

**The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 29 October 2023**

J. B. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
I. Simpson	Edinburgh Academy
L. Moore, Music Board	Preston Lodge High School
W. Waugh	Camelon & District
J. Gavin	Camelon & District
P. Starr, Trophy Convenor	Penicuik & District
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
M. Binder	Preston Lodge High School
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
K. Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
M. Reilly	Police Scotland Fife
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
E. Scott	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
A. Scott	Wallacestone
C. Allan	Livingston Caledonia

Apologies

P. Hazzard, M. O'Neill, S. McQuillan, J Venters, D. Holburgh, G. Dyet

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 83rd AGM.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM Meeting was Proposed by Police Scotland Fife and seconded by Preston Lodge High School.

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 83rd AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

So last season we were fortunate to be able run a full calendar of Branch events. At this point we are waiting for confirmation from a couple of our regular contest promoters regarding the 2024 season. My thanks to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment, which will hopefully enable us to sustain a healthy contest schedule.

We are indeed fortunate within the Branch to have people committed to working together to develop and support the aims and objectives of the Association, so my thanks, as always, goes to the members of the Branch committee, and their families, for their continued support throughout the year. So, we wish the bands all the best in continuing to build for the coming season.

Treasurer's report:

The Accounts were presented to the meeting. Edinburgh Academy and Peebles Ex-Servicemen accepted the accounts as a true reflection

Director's report

A very successful season all things considered

Music Board Report

J. Hughes read the Music Board Report in S. McQuillan's absence

Grading Group

The Grading group has been active in reviewing standards and results from the 2023 season to compile many grading reviews. Following the initial review and Bands being informed of their new Grade for 2024, they have now actioned the various requests and appeals. We understand Bands have been notified by HQ and these have been published on the RSPBA Website.

Tunes Group

The Tunes Group continue to review and expand the tunes available for choice. These can be accessed by bands via the RSPBA bands via the RSPBA Website and some also have drum scores if required.

Format Group

The Format Group have progressed with the G1 MSR project and the NJB/G4B.

Novice Juvenile B

The Novice Juvenile B project was first piloted in 2022 and was extended in 2023 following the request of Bands. This was to allow for more events in which to trial the Static Start and for all Stakeholders to draw more informed conclusions. At the completion of the 2023 season, Tutors, Bands and Adjudicators completed an online survey. The results have been reported in the MB Minute of 26th September 2023 where over 63% wish the Static start to proceed as a rule change to make it permanent. The Music Board recommendations have been approved by the Board of Directors for SOSC to now prepare the rule change for the AGM in 2024.

Grade 1

The G1 MSR project was also reviewed by survey along with other development questions that form part of the current G1 development project. Again, the results have been reported in the Music Board minute – 26th September.

100% of Bands (18 responses which includes Bands from overseas who took part.) and 6 of the 8 Adjudicators (75%) who took part in the two pilot competitions support this new feature as part of the Competition Format going forward.

Following the review of the survey data the Board of Directors has approved the Music Boards recommendations;

Recommendations for 2024

1. That the Grade 1 Format formally adopts the MSR concept of playing an MSR of four parted tunes at a Major Championship as determined by the Music Board in announcing the playing requirements.

Recommendations for 2025

1. That the Grade 1 Format formally adopts a two-round contest of Medley and MSR (of four parted tunes) at a Major Championship as determined by the Music Board in announcing the playing requirements.
2. The timeline is to allow for announcements and communication to be facilitated effectively.

Solo Drumming Circuit

The circuit continues to develop with events for 2024 being planned for; Canada, New Zealand, and the United States along with the four based events for Adult Snare drummers.

In addition, a new Champion of Champion title will be awarded for Adult Snare Drummers at the World Solo Drumming Championship in 2024. The Champion of Champions will be determined via a league table across all 8 events in the circuit. The league table will operate in the same way for the Band and Drum Corps Champion of Champions, e.g. 6 points for a first place and 5 points for a second Place etc.

In 2024 further development opportunities are also available for Affiliated Associations and RSPBA branches to consider on a need or incremental basis. Specifically, this includes titled events to be promoted by hosts for Juvenile Snare drummers and Adult and Juvenile Tenor Drummers.

All titled events MUST follow the rules, ages and playing requirements as the World Solo Drumming sections.

but with a key caveat that the outcomes of these events do not affect the entry requirements to the World Solo Drumming. Albeit the Adult Snare Drumming remains as a circuit with the secondary prize of pre-qualification to the World Solo Snare Drumming Championship Semi -Final.

Other ongoing activities include:

- Music Board to clarify with Standing Orders the definition of a Medley. (MB Sept-23 item 17, Action points refers.)
- To initiate contact by survey amongst G2, 3A & 3B on potential playing requirement revisions and to determine if the 4-step project approach is required to be set up per the Format Group Terms of Reference. (MB Sept-23 items 8& 9, Action points refers.)
- Further feedback is sought from Branches on the idea suggested by a Juvenile lead Tutor in considering the award of Juvenile Championship Contests to remain on mainland Scotland. Format Group to consider if a Juvenile working Group is required (MB Sept-23 items 10 & 11, action points refers.)
- Play easement to be clarified for 2024.

Trophy Convener's Report

Thanks were given to all Bands that had returned all trophies prior to any contests; these dates will be published in due course.

A cost of £120 for all medals to be purchased for next season.

We have been asked to provide a update on the Mary Baxter Memorial Trophy. A proposal has been made that we replace this. This was accepted.

Loyalty Scheme

There has been four bands that attended 5 out of the 6 branch contests, as a result these bands will receive a cheque to the value of £500.

Burntisland and District
Camelon and District
Stockbridge 4b
Stockbridge 3B

There is also a £25 award for the Drum Major, and this year this is going to Michael Binder

Elections

President	J. Hughes Unanimous
Chairman	S. Orr RVM 3 year period Unanimous
Vice Chair	P. Starr Unanimous
Director	P. Starr Unanimous 1 Year Period S. Orr 3 year Period Unanimous
Education Committee	L. Moore Unanimous E Scott 2 Year Period

Honoraria

A discussion was had and it was agreed to have a increase of 10%

Book of Eminence

MB is working at producing this as a online document.

Branch Fees

These will remain the same as last year

Appointment of Auditors

We are looking to appoint two members from the committee to complete the audit of the accounts, Susan and Wendy have agreed to complete the audit.

AOCB

Face to Face Meetings – P. Starr has asked if we can go back to face to face. A discussion has been had and a potential of a Hybrid meeting. We will try to work out the logistics and will advise in Due Course.

Online Prize Payments – We are working to the potential of a online payment of all prize money. To do this we produce a voucher to the prize winners and they will contact us after the event to claim the monies.

Championships – British, UK and Euro to be confirmed. There is discussions currently being held with 6 promotors. Headquarters are hopeful that these will be confirmed by January. Ireland is not of the cards, but can not confirm anything until January.

Branch Contests
Indorr 30 March
Dunabr 18 May
Innerleithen 1 June
Edinburgh 16 June
BOA 4 August
NB 10 August

Peebles 7 September

Branch Meeting Dates

Jan 28

Feb 25

March 24

April 28

Next meeting will be 26 November immediately after the AGM

DRAFT