

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 27th February 2011**

Present: W.McMorran, President Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman Linlithgow
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary Bo'ness
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor Lothian & Borders Police
P.Hazzard, Minute Secretary Bo'ness
S.Hazzard Newtongrange
V.McMorran Glencorse
I. Simpson George Watson's college
G.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
N.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
D.Brand Newtongrange
S. Orr Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Apologies: C. McCluckie, J. Brand, M. O'neill, L. A. Oubbaih, A. Brown.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2010 were approved by Torphichen & Bathgate and seconded by Newtongrange.

Matters arising:

It was reported that National Council and Stewards will be responsible for policing bands who leave the park early at Major Championships. Any bands attempting to leave the park early should be reminded that if they do so they may be liable to a fine.

Hawick and Stow pipe bands have now amalgamated and have changed their name to The Scottish Borders Pipe Band. As both bands were Grade 4A bands there and there were no higher to lower transfers involved no regarding was necessary.

The Order paper for the AGM has been prepared and Gordon Hamil has been nominated for the post of Chairman with John Hughes being nominated for the post of Vice Chairman.

Secretary's report:

The number of entries for the indoor contest has dropped slightly from last year however there is still a good entry and the draw was made prior to tonight's meeting.

As ever, we will require as many volunteers as possible for this contest.

The Pryde of East Lothian Pipe Band have been graded as Grade 4B and have entries for both the solo's and mini bands.

All bands that were reported as not having paid their fees to Headquarters have been contacted with the exception of the Army bands who are overseas at the moment.

Treasurer's report:

There has been no update on the branch accounts as we have not received this month's bank statement yet.

National Council report:

The last National Council meeting was on 5th February. Neil Hodgson has resigned from both National Council and the RSPBA.

HQ successfully passed an audit of the SQA administration procedures. This audit was undertaken by the SQA themselves.

North of England branch made an enquiry about the wording in the new Articles of Association which come in to force when we change to a Company Limited by Guarantee. A new document has been created to tidy everything up and this will be in use from 28th February and will be posted on the web site. The RSPBA will continue to be a registered charity.

National Council are considering, where required at major contests, using National Councillor Assistants, their duties will be to assist National Council but they will not be responsible for making any decisions on the contest.

There are a few newly appointed National Councillors and they will require formal training, this will be done with John Hughes at the meeting following the AGM.

There was an enquiry as to whether a disabled Pipe Major can be assisted into the ring at contests. This would be ok but it may be beneficial to have someone other than the Pipe Major giving commands to the band if the pipe major is already in the circle at the start of the performance.

There was some discussion on holding the World Championships as a two day event. Some more information around this topic may be discussed at the AGM.

Glenrothes Pipe Band have been given permission to play in their trousers and shirts again this year until their uniforms are ready, as this may be later in the season.

A document to assist pipe majors of Grade 4 and N/J bands in the playing of MSR's has been published on Headquarters website.

Music Board report:

There was no music board report as their next meeting does not take place until April.

Trophy Convenor's report:

All the trophies are back for the solos but there are still a few trophies to be returned for the mini bands.

Steward's report:

The Chief Steward is working on the arrangements for the Indoor Contest.

Education report:

The Branch intend running a PDQB course this starting on Sunday 25th September, work has been going on to secure a venue for this and it should be confirmed shortly. The course will start with an assessment day to help determine the level of courses to be run and also the format and duration of the course.

An advert and information on this course will go onto the branch website.

AOCB

We should have Flyers detailing the Branch contests to be handed out at this year's AGM.

The Royal Highland Centre are to prepare flyers advertising this year's Edinburgh contest, they are promoting this event as much as possible with the creation of a website, they will also put advertising banners up immediately after the Royal Highland Show. This contest will also be promoted on Radio Forth.

The Trophy Convenor is to get prices for the trophies for the Edinburgh Contest.

In the event that John Hughes is elected as Vice Chairman of the RSPBA, Stewart Orr will be nominated as National Councillor for the Branch and his post will start following the RSPBA AGM.

Our Branch have offered to provide on-the-job training for any new National Councillors from any Branch at the Dunbar contest.

There being no more business the chairman closed the meeting.
The next meeting will be on 27th March.