

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 29th January 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. McCafferty, Director	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
A. Dalziel Vice Chairman	Craigmount Caledonia
W. Dalziel	Craigmount Caledonia
V. McMorran	Glencorse
M. O'Neill, MB Rep	GWC Juv. & Police Scotland Fife
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

Apologies: B. McMorran, S.Orr, I. Simpson

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting 27th November 2016 were approved by George Watson's College Juvenile and Seconded by Craigmount

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

Fife Mining Heritage Society have asked for assistance in getting some bands for an event they will be having in September. The Chairman will speak to the bands in the Fife area.

Secretary's report:

Entry forms will all be online soon. I have a request from a band from America for a coach pass for North Berwick after checking the requirements for coach passes I will advise them that none will be required.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and informed the meeting that we still have money to come in which is being held by Pay Pal. We have asked to have our limits for transfers Increased. This will require a letter from HQ which the Chairman will progress.

Directors report:

An invitation from Disclosure Scotland will go out to Branch Chair Person's and Secretaries to attend a course which may allow the Branches to help their member bands through the Disclosure process.

Headquarters are still looking into employing a full time staff member to look after the fundraising for the Association.

There was some discussion on a bulletin being published after the directors meeting to help ensure that the relevant information will be available to bands as it is felt that in some cases there is not as much communication as there could be between the directors and their branch bands.

Music Board report:

The music board have no convenor at the moment and have decided to run without a convenor until their AGM.

There has been a suggestion that the NI Branch are submitting a proposal to scrap the list of approved tunes and fully let bands choose the tunes they play at contest. At present if a band wants to play a tune not in the prescribed list then that band can contact the music board who will then look at the tune and if suitable this tune can be added to the prescribed list,

There was some discussion on a proposal to remove the Novice B from NI majors as it is felt that there are often not enough novice B bands to make a contest.

Often the reason for the lack of Novice B bands is purely down to finances. It may then be possible to hold the B contest at one of the local contest and this could possibly be rotated round the branches.

Education, it has been a busy time towards the end of the year and thanks go to J Wark and J. Campbell for going through the papers.

This years summer school will be held at the Gaelic College from the 31st July to 4th August.

Trophies:

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

Steward's report:

Headquarters allocation sheets should be out in the next month and the branch allocations the week later.

Committee car passes will be out for the next meeting.

There was a discussion on new tents for adjudicators Alex and John will look at these and also look into the proper way to put these tents up and down.

Education

John will speak to Pat Wheelan regarding possible workshops for Grade 4 Pipe Majors and Leading Drummers and possibly Tenor Drummers.

There is a workshops for Drum Majors being ran this month.

Indoor Contest

The playing criteria for the indoors for Juveniles is wrong on the entry form this will be amended and changed on the website.

It was asked if it would be possible to get help from some pupils to help as runners for the stewards in the morning.

St Andrews first Aid costs will rise this year to £15 per person per hour which would total £270 for the day. The committee agreed that we should progress with this spend.

Outdoor Contests

Dunbar have asked if we can produce car passes that are more difficult to copy as there was evidence to suggest that this was happening in 2016.

Dunbar, Bathgate, Burntisland, North Berwick and Bridge of Allan have agreed to the prize money being the same across all grades.

DRUM major Entry Fees were discussed with a proposal to change the adult entry to £5.00 and allow Juveniles to enter free. This was passed by a majority Vote.

There was some discussion regarding Drum Majors being asked to pay to enter the park at some events. It was said that it will be difficult to give them passes at some contests as the Registration tent is in the park, however we can look at putting the registration tent outside the park, this would allow a pass to be given to the drum majors when they register.

AOCB

The Scottish Schools contest will take place at the James Gillespie High School on the 12th March. There will only be limited parking in the area.

The City of Edinburgh Pipe Bands Wheel of Fortune event will be held at Danderhall Miners Club on Saturday 11th Feb. The branch committee have all been invited as guests as thanks from the band for our work throughout the year.

There was a discussion on the pilot scheme for consultative adjudication trials last season. The results from these contests were much closer together. The meeting was reminded that it is the aim for the adjudicators to give the best possible results on the day.

Meeting Closed 19.10

Next Meeting Sunday 26th February @18:00