

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 26 January 2025**

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
W. Waugh	Camelon & District
J. Gavin	Camelon & District
P. Starr, Chairman	Penicuik & District
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
C. Allan	Livingston Caledonia
G. Dyet	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. McQuillan	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
G. Allan	Stockbridge
M. Reilly	Police Scotland Fife
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
W. McIntyre	George Heriots School
M. Brown-Scott	Livingston Caledonia

Apologies

M. Binder, P. Hazzard, S. Orr

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the October Meeting Proposed by People's Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia and seconded by George Watson's College

Treasurer's report:

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

Secretary's report

S. Starr advised that the booking for Inveralmond is progressing but we have been asked to provide a risk assessment. The meeting was asked if anyone has any experience in writing these. We had been asked to contact William McCafferty as this is his area of expertise. G. Dyet has agreed to take this forward.

There is also a meeting scheduled with George Watson's College to discuss the proposal of holding the Edinburgh Contest on their playing fields.

Director's report

M. Brown-Scott provided the meeting with the report from the directors meeting held on 25 January

- There is an announcement due in the coming days in regards to the Major Championships.
- The Juvenile survey has been issued.
- A vote was held in relation to the branches using the same titles as the WSD Solo Drumming events, unfortunately we are not allowed to use the title. A discussion took place regarding this and

It was agreed that the Branch should write to the Board to advise that we would like to challenge this decision.

Music Board Report

- Music Board met on the 16th of November & 11th January
- Music Board will next meet on 22nd February 2025
- Matters arising/ongoing:
 - The MB Convenor & Director acknowledges that the BoD minute needs to reflect accurately the business of the Music Board in both context and recommendations and must not be published with the BoD observations in the same paragraphs.
 - The Music Board has stated once again that the BoD Championship Group of which the Music Board (Format Group) was part of via John Hughes must continue. Also, the cut-off date principle should also be applied in terms of agreeing a date by which Championships should be announced. This is because Bands need to plan logistics and address Financial matters.
 - The G2 Two round contest at the WPBC - The Music Board recommendations have been with the BoD for a few months and require imminent action.
 - Juvenile (all grades) the survey completed with 40 responses. Recommendations are now with the BoD to progress the outcomes. MB have approved and recommended the Juvenile Friday competition goes ahead and the dual Instrument rule change. Albeit the player in the dual capacity can't play the same instrument twice, it must be in two different Juvenile Grades and ONLY within the same organisation. NB – not across Bands out with the same Organisation. It is recommended that SOSOC work with the Format Group to develop the wording for the AGM in 2026.
 - All dates and venues for the International Solo Drumming Circuit require to be announced urgently. Hence the reason we need hosts to finalise their arrangements without further delay.
 - The playing requirements for the Major Championships are ready to be announced. If its 5 Majors the normal rotational principle will apply- e.g. Major 1 to 5, not competition title. If its 4 Majors, we will operate a principle for 2025 of playing each discipline twice (where possible.) Albeit for Juvenile and as previously intimated playing the same requirements at the last two Majors will move to this being rotated like other Grades.
 - Branches are reminded that for local Pipe Band Competitions the titles used must comply with the Standing Orders - e.g. NJB/G4B- would be G4B and all must march, G1/G2 – MSR is G1. The rules are clear on this.
 - FG to progress an amendment to The Competition Format Guide that takes account of the Bass Drummer being unable to play. It was stressed that the amendment would NOT facilitate the Bass Drum being played by a person not registered with the said Band. The amendment would permit a player from the said/same Band/Organisation.
 - The Music Board Director – reminded all that local Rules should be submitted to the Format Group via HQ. Thereafter, the Format Group via the Music Board will provide advice and recommend approval if in line with National rules and other matters. **Action:** Music Board Reps to remind Branches that any Local Rules **must** be submitted for approval via HQ for passing to the Format Group for review.
 - The Music Board discussed the scheduling of Championships. Seeking that the Pack that is available for Promoters is sent to Branches and others so they can assist in securing Championships. Also, it is felt that protocol should have been followed given the untimely

decision to go ahead with a Major on the 12th of July, specifically, that members should have been consulted via the Branch network to avoid the adverse publicity that has since ensued.

- Grading Group are to review the Grading guide and update as required. In particular, to take account of the registration information required to facilitate Gradings.

Education Report

The Pipe Band College has changed the entry requirements to sit Certificates of Pipe Band Musicianship Level 1 and 2 to bring it into line with SQA examination entry requirements where a pass at the level below is all that's required, and to promote further learning for individuals that achieved B and C grade passes. Previously entry into CPBM Level 1 required an A grade pass at SCQF Level 6 (80%+), and entry into CPBM Level 2 required 80%+ in Level 1 overall.

The A grade pass of 80%+ is still a requirement for entry into the PDQB Tutoring and Teaching Certificates and to progress to become an Adjudicator.

Ben Duncan and Simon Grant have been appointed as RSPBA sponsored assessors - to be ratified by PDQB

A large number of PDQB Assessments successfully took place in December at George Watson's, George Heriot's, Johnstone and Preston Lodge which included many National Professional Development Awards at SCQF Level 7 and 8. It is good to see young people taking their learning to these high levels.

Assessments at Edinburgh Academy, Strathallan Schools, and Mull Schools are taking place in the coming weeks.

In the last few years The RSPBA Pipe Band College have delivered 60% of all piping assessments and 90% of all the drumming assessments that have been carried out worldwide.

AOCB

Meetings

It was agreed to hold all meetings online with the exception of the November and AGM, these will be a hybrid meeting.

Next online meeting will be 23 February 2025 via Zoom