

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 28th February 2016**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorran	President
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
D. Brand	Newtongrange
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
Alex Dalziel Vice Chairman	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorran	Glencorse
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
W. McCafferty	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

Apologies: L.A. Hughes, S. Orr, M. O'Neill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Alteration to the approval of the previous minutes was agreed as the wrong band had been named.

With this alteration, the minutes of the meeting of 31st January 2016 were approved by George Watson's College and seconded by Bo'ness

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

There was some discussion on the Branch accepting Electronic Payments from bands. The secretary informed us that Innerleithen wish to keep their date in September

Treasurer's report:

In the absence of our treasurer the chairman gave the report, details available from the secretary by request.

Directors report:

From the Directors meeting on the 6th February 2016.

The Northern Ireland branch have a new Director Arlene Graham, Arlene is taking over from Mervin Heron. There was a vote of thanks from the Directors for the work that Mervin had done over many years.

A quote of £8,500 has been tendered for the required roof repairs this was agreed by the Directors and the repairs have now been completed.

There was some discussion of the suitability of the current HQ building and what is required from the building and what we would like to use the building for. Do we really need the halls as it may be better to hold some of the events out with the building. It was suggested that if the facilities were better more bands would be able to use

headquarters. It was also said that we may be better to concentrate on having adequate office space meeting rooms and storage space.

It was agreed that the RSPBA would put up 2 trophies for the Forres contest.

The Music Board meeting had been chaired by Heather McKay as the Convenor was not available. It was said that at present the Board of Directors rely on the minutes of the meeting for approving matters from the music board and this does not always reflect the full context of how things were presented and discussed. It was agreed that the two representatives from the Board of Directors will have the authority to approve the minutes on behalf of the Board. The Board representatives may still refer items back to the full Board for approval where they feel this is warranted.

The Board had a presentation from Disclosure Scotland. Currently disclosures are only made to the specific band who 'own' the disclosure. As a result of changes in the process, the RSPBA could possibly become a signatory for disclosures and this could be administered on behalf of Disclosure Scotland. Headquarters and Branches would need to take a bigger role in this. More information will be provided to the bands once this approach has been considered by the Directors.

The Chairman gave a short presentation on some of the options for moving to electronic registration and how this might work. A discussion item is scheduled for the RSPBA AGM on 12th March on changes to registration and membership.

There was a discussion on how we could best pass on information of members and officials who pass away as it was felt that people did not always get the correct information with details for funerals. The Directors and Chairman intimated they they would share any information they received with the wider committee, and also put it on social media and the website.

Music Board report:

There was no report as there has been no meeting since the last Branch meeting.

Trophies:

Emails have been sent out to bands informing them about the return of trophies. One trophy has been lost and the cost of a replacement will be £100 which includes engraving the history on the trophy. This cost will be passed on to the band responsible.

The Branch agreed to purchase 1 first place trophy and 2 second place trophies for the new Novice grade at the majors.

Steward's report:

The Stewards allocation sheets for the majors is not yet complete. It was also suggested that cones would be preferable to flags to mark the start lines.

Education

There was nothing to report

AOCB:

The format for indoor and outdoor contests was discussed and agreed.

At the indoors there will be a separate contest for Novice A and Novice B
There is no change to Grade 4.

North Berwick will have separate Novice A and Grade 4A contests, and a combined
Novice B and Grade 4B contest.

We will require new trophies for the new Novice and Grade 4 events and the branch
will provide the new trophies for the North Berwick contest. The new trophies required
will be for the B grades.

For the Branch Champion of Champions Grade 4A and Novice A bands will only accrue
points for the A contests and the B bands will only accrue points for the B contest.

The order paper for the AGM has a proposed pilot rule change to allow the piping
adjudicators to discuss a performance prior to the next band starting. This is designed
to facilitate the next stage in the consultative adjudication pilot, which will be in place
at two majors this coming season. Consultative adjudication is one of the approaches
which could help to eliminate the large variances in some instances.

A question on the ruling for retirement at 75. It was said that if an official reaches the
age of 75 they would be able to continue until their 76th birthday.

George Watson's College contest will be on the 6th March with the solos starting at
9.30 and the bands starting at 1.30.

The Scottish Schools contest will be held on the 13th March.

The Willie Fergusson Contest did not take place last year.

The next branch meeting will be delayed by one week until 3rd April as it would have
landed on Easter Sunday.

Meeting Closed 19.10pm

Next Meeting 3rd April at 6.00pm.