

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 31st October 2010**

<u>Present:</u>	W.McMorran, President	Glencorse
	J.Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
	A.Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders police
	A.Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
	LA, Oubbaih, Treasurer	Linlithgow
	W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
	V.McMorran	Glencorse
	N.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	S.Hazzard	Newtongrange
	P.Hazzard	Bo'ness
	G.Purves	Torphichen & Bathgate
	S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
	W. McCafferty	Boghall & Bathgate
	I. Simpson	George Watson's College

Apologies: D. Brand, J.Brand, C.McCluckie, J. Barnes, LJ. McGlaughlan

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Minutes were taken by Peter Hazzard

The minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2010 were approved by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and seconded by Glencorse.

Matters arising:

There has not been any proposal put forward to change the way we currently determine the Branch Champion of Champions, currently the best 5 results from all Branch outdoor contests.

An explanation was requested as to why the summary sheets for North Berwick Confined contest had George Watson's College placed 5th when there were only 4 bands in the confined contest and it was explained that the confined results were taken from the sheets for the Open contest and that the Adjudicators results could not be changed although the correct points were awarded for the Champion of Champion tables.

The Royal Highland Centre contest will go ahead on the 24th July 2011 and will be open to all 6 Grades with an extra Novice/Grade 4 MSR contest in line with other branch contests.

The Chairman is waiting on artwork which will be used to get new Flags/Banners for Rings and Registration. There is also a similar requirement which has come from the Association Chief Steward, so there may be an opportunity to combine efforts.
(Action: Chairman)

The calendars being organised by W. McMorran were going to work out more expensive than planned and in order to get the contest dates in, we would have

had to take much more than required, so it has been agreed to purchase standard Diaries instead and these will be sent out to member bands.

Secretary's report:

Peebles High School has now been booked for our indoor contest again and this will take place on Saturday 26th March 2011.

Craigmount High School Pipe Band handed in a letter detailing plans to include an under 18 novice piping contest at this years event. They have asked if we could distribute this letter to all branch bands and we have agreed to distribute this by email.
(Action – Branch Secretary)

However it was suggested that the playing criteria for a novice contest would be better set as a four parted march rather than a MSR set, as it is unlikely that a novice piper would be in a position to play a MSR. S. Orr to feedback suggestion to Craigmount.

Treasurer's report:

An update was given of the Branch accounts (details are available from the Branch secretary upon request). The books are now being audited for this year's AGM.

East Lothian Council have now paid the outstanding invoice due for the Dunbar contest. There was a misunderstanding relating to levy due to HQ for this contest but this has now been resolved.

National Council report:

The National Council Meeting was chaired by Gordon Hamill. The National Council meetings for December and May have now been reinstated, May being the critical meeting as it follows a Music Board meeting and anything requiring action or advised by the Music Board can be reviewed in a more timely manner.

Work continues looking at an additional member of staff for HQ. This is to take into account the extra work created by Education Courses and it was suggested that the organisations who were part of the PDQB may be able to help out with financing the position.

With Kevin Reilly's Resignation it was decided that any future chairman would not be required to wear a chain of office.

Debbie Lafferty will be doing a dissertation on motivation of volunteers and asked if she could contact some individuals within the association to take part. It was agreed by National Council provided that Headquarters were responsible for distributing the questionnaire.

There was a donation of £1,000 made to Headquarters by BBC Northern Ireland as a thank you for the assistance at the European's in Belfast this year. Jen Reilly also handed in a cheque for over £2,400 from the money raised at the Tombola Stall at the championships this year.

It was decided to increase the fees paid to officials at Major Championships this year and the Accommodation Allowance has also been increased.

A change to the rules was discussed to allow a disqualified band to receive critique sheets, as we no longer use a points system the bands would not get any indication from these sheets where they would have been placed.

Issues with the Drum Majors manual and its relationship to the Constitution and Rules are being discussed by the D/M Adjudicators sub-group.

Scotia Web Design will continue to provide the Website for Headquarters.

The National Council collated the various issues identified at the major championships and hopefully these can be discussed with the promoters and resolved for next season.

Cowal are trying hard to overcome some of the problems of recent years. It was confirmed that a contract was in place with Cowal up to and including 2013. However the annual review will continue to be carried out as it is with other promoters.

A project is under way to provide a better understanding of Adjudicators expenses for the minor contests throughout the country, with the objective of understanding whether a flat fee for expenses could be set. This would then remove the issue of cost relating to distance travelled and allow for better utilisation of the available adjudicators.

The process regarding changing to a company limited by guarantee is now waiting on some feedback from Charities Commission in Scotland (OSCR).

A letter will be issued by Headquarters in early January 2011 regarding the Bid Process for the Scottish, British, European, and World Championships for seasons 2013-2015. The date for submission has been agreed by National Council as Friday 2nd September 2011.

George Watson's College asked if it would be possible to get away from contests being held in July and the possibility of the Branch putting forward a motion regarding this to Headquarters. The Chairman confirmed that if the Branch wished a motion to be taken to the AGM it would need to be documented and agreed by the November Branch meeting.

Newtongrange asked for clarification as to where the results for qualifying bands would be displayed. It was explained that as the compiling of the result was no longer done in the ring where the heat had taken place, the qualifiers would be posted at the RSPBA office at the venue.

