

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 27th November 2005

Band 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
P.Hazzard	Newtongrange
A.Hazzard	Newtongrange
S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
J.Brand	Penicuik
N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
S.McNeill	Dunbar RBL
J.Morris	Linlithgow
J.Semple	Linlithgow
G.Stafford	Torphichen & Bathgate
A. McNeill	Newtongrange
V.McNeill	Newtongrange
J.Fraser	Tranent
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
A. Baillie	Prestonpans
C.McLuckie	Bo'ness
T.Clarke	Craigmount High School
D.Brand	Newtongrange
K.Reilly	Chairman.RSPBA

Apologies:

A. Cook, M.O'Neill, K.Campbell. T.Colquhoun.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He also welcomed Kevin Reilly, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

Minutes of the 2004 AGM:

The minutes of the 2004 A.G.M. were read, and formally adopted by Newtongrange and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

2005 has been another successful year for the Branch and for Branch bands. The Branch currently has 36 bands registered. This breaks down into:-

Grade 1	2
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	3
Grade 4	15
Juvenile	3
N/J	9

The Branch held one indoor contest and seven outdoor contests. It also hosted the World Solo Drumming Championships.

Branch Champion of Champions 2005 were

Juvenile	George Watson's College
Grade 4	Tweedvale
N/Juv	George Watson's College
Grade 3	Bo'ness
Grade 2	Drambuie Kirkliston
Grade 1	Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

In the RSPBA Champion of Champions table in

N/Juv. George Watson's College were placed in all majors coming equal second. Boghall & Bathgate and Craigmount School being placed in at least one major.

Juvenile. George Watson's College won three majors and were third in the Worlds. Boghall & Bathgate were placed in four majors and were fifth in the Champion of Champions.

Grade 4B. Prestonpans RBL managed a sixth at Cowal.

Grade 4A. Tweedvale managed a placing at the Scottish.

Grade 3B. Linlithgow narrowly missing out on Champion of Champions on the Worlds result behind Annsborough, with Bo'ness finishing third. Both with placing in four of the other majors.

Grade 3A. City of Edinburgh managed a placing at the Scottish.

Grade 2. Drambuie Kirkliston won three majors, including the Worlds and placed in two others. Torphichen & Bathgate finished second winning the British and placed in three others.

Grade 1. Boghall & Bathgate were placed in all six majors.

Next year the Branch is again running one indoor and seven outdoor contests. These are at: Dunbar. Bathgate. Hawick. Innerleithen. North Berwick. Melrose and Peebles.

The Major Championships for 2006 are:

Scottish May 20th at Dumbarton
British June 24th at Pitlochry
European July 29th at Greenock
Worlds August 12th at Glasgow
Cowal August 26th at Dunoon

Three bands have been re-graded. They are:

Linlithgow 3B to 3A
Bo'ness 3B to 3A
Drambuie Kirkliston 2 to 1

Retiring Office Bearers

After many years with the Branch, our President, John McNeill, has decided to have a well earned rest and retire. I am sure that the Branch would like to thank John for his commitment to the Branch in the many roles that he has performed over the years.

At this time there was a presentation to John, after which he thanked everybody for his support over the many years that he had been involved in the Branch.

Vote of thanks

I would like to extend my thanks to the Branch bands, their representatives, and the Branch Committee and Office Bearers for their help and support during my second year as Chairman, and for making Lothian & Borders one of the best run and most active Branches in the RSPBA.

Secretary's report:

The Dunbar contest went well with the playing criteria the same as the following major championship.

Bathgate are bringing back a grade 1 contest next year.

Hawick will be along the same lines as this year.

Innerleithen are happy to go with the playing criteria as there is a major the next again week. There will be a full compliment of adjudicators.

We are in talks with North Berwick about the playing criteria as the Worlds are the next again week.

Melrose will go ahead with a new sponsor.

