another major championship the week before the worlds.

There was some discussion on the website, there is quite a bit of information which is out of date and should be updated. Help has been offered to help keep the website updated.

It was said that the final tuning areas for North Berwick are getting too tight for the band and we could do with the allocated areas to be increased.

It was also said that the compiling room at Innerleithen is not ideal there are problems with noise and distractions from other persons using the same room. This can be looked at for next year.

Meeting closed 7.30

Next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> October