

THE Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club on Sunday 29th January 2006

<u>Present:</u>	J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow & District
	G.Craig, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
	W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
	T.Colquhoun	Tranent & District
	A.Dalziel	
	Peter Hazzard	Newtongrange
	Ann Hazzard	Newtongrange
	Susan Hazzard	Newtongrange
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	V.McMorran	Glencorse
	J.McNeill	Dunbar RBL
	I. Simpson	George Watson's College
	D.Brand	Newtongrange

Apologies: J.Brand, T.Clark, T.M.Clark, J.Semple, M.O'Neill, A.Cook.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 27th November 2005 were proposed by Newtongrange and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

There are still some Peebles trophies missing. It is possible that they may be at Headquarters.

Letters are to be sent to trophy holders asking that they be returned four weeks before the contest they are for. A receipt will be given for each trophy returned.

Repairs to damaged trophies will be charged to the band.

Secretary's report:

An invoice from Jason for the upkeep of the website was received. This was for £100. It was agreed that the Branch should pay this.

The RSPBA website has recently been updated and it was agreed that the Branch website should be updated in a similar fashion. This could be done at the end of the season.

At all Branch outdoor contests this year, with the exception of Dunbar, will have the same playing criteria at that of the following Major Championship.

Innerleithen have asked for a MAP contest at their contest.

A copy of the Branch entry form was shown. These forms will be available on the Branch website and all bands are encouraged to make use of them.

Treasurer's report:

There was no report.

National Council report:

At the last meeting there was discussion on Disclosure Scotland. It was said that the responsibility for children under 16 lies with the bands. Anyone seeking advice on this should go into their website or contact the Branch secretary. This will take effect from 2007.

There was discussion on the MAP contests.

The Championship working party has been busy and already two contests have been pencilled in for 2008. They are at Lisburn, Northern Ireland and Birmingham.

At this point it was asked if any of those Championships would be held in the month of July as some bands are not happy about contests held then.

It was said that no firm dates had been set.

All the 2007 Major Championships are to be posted on the RSPBA website.

There were only ten competitors at the recent Willie Fergusson competition.

The English and the Northern Ireland Branches have asked for MAP at their Championships.

The BBC will broadcast this year's World Championships.

Music Board report:

The grading appeals were read out. The only one affecting the Branch was that of Prestonpans. This was a new band and will play in grade 4.

The date for the Structured learning exams will be 26th March.

There had been some discussion on the draws at Major Championships. Each band will be given a number which they will keep for that Major Championship. In the final the bands getting through would play in numerical order thus doing away with the need for a final draw.

It was hoped to have a practical workshop on MAP in February. The Branch is to ask Headquarters if this can be arranged.

A Drum Majors adjudicators' course is to be held in April.

Education report:

Currently there are 15 students. 12 pipers 2 drummers and one tenor drummer.

It was asked that the tutor's hourly rate be increased to £5 in line with other Branches. This was agreed.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Colin Latta has asked to present a trophy to the Branch. This will be for the drum majors contest at Bathgate.

Inserts for the medals to be presented at the branch indoors are to be sought.

A.O.C.B.:

The Branch indoor contest will be held on Saturday 22nd April. **The venue has yet to be confirmed**, but Peebles High School looks the most promising. Catering facilities are to be looked at.

The Structured Learning courses exams will have to be held out with the Morris Club. A suitable venue is to be pursued.

The R.S.P.B.A. headed paper has been updated. The Branch headed paper is to be made on similar lines.

The adjudicators for the all contests will be finalised before the R.S.P.B.A. AGM. The Branch hopes to get the best adjudicators available. It was said that the Branch cannot choose adjudicators. This is done from headquarters.

It was said that Drum Majors should enter contests by filling in the entry forms as late entries may not be taken on the day. If on the day of a contest there are not enough Drum Majors to allow for a reasonable contest, then, after discussion with the sponsor, the contest may be cancelled. This could save the Branch/Sponsor money particularly if the Drum Major adjudicator has a long distance to travel.

A presentation of a certificate of Life Membership for the Branch was given to our retiring President, John McNeill.

John thanked the Branch for there help and support throughout the many years he had been associated with it. He enjoyed his years with the Branch and looked forward to many more years of contests.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Sunday 26th February 2006 in Beechwood Bowling Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, at 6.00pm

Donald Brand