Peebles contest will be the final contest again. There have been problems with some trophies not being returned, although the bands say that they have returned them.

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 Newtongrange and seconded by Lothian & Borders police.

National Council report:

John Hughes spoke at this and said that this had been his first year and that he had found it very interesting experience. He looked forward to representing the Branch and the Branch bands.

Education report:

The Branch had had another successful year for the structured Learning programme, running both Elementary and Intermediate courses for piping and drumming.

Fifteen students sat the course this year. Two of the students were sitting both Elementary and Intermediate certificates.

The results of this years courses were:

Elementary:

Two students. Both gained full passes. One for piping and one drumming.

Intermediate:

In piping there were seven students. Four gained full passes. One student passed the practical section and two passed the theory section.

In drumming there were eight students. Four gained full passes. Two passed the theory section and two failed both practical and theory.

Two of the students that gained their certificates passed their theory prior to this course. One, in piping, passed in 2001. The other, in drumming, passed in 2003.

As the results show, the Branch is getting a good return from holding these courses. Students are coming from other Branches, coming back to re-sit the course and new students. This gives the Branch a high profile within the RSPBA in the running of these learning courses.

Thanks must go to all the instructors and examiners and to everybody that was involved in any way in the running of the courses.

Trophy Convenor's report:

There were no problems with the trophies until Peebles.

Some trophies have been damaged but estimates for their repair are being sought.

Trophies need to be back to the Trophy Convenor before the day of the contest.

Possibly back at the contest before the one it is for. This is to be looked at.

The Branch is only responsible for Branch trophies.

The President of the Association now took over the meeting and conducted the election of the Office Bearers.

Election of Office Bearers:

Nominations:

Chairman-

John Hughes. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Vice Chair-

Grant Craig. Nominated by Newtongrange, Craigmount High School, and George Watson's College.

Secretary-

Bill McMorrان. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Treasurer-

Teresa Clarke. Nominated by Newtongrange, Glencorse, Craigmount High School, drambuie Kirkliston.

Minute Secretary-

Donald Brand. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Magazine Reporter-

Joan Brand. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Trophy Convenor-Ann Hazzard. This position was ratified by all bands present.

Committee members-

Norma Purves, Thomas Clarke and Mick O'Neill were all ratified by all bands present.

Peter Hazzard and George Purves were nominated by Glencorse and Drambuie Kirkliston.

Alex Dalziel was nominated by Glencorse.

National Council-

John Hughes, this position was ratified by all bands present.

Bill McMorrان-nominated by Glencorse and Drambuie Kirkliston.

Music Board-

Iain Simpson and Arthur Cook. These positions were ratified by all bands present

Honoraria:

It was agreed that the Honoraria should be:

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £400

Book of Eminence:

There was only one entry, that of Willie McBride.

A.O.C.B.:

Kevin Rielly, President of the Association thanked the Branch for all its hard work. This has been one of the busiest Branches in the country.

He told us that the Association was now financially stable and that some £60,000 had been invested in upgrading the headquarters building.

There is to be an increase in the prize money at the Worlds next year.

The 75th Anniversary of the Association went very well.
Next year is the 60th anniversary of the World Championships.
The Association website is currently being revamped and will re-launch next month (December).
The BBC is to record the 2006 World Championships.
An appeal was made for some memorabilia of bands for inclusion in a room within Headquarters.

Branch Website:

Jason Lafferty submitted a comprehensive statistic sheet for the season 2005.
The website went live in April 2005 and has been used to promote the Branch and Branch bands. There have been 10,689 visitors between April and October 2005. 107,846 pages viewed and 528,731 hits. The website has been accessed in 38 different countries.
It had its first ever online registration for the Tenor Drummer workshop.
Lothian & Borders Branch is one of few branches around and the only one to show prize money.

All office bearers are to have job descriptions. Each one is to submit their own one.

It was proposed that John McNeill, our retiring President be made a Life Member of the Branch. This was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Donald Brand.