

**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 January 2018**

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
A. Dalziel, Vice Chairman	Craigmount
A. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Binder, Reporter	Stockbridge
V. McMorran	Glencorse
W. Dalziel	Craigmount
M. O'Neill	George Watson's College
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
D. Brand	Newtongrange
S. Macdonald	Wallacestone & District
O. Brownlie	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Michael Clark	Scottish Fire & Reascue Service NJ

Apologies: S. Orr, D. Johnston, A. McLauchlan, I. Simpson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 26th November were approved by Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia and Seconded by Stockbridge.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Unfortunately, our Chairman was unable to attend so our President took the chair for this meeting.

Secretary's report:

Bands have been using the online system for Branch Registrations which has went well again this year.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report, details available from the secretary by request.

Directors report:

There was discussion on the Disclosure process and Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable groups and information will be available on the RSPBA website. Education courses can only use instructors/assessors who hold the relevant RSPBA Disclosure listing.

Pipe Band College, work is ongoing to restructure the association to offer more clarity to bands and improve the efficiency of our education delivery. The current Education Management Group will be replaced by the Pipe Band College.

The Standing Order and Steering committee are currently looking at and discussing several notices of motion which have been submitted for the AGM.

Music Board report:

There was a meeting last week when some re-gradings were done, and these are now on the RSPBA website.

There was some discussion on some Notices of Motion proposed by one Branch for this year's AGM. These included Higher to Lower transfer rules, which currently require a 42 days registration period and the proposals to reduce this to 25 days. Any reduction on the 42 days would add more pressure and make it difficult for the standards group to reassess the bands concerned.

There were 264 Students who sat their Piping and Drumming exams.

There was some discussion on the Adult World Solo Drumming Championship and the proposed changes to playing criteria, and the playing order with proposals that the MSR would be played first and Hornpipe and Jig second. These proposals will go to the Board of Directors on 3rd February for consideration.

It was confirmed that the Adult Final will again be streamed live.

There was some discussion on increasing the number of adjudicators in the ring, and the Music Board are preparing some proposals to discuss with the APMB. One option being considered would be to add one more ensemble and one more drumming adjudicator, however the current weighting will not change.

There has been some discussion around changes the structure of the Worlds for 2019 and beyond. One consideration is to have the Novice and Juvenile grades playing on the Friday and having all Grade 1 bands playing on the Saturday. It was stated that there were Novice bands playing at 9.00am on the Saturday this year and then having to wait till 7.00pm to get the results for their grade, making it a very long day for these younger players. It was stated that the Friday event this year only reduced the total number of bands playing on the Saturday by 7 bands. Having the Novice & Juvenile grades on the Friday would allow all other grades to complete on the Saturday.

There was further discussion on how to fill the seats in the Arena 1, there are always large numbers of seats empty even although every seat has been sold. There can be several reasons for this including the fact that although a seat has been sold it may be the fact that the person with this seat only wants to watch a few performances, leaving the seat vacant for most of the day. Some proposals have been discussed and will be put forward to Glasgow City Council again as part of the planning for 2019.

Stewards Report:

The next Stewards Meeting will be on Saturday 3rd February.

Education

It will probably be the end of the season before the Branch have any education activity in place due to the difficulty in getting bands interested over the closed season.

Trophies:

Emails have been sent out requesting the trophies for the indoor contest. We now have the George Purves Memorial Trophy which was displayed at this evenings meeting.

All 3 Trophies for the Willie Fergusson contest are accounted for.

Indoor Contest:

Changes will be made to the information for event 12 Adult Solo Drumming to reflect the changes introduced in the number of qualifiers from each regional qualifier if the proposals are agreed by the Board of Directors. It has been agreed to push the closing date out for one week due to the waiting on confirmation of changes to the Adult Solo Drumming.

This entry form will go onto the website as soon as all new criteria for the Adult world solo drumming event have been confirmed.

At the indoors Grades 3 and 4 will be mini band contests with Grades Novice, Juvenile, 1 and 2 all being full band contests.

Outdoor Contests:

There was some discussion on separating all novice A and B grades and 4 A and B grades at some of the larger contests. This would mean that additional prize money would be required but it was agreed that we would look at the possibility of the Branch covering this cost. We may also help in supplying some new trophies for these contests. This would initially only affect Dunbar and North Berwick.

AOCB:

West Lothian Highland Games have submitted their entry form for this year's contest and Grade 1 has been removed from this event.

Novice Drum Majors entries will be free again this season with Adults paying £5.00.

There are ongoing discussions with North Berwick Highland Games regarding the layout of the park and the very limited tuning areas for the bands.

There was some discussion regarding band tutors getting entry to the park and once again it was said that this would not be a problem if the tutors were in uniform.

Meeting Closed 19.05

Next Meeting 25th February