

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 28 March 2021**

M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairman	Scottish Fire & Rescue
J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
S. Starr, Minute Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
V. McMorrان	Glencorse
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
I. Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College
M. Binder, Social Media Rep	Royal High
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Watters	Scottish Fire & Rescue
C. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
K. Reid	Police Scotland Fife
T. Thomson	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
G. Dyet, Chief Steward	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
B. Duncan	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
E. Scott	Wallacestone & District

Apologies

S. Orr RVM, L. Moore

Welcome

As the Branch Chairman was unable to attend due to work commitments, The Vice Chairman took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

There is a slight amendment to be made to the February Minuets and that is the date in the Music Board Report, this should have been 6 January

The Minutes of the October Meeting Proposed by George Watson's College and seconded by Police Scotland Fife

Matters arising:

There was no matters arising from the February minutes

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available by request.

Secretary's report

There was nothing to report.

Director's report:

The 90th Annual General Meeting of The RSPBA was held successfully online on 13th March 2021 as planned, and a precis of the meeting will be published on the RSPBA website and a link will be placed on the Branch Facebook site.

[https://www.rspba.org/documents/BoD/90th AGM Report.pdf](https://www.rspba.org/documents/BoD/90th%20AGM%20Report.pdf)

There was a Directors meeting which followed the AGM and a precis of the minutes of this meeting will be published on the RSPBA website.

<https://www.rspba.org/documents/BoD/BoD-March2021.pdf>

Update on funding contained within the above document.

The Board are awaiting on the government update in April, before having further discussions with Promoters of the final two Major Championships.

Steward's Report

Nothing to report.

J. Hughes advised that Paul Brown, the RSPBA Vice Chairman, will be in touch with Gary regarding the Steward Allocation for any contests this year and to establish the process for 2022.

Education Sub Committee

The information had been sent out to all branch bands in mid-March regarding the running of the course, the uptake to this has been excellent. There has been four bands noted interest with two of these looking to put through several candidates. There has been a closing date set of 10 April. There is also a few members interested in the senior qualifications.

The Sub-committee is to meet on 14 April to discuss the next steps.

Music Board Report

The Music Board met on 6 March and the following points were discussed:-

- The World Solo Drumming Group are continuing to review the rules and will bring updates after the review is complete for inclusion in the Competition Information and Format Guide.
- The latest round of video calls with the Grade 1 Pipe Majors and Leading Drummers completed during February has the following features being considered:
 - Competition Principles,
 - Draws and Timetabling,
 - The qualification and grading system with a potential move away from the current heat based system triggered by the number of bands entered along with Grading and/or an alternative qualification process,
 - The March, Strathspey & Reel elements are also being reviewed with the potential of including Four parted tunes as well as the medley timings and presentation elements being reviewed.
 - The competition arena and layout is also requested to be reviewed for a better acoustic and audience experience.

- In the event that any of two remaining Major Championships going ahead, the Format Group of the Music Board have reviewed the playing requirements – these can be found on the RSPBA website.
- The Format Group workstreams continue and include;
 - Safeguarding
 - Grade4B/ NJB Static start- likely to pilot in 2022, subject to any COVID and restrictions
 - Development and showcase events – Branch to discuss these at next meeting
 - Grade 1 development project – World Pipe Band Championship
 - Competition Information guide.
- A proposal is in draft for a national Indoor competition – February 2022.
- Tunes Group- Drum scores for certain tunes are also now available via the RSPBA web and as additions are received these will be uploaded.

Some members of the Music Board attended as hosts an international video call with other Associations re exchanging good practise around COVID matters as they affect competitions.

Trophy Convenor Report

Nothing to report, as we are currently in Lockdown the bands have not been asked to return the trophies.

Branch Contests

North Berwick contacted The Branch in early March to advise, that unfortunately they had taken the decision to cancel this year's contests. They have advised that they would like to return in 2022 with the normal date.

Bridge of Allan were updated to the current situation in early March and have been advised that there will be another update after the Government announcement in April.

There has been no contact from Peebles Highland Games as of yet.

M. Binder asked if entries for these contests were open as of yet. J. Hughes advised that they are not as if entries had been taken and then the contests needed to be cancelled a refund process would need to take place. It was decided until we could be certain that the events could proceed before opening the entries.

AOCB

Headquarters AGM – V. McMorran had asked if there was anything that needed to be updated following the AGM. J. Hughes advised that there had been some changes to rules, but these would not affect the running of the local contests.

J. Hughes advised at the position of Chairman had been accepted by Kevin Reilly.

S. McQuillan thanked John for all his service at Headquarters.

Scottish Schools – J. Hughes advised that the Online Freestyle event had been held on a digital platform, and that there had been a number on Branch Bands represented. The results are being announced at 7pm tonight. <https://thechampionships.org.uk/>

Meeting Closed 18.34

Next online meeting will be 25 April 2021 at 6.00pm