

**The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 24 November 2024**

L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
I. Simpson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
L. Moore, Music Board	Preston Lodge High School
P. Starr, Chairman	Penicuik & District
M. Binder	Preston Lodge High School
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
E. Scott	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
A. Scott	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
C. Allan	Livingston Caledonia
M. Brown- Scott	Livingston Caledonia
G. Dyet, Vice Chair	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. McQuillan	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
S. Grant	City of Edinburgh
W. Waugh	Camelon and District
J. Gavin	Camelon and District
J. Simpson	Edinburgh Academy.
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College

Apologies

P. Hazzard, J Venters, M. Reilly, S. Orr

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 84th AGM.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM Meeting was Proposed by Preston Lodge and seconded Livingston Caledonia

Chairman's Report

For the small season that we did successfully manage to run, this had to be down to Susan and Lesleyanne for all their hard work behind the scenes. Looking forward to a successful 2025

Treasurer's report:

The Accounts were presented to the meeting. Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate and Peebles Ex-Servicemen accepted the accounts as a true reflection

Director's report

A very successful season at both national and local level. There is due to be further update regarding the remaining majors to be confirmed in the near future.

Music Board Report

The Music Board continued to meet online during 2023. Throughout the year we have made progress across several projects and developments as follows:

- **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, the Group have now actioned the various requests and appeals. We understand Bands have been notified by HQ and these have also 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 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 Music Board 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.

C. Allan asked if there will be a full Tenor adult contest. S. McQuillan advised that it would be up to the individual host.

I Simpson asked for clarification on the grade1 contest playing both MSR and Medley if it would be a separate quota of judges. S. McQuillan advised that it would be 2 sets of judges.

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.

We should have enough medals for 2025 season as we had these from this year.

C. Allan asked if a decision had been made on the medals for all competitors, it was advised that the certs would possible.

Loyalty Scheme

There has been three bands that attended 3 out of the 3 branch contests, as a result these bands will receive a cheque to the value of £500.

Penicuik and District
Preston Lodge Novice
Preston Lodge Juvenile

It was also agreed to increase the Drum Major amount to £50, this will be going to Michael Binder and Graeme Wyse.

Elections

President	S. Orr, Unanimous
Chairman	P. Starr, Unanimous
Vice Chair	G. Dyet, Unanimous
Director	P. Starr , 3 Year Period, Unanimous
	M. Brown Scott, 3 year Period Unanimous
Music Board	L. Moore Unanimous
Committee	W. Waught
	J. Gavin
	C. Reid

K. Reid
P. Hazzard

Honoraria

A discussion was had and it is to remain as same as 2024

Book of Eminence

MB and SS to work on getting this as a live document online

Branch Fees

Adult Bands - A proposal of £100 if paid early and £150 if paid after agreed date.

Proposed by Preston Lodge High School and Seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia.

Novice and Juvenile Bands - A proposal of £80 if paid early and £120 if paid after agreed date.

Proposed by George Watson's College and Seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia

A Proposal by George Watson's College to allocate £15 of the branch fee to the education fund.

Seconded by Preston Lodge High School.

Appointment of Auditors

We are looking to appoint two members from the committee to complete the audit of the accounts, S. Starr and E. Scott have agreed to complete the audit.

AOCB

No Further questions the meeting was closed at 16.35

Next meeting will be 26 November immediately after the AGM