

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Community Hall, Bellsquarry, on
Sunday 27th November 2011.**

Band representatives present:

W. McMorran, President	Glencorse
J. Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
LA Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
I. Simpson	George Watsons College
D. Brand	Newtongrange
B. Tait	Tranent
G. Clark	Torphichen & Bathgate
V. McMorran	Glencorse

Apologies:

N. Purves, G. Purves, C. McCluckie, M. O'Neill, J. Brand, W. McCafferty

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Minutes of the 2010 AGM:

The minutes of the 2010 A.G.M. were read and formally adopted by George Watsons College and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

Any matters arising were dealt with under the relevant reports.

Chairman's report:

Welcome to the 76th AGM of the Lothian & Borders Branch of the RSPBA.

The poor financial climate has continued to provide challenges affecting both the number of bands and the number of spectators attending the contests.

However in spite of this, we managed to not only maintain our current suite of contests, but actually added a brand new promoter and a superb venue to our range.

On behalf of the Branch my thanks go out to all of our promoters and their committees for their continued support and commitment to the branch which has enabled us to maintain a very healthy contest schedule. Without their continued

support and hard work, we would not be in a position to run some of the most successful contests in the country.

At this point I'm pleased to say that we have commitment to hold all of our contests again next year., although the date for the Edinburgh contest is still being discussed. I am also delighted to confirm that the Branch has been approached to run a new contest for Grade 3 & 4 bands which is being promoted by Bo'ness Pipe Band, and this will be run on Saturday 9th June 2012.

We are indeed fortunate within the Branch to have people who are committed to working together to develop and support the aims and objectives of the Association, so my thanks as always goes to the members of the Branch committee, and their families, for their support during the year.

I would also like to thank the bands for their continued support of the Branch and offer my congratulations to the various Branch Champion of Champions and those bands who were successful in the Major Championships this year.

The Board of Directors have again agreed that there will be no Headquarters representation at Branch AGMs unless this is specifically requested. Therefore, as per our constitution and rules, and as a member of the RSPBA executive committee, it will be my responsibility to take the chair for the election of office bearers.

Secretary's report:

As a Branch we have had another successful season and with the addition of the Edinburgh contest we were back up to seven contests. We were fortunate with the weather at Ingliston and all the bands I spoke to gave positive views for this venue.

It was a bit disappointing to see that the entries for some of our contests were down on previous years but this seemed to be the case with most branches this year.

I would like to thank all the bands who attended our branch contests this year, without your continued support these contests would not be as successful. I would like to congratulate all Branch bands who were successful at both Branch and Major Championships.

I would like to thank everyone from the bands and committee for their continued support and look forward to the continued success of the branch.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented an account of the Branch funds and asked for any questions regarding them.

A question was asked regarding the amounts entered for Entry Fees and also Fines and an explanation was given on these figures.

A decision was taken not to invoice the sponsors this year for website advertising due to the issue with the software on the website not working properly. This has now been rectified and the invoices will be issued as normal this year.

National Council report:

Congratulations must go to our Branch Chairman in being elected to the post of Vice Chairman of the National organisation at the AGM.

Admiration was expressed for the bands at the Scottish Championship at Dumbarton playing in very wet conditions.

We had a better day at Annan, there was a slight change to the layout from the previous year which made an improvement.

There was a vast improvement in the layout at Stormont with the final tuning areas placed in a better part of the park.

The Worlds went well although one arena had to be re-sited due to the excessive rainfall the day before.

Cowal – once again the noise coming from the ceilidh tent had to be controlled, this was brought down to a manageable level. Otherwise all went well.

The purchase of sail flags was a big asset to assist everyone to find where the arenas were situated at both Major and Branch level.

The Branch contests all went quite well, with a few minor problems being looked at.

The change of Park at Dunbar went down well.

There was a disappointing entry at Bathgate where numbers here have dropped significantly over the years and there was a high number of withdrawals on the day.

Innerleithen was a good day up until the march past with the prize giving taking part in the stand.

Edinburgh, this was a perfect day for their first contest everything just fell into place.

North Berwick, once again this went well although the prize giving had to be done inside.

Melrose was another good contest where everything went well.

Peebles have advised that they wish to have a Juvenile grade next year. This would help eliminated delays in the D/M contest as N/J bands would not then be involved in the G3 contest.

On the whole it was a good season except for the weather at times.

The Directors have asked for applications for an Education Officer, applications should be made through the appointed recruitment agency in the first instance. Details are on the RSPBA website.

Congratulations offered to Stewart Orr for his appointment to his new role as National Councillor and also for the way he has met this challenge.

The merchandising at the Majors has been well received however the company handling this did not make all Major Championships this year.

Paul Brown has been appointed as Convenor of the Standing Orders and Steering Committee following our Branch Chairman's election to Vice Chairman.

The Worlds will be a 2 day event in 2013 but will retain the option to revert back to a one day event if required in 2014 and 2015.

Music Board report:

It is hoped that we can get Summer Workshop back on track for 2012.

There was some discussion on the worlds as a 2 day event and information has been provided to the Board of Directors for discussion.

Grade 4a playing requirement for 2012 will be 2 Marches, 2 Strathspeys and 2 Reels all from the list of approved tunes.

It is hoped that we can get some PDQB learning material onto the RSPBA website. Work is still going on with the Requirements for Pipe Band Studies.

Education report:

There has been a poor response to any proposed education courses for the Branch this year however once we have a venue identified we will contact the bands again.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Everything is fine and nothing to report.

Stewards Report:

We have purchased new tents. We had a discussion on whether or not to purchase flags for the final tuning areas or not. It was agreed that they would be a benefit at any contest with 2 arenas.

Nominations:

Chairperson. John Hughes. Unanimous

National Council. Bill McMorran. Unanimous

Committee member. George Purves. Unanimous

All other post holders were ratified unanimously by the meeting.

Honoraria:

It was decided that the Honoraria remain at the same level.

Secretary £550

Treasurer £450

Minute Secretary £300

Book of Eminence:

It was agreed to include Ian McLean, Neil Cranston, Alistair Glendinning, Bob Martin and Bob Moir to the Book of Eminence. The Secretary is to contact the bands for relevant information for the book.

Branch Fees:

Branch Fees are to remain the same at £80 per Adult band and £60 per Novice or Juvenile band with a £20 reduction to both for fees paid prior to the AGM. The £10 Education fee also remains the same.

Appointment of Auditors:

Support has been given by a local financial services company through their Community Involvement scheme who have offered the services of one of their accountants to audit the branch accounts.

Notice of Motion and alterations to the constitution & rules:

None

A.O.C.B.

None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.