

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 26th February 2017**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
A. Dalziel Vice Chairman	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder	Stockbridge
S. Starr	Hawick
S. MacDonald	Wallacestone & District
D. Brand	Newtongrange
B. Watt	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson	George Watson's College NJ B

Apologies: B. McMorrان, S.Orr, M. O'Neill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting 29th January 2016 were approved by Hawick and Seconded by Wallacestone & District.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

All the paperwork for PayPal has now been submitted and waiting to be actioned by PayPal.

The Chairman confirmed that all contests are agreed, and the online entry system is now available.

Secretary's report:

Indoor entries are very slow to come in which is not unusual for this contest, however Peter will email a reminder to the bands.

Entries are also starting to come in for our outdoor contests, with a number of overseas bands already entering for North Berwick and Bridge of Allan.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and details are available from our secretary by request. The meeting was informed all monies being held by PayPal from the band registrations is now into our account

Directors report:

The application from Inverkeithing to hold a contest on the 5th August 2017 was rejected by the board, as there are other contests in the L&B and DPA Branches on that day.

The Chairman reviewed the various proposed changes of rules which are on the Order Paper for the AGM.

These included:

- The introduction of the 42 day rule regarding Higher to Lower transfers only.
- Changes to the Dual Registration rules for Instructors of Novice and Juvenile bands within the same organisation.

The Northern Ireland branch put forward a proposal to the AGM to remove the lists of approved tunes, this was rejected as the proposal was not submitted by the required date.

The Northern Ireland Branch also asked for the start time of the AGM to be moved back to 11.00am to allow time for members travelling from Ireland, however this could not be accommodated due to the time constraints for the closing of the meeting.

Music Board report:

The Music Board have not had any meeting.

Iain Simpson confirmed that the new 42 day rule for transfers would only apply to higher to lower transfers, lower to higher transfers still only require 14 days notice.

Trophies:

There are no problems with the trophies.

An email has been received from Innerleithen to say they want to remove the best bass prizes from contests.

Steward's report:

We will need 3 new tents for the Dunbar contest, our chairman will attend to this.

There was a question raised with regards to the branch using Stewards from other branches when we have sufficient stewards within the branch. It was said that as the stewards availability sheets come from headquarters and other stewards can make themselves available for our contests as our stewards can also carry out duties for other branches. Our chief steward has offered to look at this matter.

Education

Pat Wheelan will look at dates around September and October regarding our Education Workshops.

The recent Drum Majors workshop worked very well and the costs were met by the Drum Majors who attended. They hope to run more workshops in the future.

Indoor Contest

There was a discussion on the fact that the entries were slow in coming in this year and it was agreed that a reminder would be sent out to the bands. A request will be made to the school to provide some older pupils to help out the stewards on the day.

Outdoor Contests

Discussions are ongoing regarding access to various areas of Prices Street Gardens for this contests. The meeting was informed that other venues for this contest were looked at before deciding on the gardens.

The Lord Provost has asked if we could have a parade of bands from the City Chambers down to Princes Street Gardens on the day.

We are looking into getting wrist bands for drum majors to ensure they get admission to the park, they would get them from registration before entering the park.

We are still waiting on final confirmation on entry forms from both Peebles and Innerleithen.

The Branch have taken over the Bridge of Allan contest and our chairman will have discussions with their officials as to what the branch responsibilities will be and what Bridge of Allan want to look after themselves.

AOCB

George Watson's College contest will be held on the 5th March.

The Scottish Schools contest will be held on the 12th March at the James Gillespie High School. The Chairman confirmed to Vi McMorran that there will be senior stewards at the Scottish Schools contest to get the results to the compilers on time.

The Coatbridge indoor contest will be held on the 29th April.

We were reminded bands who have not paid their Branch fees will not be able to enter online until their branch fees are paid.

Meeting Closed 18.45
Next Meeting 26th March