

**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 January 2014**

Present:

J. Hughes, Chairman	Boghall & Bathgate
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Craigmount
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
B. McMorran, President	Glencorse
L.A. Hughes	Boghall & Bathgate
W. McCafferty	Boghall & Bathgate
G. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
N. Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
L. Barnes	Craigmount
J. Barnes	Craigmount
V. McMorran	Glencorse
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
A. Kerr	Boghall & Bathgate

Apologies:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November were approved by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and seconded by Glencorse.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

An email was sent out to all branch bands with regards to a request for a pipe band who may be interested in a trip to Shanghai

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available from the Branch Secretary upon request.

Directors report:

There was a Directors meeting in December and various things were discussed, including:

Work on the Constitution & Rules changes in preparation for the AGM.

The Adjudicator Allocations for 2014 are now complete.

There was a discussion on the current retirement at age 75 policy and after taking formal legal advice it was confirmed that The Association are operating within the regulations in how the rules are written and applied. Branches may still use volunteers after the age of 75.

The Dunfermline contest will have a full complement of adjudicators.

The development of an electronic registration facility for the Majors is progressing.

The Chairman intimated that once this is proven, then it may be possible to consider a similar facility for the Branch.

Music Board report:

There was no Music Board report although the Chairman confirmed that the 2014 MAP will be the same as the 2013 MAP, however this may be revamped for 2015. Any change will be reported in the 2014 Worlds programme.

Trophy Convenor's report:

All bands have been emailed with regards to the indoor trophies. Trophies have now been purchased for the new UK Championship, the trophies for all grades are the same.

Branches can apply to sponsor one or more of these trophies and this offer will also be extended to bands and individuals. The cost of this will be discussed with the Board of Directors.

Wilma has spoken to Bathgate with regards to their own trophies and they have agreed to provide a secure unit for them to be stored.

Steward's report:

We have 5 new stewards for headquarters and 2 new stewards for the branch for next season.

It was asked by one of our directors if it would be possible to provide a tent at the arenas for the Directors and it was said that because of the number of tents currently erected in the arenas this would have to be sited outside the arena so that it doesn't inhibit the view for the spectators.

Education report:

Our Chairman gave a presentation on the new Outreach Programme, this was followed by a discussion during which John answered any questions asked.

It was suggested that the branch run this course starting from September 2014.

It was said that the benefits for pupils is immense and it may also be possible to introduce online tuition at some point in the future.

Indoor Contest:

Everything is now in place and there are no other events or classes in the school that day.

Boghall & Bathgate have asked for permission to have 3 Grade 1 mini bands playing even if only 2 can be judged. It was agreed that this would be acceptable due to the fact that this is the last event of the day and there tends to be very few Grade 1 entries it won't really impact on the timing of the contest or prize giving ceremony. It also gives the lower grade bands and the public to listen to more Grade 1 performance.

Website:

There has been some very positive feedback on the new style website, we also have a twitter account for anyone who would like to follow us on twitter.

As the season progresses we have the opportunity to add a Gallery page added to the site

A.O.C.B.

Wilma shared the letter she had received from Mrs Moir giving us information on Bobby Moir who's new trophy was presented at North Berwick last season. It was agreed that this information should be added to the book of eminence.

There has been no further progress on a proposed contest to be held in Princes Street Gardens this year

It is the 75th Anniversary of the Branch this year and it was asked what we could do to commemorate this, there were a few ideas presented including Trophies or Badges, holding an Anniversary Contest – possibly in Princes Street Gardens or an Invitational Grade 1 contest.

The Chairman asked all present to let him have any suggestions on how the Anniversary could be commemorated.

The Schools Contest on 9th March at Broughton High School is confirmed.

Following a number of years using the Chairman's personal laptop, the Branch have purchased a new laptop for the Treasurer. This laptop will now be used by whoever is performing the role of Treasurer.

The draw for the indoor competition will take place at 5pm in Bellsquarry Hall prior to next month's Branch meeting.

The Branch will trial the use of an electronic system for the draw rather than the manual one used in the past.

Next meeting: Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 23rd February at 6.00pm