

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 12th December 2010**

Present: W.McMorran, President Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman 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.Hazzard Newtongrange
V.McMorran Glencorse
J.Brand Penicuik
M.O'Neill George Watson's college
S.Brown Craigmount High School
A. Brown Craigmount High School
I. Simpson George Watson's college
G.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
N.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
D.Brand Newtongrange

Apologies: C.McCluckie, J. Barnes, LJ. McGlaughlan, I. Bowden, W. McCafferty,
W. McIntyre

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 31st October 2010 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by Torphichen & Bathgate

Matters arising:

Chairman is still looking into purchasing Flags and Banners to identify arena and registration areas.

There have only been 2 replies from bands from our recent request for feedback on the current MSR format for Grade 4 bands and only 1 reply with regards to the proposed Advanced Piping and Drumming course.

Secretary's report:

Peebles High School has been booked again for the Branch Mini Band and Solo Contest. This will take place on 26th March 2011.

We have received 1 email requesting information with regards to the possibility of the Branch holding a PDQB course. Information will be passed on as soon as possible.

Treasurer's report:

Due to recent bad weather and lack of postal services the bank statement for this month has not yet arrived, however finances are as per the AGM Balance Sheet.

National Council report:

There have been no further National Council meetings. It was reported that Gordon Hamill may be considering standing as Chairman which will then leave a vacancy for the Vice Chairman's position.

It was asked who could make nominations for the Chairman's position and we were informed that any branch could make a nomination, however if the nomination was for a National Councillor to take the Chairman's position they would also require the support of the National Council.

Music Board report:

Iain Simpson asked if we had had any response to the request for names of individuals for the proposed advanced piping and drumming course to determine if there is enough interest to allow the course to go ahead.

There has been 1 regrading Aucharonan have been regarded from Grade 3a to Grade 3b at their request.

There was a discussion on the proposed changes to the rules regarding Dual Registration. It is proposed that Juvenile and Novice Juvenile bands could have both Pipe Major and Assistant Pipe Major dual registered, however only 1 dual registered player can play at any given time. Grade 4 bands could only have a Pipe Major dual registered. The dual registered player must take on the roll of Pipe major and must give the commands to the band.

There has been a tidying up of the wording of the rules regarding the breaking of ties over both band and solo contest to ensure more uniformity in the procedures.

The playing requirements of grades 3 and 2 will be the reverse of last season, contests where they played a medley last year will be an MSR this year and vice versa.

There will be no change to the MAP or Grade 4A MSR format.

At local contests it was advised that if there is a separate Grade 4 MSR contest this should be open to all Grade 4 and Novice Juvenile bands.

Trophy Convenor's report:

There is nothing to report.

A discussion took place with regards to the trophies for the contest at the Royal Highland Centre Edinburgh. There will be a total of 7 Grades with a Drumming prize for each grade.

John Hughes and John Starr from North Berwick Highland Games will meet with the Royal Highland Centre to discuss the logistics of the contest with them.

Steward's report:

There was nothing to report.

Education report:

John Connor and Jim Clark are both willing to run the course with Tracey Thompson and Scott Walsh taking over for any dates where required.

We are still trying to secure a venue for this. Iain Simpson to progress request to use GWC.

AOCB

We have had no response to the letters sent to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue advising them of a fine for failing to notify the branch that they would not be attending the Peebles Contest.

In response to a question from Craigmount High School There was a discussion on whether or not anyone should ask for the address details of individual juniors at solo contests on a competition entry form. It was suggested that it would be better to ask for the individuals band details and in the case of unattached competitors then if their personal details were only asked for when they were collecting prizes won then they would not be holding a data base of information for all contestants.

Craigmount High School have confirmed that they will do the catering at this year's Indoor Contest.

There being no more business the chairman closed the meeting.
Next meeting at Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 30th January at 6.00pm.