

The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club on Sunday 27<sup>TH</sup> November 2005

<u>Present:</u>	J.Hughes, Chairman	Drambuie Kirkliston
	G.Craig, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
	W.McMorran, Secretary	Glencorse
	T.M.Clarke, Treasurer	Craigmount High School
	P.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	A.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	J.Brand	Penicuik
	N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	S.McNeill	Dunbar RBL
	J.McNeill	Dunbar RBL
	J.Morris	Linlithgow
	J.Semple	Linlithgow
	G.Stafford	Torphichen & Bathgate
	A. McNeill	Newtongrange
	V.McNeill	Newtongrange
	J.Fraser	Tranent
	I. Simpson	George Watson's College
	A. Baillie	Prestonpans RBL
	C.McLuckie	Bo'ness RBL
	D.Brand	Newtongrange
	T.Clarke	Craigmount High School
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate

Apologies: A.Cook, M.O'Neill, K.Campbell, T.Colquhoun.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005 were approved by Newtongrange and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report:

There were some problems with the trophies at Peebles. This was the Peebles Highland Games trophies and not any of the branches.

Music Board report:

There were appeals against the recent gradings. The only one to affect the Branch was George Watson's College. They are to move back from Juvenile to Novice Juvenile.

National Council report:

A letter was sent from Headquarters to Bo'ness RBL concerning a damaged trophy. Bo'ness has repaired the trophy at their own cost.

Novice Juvenile will have the same playing criteria at Major Championships as Grade 4 in the selection of their tunes. Any two tunes from the MAP list can be played at the qualifying heats. For the final, their own selection of tunes, in march time, can be played.

If there are 14 or less bands in the grade playing for qualification then all bands will play in the final.

There will be no placings from the qualifying heats. Only the top 6 in each heat will go through. The crit sheets will, however, be much more supportive to bands. All bands, after the qualifiers, will be placed equal.

It was said that it was not about placing all bands but as to how bands performed.

Depending on the number of qualifying heats the number making the final may vary. e.g. 2 heats mean 6 from each heat. A 3 heat qualifier will have 4 bands from each. The final will beat least 12 bands.

An invite to the next National Council meeting for anyone interested in Child Protection. This would only apply to the Branch indoor contests as the promoters of outdoor contests will deal with this.

#### A.O.C.B.:

The issue of first-aiders at contests was raised. An approach is to be made to the St Andrews or Red Cross for assistance with this.

No venue has been selected for the Branch indoor contest. The cost of hiring schools is becoming prohibitive. Schools in Peebles and Penicuik are to be investigated.

The Branch will may not run canteens at these venues. Bo'ness is to ask their committee if they would be prepared to run a canteen.

Craigmount High School ran the canteen at the last Branch indoor contest and were promised a donation. This had never been paid. The meeting proposed and approved a £200 donation to Craigmount High School.

The structure of the Branch indoor contest was discussed with an attempt to cut down on the number of performances. Many players could, at this time play, in different age groups. Contestants will be confined to their own age groups in future.

The Branch will be running an Elementary Structured Learning course in January. Possibly in the Morris Club in Newtongrange. This has still to be confirmed.

Sponsors are struggling to obtain funds for outdoor contests. The Branch is to look into ways of cutting back on their costs. The Branch needs to know what it costs to run a contest efficiently.

There had been a problem with playing criteria at Innerleithen last year. With a major contest just after this contest bands could not play the MSR or selection that they would be playing in the following major. This has been resolved.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

**The date of the next meeting is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006 in Beechwood Bowling Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, at 6.00pm.**