

**Minutes of the Annual general Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch**  
**Of**  
**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**  
**Held in Beechwood Bowling Club, Edinburgh**  
**On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

**Band members and representatives present:**

J.McNeill, President	Dunbar RBL
J.Hughes, Chairman	Drambuie Kirkliston
G.Craig, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School N/J
A. Cook	Lothian & Borders Police
S.Orr	Royal Scot Dragoon Guards
A.Hazzard	Newtongrange
N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
A.McNeill	Newtongrange
P.Hazzard	Newtongrange
C.Latta	Linlithgow & District
T.Colquhoun	Tranent & District
T.Clarke	Craigmount High School N/J
V.McMorran	Glencorse
G.Stafford	Torphichen & Bathgate
C.Firth	Torphichen & Bathgate
C.McLuckie	Bo'ness RBL
D.Brand	Newtongrange
G.Purves, Vice Chairman of the RSPBA	

**Apologies:**

J.Brand, I.Simpson, M.O'Neill, M.Warren.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also welcomes George Purves as the Vice Chairman of the Association

**Minutes of the 2003 AGM:**

The minutes of the 2003 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted as a true record. They were proposed by Newtongrange and seconded by Craigmount High School.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's report:**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 2004 AGM. This year has been another successful year for the Branch, and my personal thanks go to all Office Bearers and Committee Members for All their hard work and dedication in making this Branch one of the most professional in the Association.

Can I also offer my thanks to the families of the Office Bearers and Committee Members for their support and understanding.

This season has seen a good deal of success by Branch bands in both local competitions and major championships.

The 2004 Branch Champion of Champions were:

Novice Juvenile	George Watson's College
Grade 4	Linlithgow & District
Juvenile	George Watson's College
Grade 3	Bo'ness RBL
Grade 2	Torphichen & Bathgate
Grade 1	Boghall & Bathgate
Juv D/M	Alan Morton
Adult D/M	Grant Craig

In the majors, George Watson's College took Champion of Champion in Juvenile after winning the Scottish, British and Europeans, and taking a second place at the Worlds and Cowal.

Linlithgow & District took Champion of Champions in Grade 4, with wins at the Scottish and British, a second at the Europeans. Stow, Duns and Tweedvale also made a showing in the table this year.

In the Novice Juvenile grade, George Watson's College were just edged out of the wins at the British and Europeans, and second at the Scottish and Worlds and being placed at Cowal. Craigmount High School also did well in being placed at the British.

Grade 2 saw Drambuie Kirkliston finish on level points at the top of the table having won the Scottish and British and being placed in the three other majors, but beaten into second due to the result at the Worlds.

Torphichen & Bathgate did well on their first season back together with places at the British and Cowal. The Royal Scot Dragoon Guards managed a placing at the Europeans.

In their first year in Grade 3B, Bo'ness RBL did well to be placed at the British.

In Grade 1, Boghall & Bathgate managed a placing at the Scottish, British and Cowal.

In the Drum Majors contests John Noble took the Cowal Championship with Grant Craig coming second. John and Grant were also placed at the British, with John taking places at the Scottish and Worlds. Alan Morton took the Juvenile Championship at Cowal, and was placed in the Scottish, British and Worlds.

So all in all a successful season for the Branch bands.

The major championships for 2005 are as follows:

Scottish	Dumbarton	21 <sup>st</sup> May
Europeans	Banbridge, N.I.	25 <sup>th</sup> June
British	Tain	30 <sup>th</sup> July
Worlds	Glasgow	13 <sup>th</sup> August
Cowal	Dunoon	27 <sup>th</sup> August

Finally can I take this opportunity to thank all the Branch bands and their representatives for their support over the past season and wish them all the best for a successful 2005 season.

**Secretary's report:**

A very successful year, thanks to all for their help during the season.

There were concerns from the promoters as to MSR being played in Grade 3 contests prior to Major's. This was mainly due to North Berwick where 9 bands entered and only 3 played. This only happens with contests that are playing MSR the week before a major championship. Contests in 2005 that might be affected are Dunbar, Innerleithen, North Berwick and Melrose. A few letters on the subject have been received. As far as the bands are concerned they think that this is the way forward. However, what we do risk is having promoters cancel contests or playing selection in grade 3 and Juvenile even when the Major the next week is MSR. The Chairman and Secretary will hold discussions with the promoters to help to resolve this problem.

