

The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Beechwood Bowling Club, Edinburgh, on Sunday 28th October 2007.

Present:

W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
A.Dalziel	Lothian & Borders Police
W.Dalziel	Lothian & Borders police
V.McMorran	Glencorse
G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
E.Hanratty	Penicuik
I. Simpson	George Watson's College
D.Brand	Newtongrange

Apologies:

J.Brand.T.M.Clarke, G.Craig, A.Cook, N.Purves, C.McLukie

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The Minutes of the meeting of 30th September 2007 were approved by Bo'ness and seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

Matters arising:

Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch are not now holding the Willie Fergusson contest. At this time it was asked if Lothian & Borders Branch could incorporate it into our Solos and mini bands contest. It was agreed that this might be possible but that it would have to be put before the next national Council meeting in November.

It was decided that the Branch minutes would only be put on the Branch website after making sure that there was nothing that could be misconstrued in them.

Secretary's report:

Some fines are still outstanding from the non-return of trophies. Letters have been sent to the offending bands.

Any possible venue for the Structured Learning courses would involve writing to individual schools. A number of enquiries are still ongoing regarding venues.

Some Branch fees are coming in.

Treasurer's report:

There was no report.

National Council report:

The dates and venues for the 2009 Major Championships are:-

Scottish at Dumbarton on 23rd May

British at Banbridge NI on 27th June. To be confirmed

European at Inverclyde on 25th July

Worlds at Glasgow on 15th August

Cowal at Dunoon. This has yet to be confirmed.

The venue for the Europeans at Birmingham is Cannon Hill Park.

Cowal 2008 has not been confirmed.

There had been some feedback on last years Majors. Suggestions and improvements are to be taken up with the promoters.

Music board report:

The additional MAP tunes are now available on the RSPBA website.

Recent requests for full adjudicator panels at minor contest are putting a strain on the ensemble adjudicators' panel. Any requests for a full panel at a minor contest needs to be forwarded to headquarters for consideration by the National Council and Adjudicators Management Board.

Due to the shortage of adjudicators, more Piping, Drumming and Ensemble training sessions are to be run over the next couple of years.

Branch bands regarded were, Duns from 4A to 3B and Bo'ness from 3A to 3B subject to appeal.

Trophy Convenors report:

Denny & Dunipace have not returned a trophy from Peebles. A copy of the letter to the band is to be sent to RSPBA.

Education report:

It is hoped to run a Level 4 (Intermediate) course starting in January 2008. Information should be available at the Branch AGM on 25th November. The venue will be confirmed at a later date.

A.O.C.B.

Pebbles High School has been contacted to hold the Branch Solos there. Due to school exams the /date MAY be 12th April. This has to be confirmed.

It was asked if the Hawick contest might be held on a Sunday after their local celebrations. This would possibly encourage more bands and spectators to this contest. The promoter of the Hawick contest is to be asked to write to Headquarters asking for the Sunday date. An alternative date in June was also suggested.

The Assistant Chief Steward, A.Dalziel< was asked if he had anything to report on the past years contests. It was said that National Councillors need to be much more firm and assist the stewards when asked to.

It was also suggested that the Chief Steward needs to be invited to Major Championship venues to put forward the steward's points concerning layout etc. This suggestion is to be considered by the Championship Committee.

It was said that new signage is needed to mark the arenas and the final tuning areas.

It was asked why there was a delay in giving the MAP results at Inverness. This was due to an error with the boards. It was asked then if there was such a delay then should the contest not start a bit later.

Asked who makes the decision on how massed bands are brought on. It was said that the promoters normally specified this but some scope was available when the weather was poor.

It was asked if the steward's minutes might be brought to Branch meetings. This would need to be checked with head quarters to see if it would be allowed.

A laser printer and a lap top computer are to be purchased for the Branch for the use of the Secretary. They could be brought along to contests to supply any paper work needed on the day.

This was proposed by Lothian & Borders Police and seconded by Bo'ness with a maximum spend of £500 for both items appeoved.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting held in Beechwood Bowling Club,Roseburn Street,edinbirgh on Sunday 25th November 2007 At 15.00.