

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
On 25 January 2026**

**L.A. Riad, Treasurer**  
**S. Starr, Secretary**  
**P. Starr, Chairman**  
M. Brown-Scott  
G. Dyet, Vice Chair  
M. O'Neill  
C. Allan  
M.Reilly  
T. Thomson  
L. Moore  
S. McQuillan

**Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia**  
**Peebles Ex-Servicemen's**  
Penicuik & District  
Livingston Caledonia  
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia  
George Watsons College  
Livingston Caledonia  
Police Scotland Fife  
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia  
Preston Lodge High School  
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

**Apologies**

S. Orr MVO RVM

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the October Meeting Proposed by Livingston Caledonia and Seconded by People's Ford Boghall & Bathgate.

**Treasurer's report:**

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

**Secretary's report**

S. Starr advised that the entries are now live for the indoor event and that the closing date is 6 March with the draw scheduled for 11 March.

S.Starr advised that the entry forms for the outdoors and have been sent to all promoters with the view to going live on 8 March.

**Director's report**

The minutes from the last meeting have not been published as of yet and will reported on as soon as they have.

**Music Board Report**

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the Music Board meeting of 15th November have been submitted to the Bord of Directors. The outcomes will be reported at our Next Branch meeting.

**Standards and Grading Group update**

- Appeals are being processed
- Registration documents review ongoing

### **Format Group Update**

- The WSD Circuit dates are now set and advertised for 2026. The schedule is also advertised online with some already open for entry.
- The Circuit will be reviewed and led by the Format Group with input from stakeholders.
- The Playing requirements for 2026 have been approved and published, this also clarifies the Format for Grade 2 over both Friday and Saturday.
- Per the Format Group responsibilities - the group wish to be involved in the timing and format model for all Juvenile grades at the WPBC.
- Band Growth & Sustainability-
  - The Music Board agree this is an important topic and believe the issue of band sustainability is multi-dimensional; it involves leadership capacity, teaching systems, player development, and post-pandemic recovery. Therefore, has recommended a consultation approach that must explore the why and how behind opinions, not just the what. This approach would ensure that future decisions are well-informed and widely supported.
  - By taking a measured, consultative approach, the Association can ensure that decisions are fair, evidence-based, and focused on what truly matters — growth, teaching, leadership, and the long-term sustainability of our movement.
  - The Music Board approved recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors:

### **Tunes Group**

The Music Board wish to mark the retirement of Jim Wark who has made an enormous contribution over several years, and to the Tunes Group. His depth of expertise, steady effectiveness, and ability to bring clarity to discussions have strengthened the Music Board work time and again. Just as importantly, Jim's humour and good spirit have lifted the room and helped the group work well together. He is held in the highest regard by all members and is thanked sincerely for everything he has given.

### **Education**

L. Moore advised that the Pipe Band College met on 17 January, however the minutes are not available as of yet and will be reported at the next meeting.

There had been a great number of exams sat in December with level 8 awards being obtained by juvenile aged members.

M. O'Neill would like to compliment the education team on the successful exams.

### **AOCB**

#### **Indoors**

S. Starr asked if we should think about changing the playing criteria for Grade 2 at the indoors to mirror that of the first major. It was agreed that we should.

M.O'Neill asked if there had been any further development on the potential to hold the Juvenile grades on the mainland when the competition is held in Northern Ireland. It was agreed to revisit this in September after the season.

Next Meeting Online. 25 February 2026