

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 30th January 2022**

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
S. Orr RVM, Chairman	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairman	Scottish Fire & Rescue
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
Brian Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
M. Binder, Social Media	Royal High
D. Purves	Queensferry Pipes and Drums
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
G. Dyet Chief Steward	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
B. Duncan	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
L. Moore, Music Board	Preston Lodge High School
K. Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
W. Waugh	Camelon
J. Gavin	Camelon
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Cameron	Camelon
E. Scott	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. O'Neil	Police Scotland Fife

Apologies: G. Dyet, M. Rieley, S. Starr.

Minutes

The Minutes of the November Meeting Proposed by and seconded by Ben Duncan and Michael Binder

Matters arising:

There were no Matters arising.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and it will be available from the secretary by request.

Director's report:

Dr Alison Burke has been appointed as our new operations manager and has been in the post for one month now working with Ian Embelton.

The Standing Order and Steering Committee are now working on the AGM on 12th March, this will be a zoom meeting.

A working group similar to the 2021 Group has been set up to look at the 2022 Competitions in relation to Covid-19

All majors are as planned and scheduled to go ahead at the moment.

Web Site Development progressing

Next to be done

- Championship Fees

- Drum Major Fees
- Admin and News Items for HQ addition
- Populate the Calendar with Minor competitions

Music Board Report

Music Board meeting-8th of January 2022.

- The Chairman Kevin Reilly and other Directors attended the meeting to try to mend the schism that appeared to be growing between the Music Board and the Board of Directors. the apparent tension between the groups stems from several factors. 1 negative and disparaging comments against a Board of Directors decision involving Music Board business appeared on the official RSPBA Facebook page written by an RSPBA Director. Several members had been upset by this.
- 2. Two resignation letters received from Music Board colleagues seemed to suggest the conflict between themselves and various branch Directors.
- 3. Several Music Board projects and ideas appeared to have been discarded without any seemingly due consideration, no full explanation of the reasoning behind any such decisions.
- The Association Chairman said it was always sad and disappointing to lose valued colleagues from any group but we had to acknowledge nearly everyone in the Association is a volunteer. With regards to any perceived personal conflict with a Branch this was a Branch level matter and had to be dealt with at that level. Obviously, any increase in conflict could come before a complaints panel but hopefully everything could be settled without such measures. The Chairman also added that whilst everyone is entitled to their own opinion but agreed that the comment on Facebook, which some Directors and Music Board members had not seen, had not been as professional as it should have been. The Directors attending this Music Board meeting offered apologies and perhaps advice could be given to all Directors in future about getting involved in Social Media posts.
- The Chairman categorically assured the Music Board members that all ideas and projects put for consideration to the Board of Directors do get a full discussion and debate before any decision.
- Thereafter, the Music Board had a lengthy discussion and it was agreed that should any Music Board project require Board of Directors expertise in areas of Finance, Constitution etc that expertise should be made available for the next relevant Music Board meeting without having to wait for approval at the following BoD meeting. A business template was suggested and that this should be actioned by the Finance Convenor.
- It was also asked as an example if the Music Board decisions that did not require a budget nor a rule change could be ratified at Music Board meetings when two directors are present similar to what currently happens with Standards and Grading decisions.
- The Association Chairman stated that providing any such decisions did not involve a Finance budget or Constitutional change then this may be possible, however the Board of Directors as trustees of the RSPBA have the final say.
- The Music Board appointments and ratifications were also conducted at this meeting. No current elected Music Board member wished to accept the post of Convenor. Malcolm Brown Scott was asked to remain in post either until someone else volunteered or until January 2023.
- The World solo Drumming sub group reported that contacts are in place with the hosts and organisers of the Intercontinental Adult Solo Drumming Championship.
- The World solo Drumming group remain happy to help the office staff and any other stakeholders in all the various changes that have been approved for this event as we approach hopefully a return of this event in 2022.

- The Format group are to meet in late January early February. Meantime an explainer video for the Novice Juvenile B/Grade 4B pilot project will be progressed.
- The planned docuseries is on hold until the amateur film maker comes to agree next steps.
- The Standards and Grading group have met to consider several grading requests, these will appear within the normal media channels as required.
- Music Board asked for clarification regarding the process used for having things placed on the order paper the Music Board minute contains an outline of this where the Music Board Administrator explained that she had consulted the Vice Chairman. The information within this minute is added for explanation although it was not placed before the meeting.

Education

Nothing to report.

Stewards Report

Everything going well and repairs to equipment is all going ahead.

AOCB

The costings for the school for this year's indoor contest have been reduced thanks to the generosity of the school.

The playing requirements for the full band contests at the indoors, will be the same as for the 1st Major.

Mini bands will be for Grades 4 and 3 only. All other grades are full bands.

Entries for The RSPBA Scottish Adult Solo Drumming championship, hosted by this branch, will be processed online, unlike entries for the indoors which are currently paper based.

Innerleithen has requested a Grade 1 contest this year and they have confirmed the venue for the contest this year.

John still trying so raise funds for this year's Edinburgh contest and he asked if it could be part of the Jubilee celebrations. It was asked if there could be a Drum Majors contest at this year's event and it was said that we would have to hire other parts of the park which would mean a massive increase in our costs for this contest.

I was asked if the other major championships could be live streamed as well as the Worlds and it was said that they would only be the worlds as in previous years.

Our Zoom membership is due for renewal in February and it was asked if we want to continue with the professional membership and this was a unanimous decision to continue with professional membership

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting 27th February 2022 at 18:00 Online