

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 24 October 2024**

S. Starr, Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
L. Riad	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
P. Starr, Chairman	Penicuik & District
W. Waugh	Camelon & District
J. Gavin	Camelon & District
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
C. Allan	Livingston Caledonia
H. Allan	Livingston Caledonia
R. Adams	Stockbridge
L. Moore	Preston Lodge High School
E. Scott	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
A. Scott	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
I. Simpson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
Y. Drummond	West Lothian Schools
J. Zasada	West Lothian Schools
M. Brown Scott	Livingstone Caledonia
S. McQuillan	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
W. Macintyre	George Heriots School
G. Dyet	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
S. Grant	City of Edinburgh
M. Cameron	Camelon & District

Apologies

S. Orr, P. Hazzard, M. Binder, L. Moore, K. Reid, C. Reid

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the September Meeting Proposed by Livingstone Caledonia and seconded by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer's report was presented and details are available by request.

The Books have been closed and no other bands have come forward to cash cheques since these were closed.

Secretary's report

S. Starr advised that until the Majors had been confirmed that our branch contest dates would be proposed.

Indoors 29 March
Dunbar 3 May
Innerleithen 7 June
Bridge of Allan 3 August

North Berwick 9 August
Peebles 7 September.

M.O'Neill asked if Dunbar is potentially a week earlier. S. Starr explained that she hadn't spoken with Dunbar to see if the contest would progress for 2025 so this could be pushed back a week to 10 May.

Director's report

P.Starr advised that the Directors met on 5 October and the following points were discussed:-

- A new WPBC Banner has been donated by Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia.
- Any bands that are wishing to appeal their regrading will need have the paperwork to support this request.
- Solo Piping Championship – A licence can now be applied for.
- Pipeband College Workshops can be run through the Branch Reps.
- Headquarters now have a Fundraising Officer, Chris Ross and he can also help with bands looking for funding.
- The Only dates that we have confirmed for the Major Championships at the moment are:

26 July Scottish Championship Dumbarton
15 6 August World Championship Glasgow

I Simpson asked if there was a likely hood of 5 Majors being held in 2025. P. Starr and M. Brown-Scott confirmed that at the moment they can not advise on any further information.

Music Board Report

- Music Board are next due to meet on the 16th of November.
- Matter ongoing since last Report – September 2024 include:
 - For the International Solo Drumming Circuit, it is imperative that hosts secure venues and share dates /venue with the CEO - Colin Mulhern imminently. This is to ensure HQ can advertise these in November to assist with travel plans and attract players from the International circuit. At the last Branch meeting Mick O'Neill reminded that another host has already sought the 5th April 2025 allocation having written in previously. Lothian and Borders have initiated the 29th March 2025. (NB – Dates for the International Circuit shouldn't clash as they are Championship contests).
 - Branches hosting International Drumming Circuit events which carry national titles can also now align respective solo piping contest with the Championship titles. For example, RSPBA Branches hosting a titled Drumming event can align the solos piping event which is happening at the same time with the same tile. For the LB Branch this could be; The RSPBA Scottish Solo Piping & Drumming Championship, hosted and presented by the RSPBA Lothian & Borders Branch, Sponsor by...(if a Sponsor is on board-, other Branches are now reaching out to sponsors)
 - Juvenile development Format– this matter is ongoing. The Format Group met at the request of the RSPBA Chairman and welcomed representatives from member Bands. A survey will be deployed to all Bands within the three juvenile grades and reported back.

AOCB

S. Starr would like to Congratulate Kerr McQuillan on winning the first ever Champion of Champion for the World Solo Drumming Circuit.

Branch Fees

A discussion was had on the branch fees. S. Starr proposed that these be kept the same as last year and be discounted if paid before the January Meeting. This was agreed.

George Watson's Caritas Banner

M. O'Neil advised that this event is being held on 24 November at George Watson's College should anyone wish to attend.

Scottish Solo Drumming Championship

H. Allan asked if it would be possible for all prize winners at the above event to receive a certificate/medals along with their prize. S. Starr advised that we will definitely look into a certificate.

In Person Meetings

M O'Neil asked if we could be a mix of in person and online meetings. A discussion was had and it was agreed that we would need to have the AGM in person but it could be looked at having a variance.

The meeting was closed at 19.15

Next online meeting will be 24 October 2024