An Intermediate course will start on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2005. A venue has yet to be arranged. So far there are 18 students taking part.

The Branch Indoor contest will be held in Craigmount High School on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005. It was proposed that we increase the prize money for the indoor contest. A sum of £300 was agreed and the Treasurer is to look into how this can be best distributed among the events.

A list of bands not yet paid their Branch dues was read out. However some bands are either non-competing or have gone to the wall.

**Treasurer's report:**

The treasurer distributed copies of the accounts and went through them. There were no questions on the accounts.

The accounts were adopted as a true record by Dunbar RBL and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate.

**National Council report:**

A full and comprehensive report was given. Among the items raised was the coach parking arrangements at the Worlds. Parking is on a first come first served basis.

Headquarters building is in need of repairs. This is due mainly to shoddy workmanship with earlier work done.

HQ are considering Bank transfer to reimburse official's expenses in the future.

Ian Embelton is now acting as Convenor of the Marketing & Media group since by S.McQuillan resigned.

A Championship working party has been set up to look at the logistics of the major championships.

The Music Board is to look at a possible limit on the number of players competing in a band at contests

A request by Inverclyde to host the 2006 European Championships at Gourock was accepted.

The Finance Committee is to be asked to cost World Championship Winners Medals to be presented to individual players at future World Pipe Band Championships.

Photographs are still awaited for the inclusion is the Drum Majors Manual.

**Music Board report:**

A full and comprehensive report was given.

The movement of bands within the grades was read out. Various appeals have been made and are being dealt with.

**Education report:**

24 students sat the Elementary exam with an 85% pass rate.

So far some 300 students have taken the courses and gained an 80% pass rate.

The Structured Learning courses will start on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The venue has yet to be arranged.

**Trophy Convenor's report:**

There were no problems with the trophies.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

At this stage George Purves, Vice Chairman of the RSPBA, oversaw the elections.

Office	Nominee	Nominated By
Chairperson	John Hughes	Craigmount High School, Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse.
Secretary	W.McMorran	Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse, Craigmount High School.
Minute Secretary	D.Brand	Glencorse, Craigmount High School
Magazine Reporter	J.Brand	Craigmount High School, Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse.
Committee members	Norma Purves	Craigmount High School, Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse
	Thomas Clarke	Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse, Craigmount High School
	Mick O'Neill	Glencorse, Craigmount High School, Drambuie Kirkliston.
	Tom Colquhoun	Craigmount High School, Drambuie Kirkliston, Glencorse
	Stewart Orr	Glencorse, Drambuie Kirkliston, Craigmount High School

The Music Board Representatives, Ian Simpson & Arthur Cook, were re-elected.

**Honoraria:**

It was agreed that the Honoraria should be:

Secretary	£550
Treasurer	£450
Minute Secretary	£400

**Book of Eminence:**

There were no entries.

**A.O.C.B.:**

Linda Whitecross has resigned from the post of Trophy Convenor. It was agreed to make funds available to give her a gift.

The Branch web site needs to be upgraded and maintained. It was proposed to consult Jason and seek his opinion.

It was suggested that each office bearer in the Branch submit a job description of his or her duties.

Playing requirements with Grade 3 at Branch contests was discussed. At contests the week before a major championship, bands would prefer to play what would be required of them at the major championship. This caused some problems last season and resulted in some bands withdrawing. Talks need to take place with the promoters to clarify the situation.

Concerned was raised about the differences in prize money between the grades. It was said that as all bands pay the same entry fee then the lower grade bands should have a better cut of the prize money. This is to be looked into.

A proposal for changes in the World Championships was submitted. This is to be discussed in greater detail at the next Branch meeting with a view to put it forward to the next R.S.P.B.A. AGM. A copy of this is to be sent out with the minutes, and a copy sent to Headquarters.

A suggestion was put forward that the World Championships be the last championship of the season and include Champion of Champions. This is to be discussed in further detail at the next Branch meeting.

Promoters of contests have asked for a breakdown of costs. The Treasurer is to do this.

As the Branch now run 7 contests it was suggested that all 7 contests be included in the Champion of Champions. There was much discussion on this and it was finally voted that bands would take the top 5 results from the 7 contests to determine Champion of Champions.

George Purves announced that his position as Vice Chairman of the Association was up for re-election next year. He asked that the Branch bands support him.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Donald Brand

**The next Branch meeting will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2005 in Beechwood Bowling Club, Edinburgh, at 6.30pm.**