Music Board report:

No progress had been made grade 1 questionnaire regarding playing requirements at the Worlds.

A document on solo drumming has been prepared and is still under discussion. Band grading and Re-gradings were discussed however no branch bands are affected. The details of these gradings are posted on the RSPBA website.

The possibility of a Summer School was discussed, run by John Nevans from 17th – 22nd July at Glasgow Academy.

There was some discussion on Tenor and Bass PDQB as there is currently no SQA equivalent. This will be progressed by the Education team.

A document on Guidelines for the MSR written by James Wark of the Academy of Musicianship and will be sent out to all Grade 4A bands by HQ.

Feedback has been requested from all Grade 4A bands on the MSR format. There was a suggestion that the Music Board may wish to 'pair up' Strathspeys and Reels to improve the performance of some bands as not all Strathspeys and reels work well together. An email to be sent to the Branch bands requesting feedback.
(Action: Branch Secretary)

The RSPBA may be holding an Advanced Piping and Drumming course however the demand for the course has to be clarified and any members wishing to do this course should put their names forward to their own branch.

(Action: Branch Secretary)

Feedback has been requested with regards to the current system of heats and the number of bands which qualify from each heat. Feedback from the bands present was provided to the Music Board rep.

A question was raised by Bo'ness at this point asking why there was a 12 band final at this year's 4B World Championship when the information on RSPBA website says it should have been a 15 band final. It was pointed out that the information on the website was never ratified by National Council and therefore was incorrect. HQ to be advised.
(Action: Music Board Reps)

There was also some discussion on holding the World Championships as a 2 day event and how best this could be arranged. Numerous members fed back their thought and suggestions to the Music Board Reps.

The music board would also like to have some feedback regarding Dual Registration. The current rule is under review by the Standing Orders and Steering Committee.

- Only one dual registered player should be allowed to play at any one time.
- Suggestion that Dual registration with more than 1 band should stopped.
- Possible to have dual registered Pipe Major and Pipe Majors Assistant for Novice and Juvenile bands but only a Pipe Major of a Grade 4 band.

The Branch has a vacancy for a Drumming rep for the Music Board due to the resignation of Arthur Cook now that Arthur is no longer registered with a Branch band.

Trophy Convenor's report:

There is nothing to report

Steward's report:

The Branch Chief Steward informed the branch of the discussions at the recent Stewards Meeting.

More help from some National Councillors and stewards to clear the arena at major championships would be appreciated.

Headquarters are looking at new Arena and Final Tuning Area markers.

Alex also asked if it would be possible to give headquarters Chief Steward the power to deal with stubborn bands in the absence of a National Councillor. It was suggested that in order to do this the Chief Steward would have to be elected from the pool of National Councillors.

There was also some discussion on the problems created when the final tuning is a long way from the arena and the time it can take bands to move up to the line.

It was also suggested at the stewards meeting that some officials would benefit from instruction on the correct way to use the radios.

Education report:

Iain Simpson suggested we speak to John Connor and Jim Clark to ensure that they would be available to provide the instruction at any possible courses we may wish to run this year. **(Action: Vice Chairman)**

Would it be possible to have an assessment day to determine which courses should be run? The feasibility of the course being run over 2 weekends was also discussed.

Iain is also going to enquire as to the possibility of using George Watson's College as a venue for the course.

It may not be possible for the drummers to complete their course over 2 or 3 weekends however if we were to run a Level 4 course for Piping & Drumming it may be possible to hold a level 2/3 drumming course at the same time.

AOCB

AGM

Clarification was asked about the voting entitlement at the AGM and it was confirmed that as per the Branch Constitution and Rules it is strictly one band one vote. It was agreed that voting cards are to be issued on entry to the AGM. Organisations with more than one band must have more than one representative present at the AGM to vote. No one person can hold more than one voting card.

Entry Forms.

Boghall & Bathgate Pipe Band pointed out that asking for the name, address, telephone number, and dates of birth for minors at solo contests, as the recent Craigmount HS entry form did, contravenes various data and vulnerable persons regulations. It was confirmed that the Branch only ask for the competitors name and date of birth and the name and address of the band secretary to be provided.

A trophy is being kindly donated by Iain Simpson's Mother and the Trophy Convenor has reviewed the gaps in the current trophy list for Branch contests. The only stipulations are that it must go to a Lothian & Borders Branch contest and it should also be used for a Novice or Novice Juvenile contest. A suggestion was offered that the trophy could be used at Melrose, or at the new Royal Highland Centre contest at Ingliston.

The Branch has agreed to put up a trophy for the contest at the Royal Highland Centre Contest.

At the World Solo Drumming Championship places were only given to the 1st 6 places for all under 18 contests with all other competitors being placed 7th equal. Feedback on the day was provided by competitors and this is to be discussed further with the Adjudicators Panel Management Board, Music Board, and National Council.

The procedure for breaking ties is to be tightened up and more consistency is required. The convenor of the Standing Orders and Steering Committee is preparing some recommendations for consideration by the relevant groups.

There will be a request to National Council for a full panel of adjudicators for the Dunbar, Royal Highland Centre Ingliston, and North Berwick contests in 2011.

The dates for the 2011 Branch contests and major championship are as follows

Dunbar.....	14 th May
Dumbarton (Scottish).....	21 st May
West Lothian H.G.....	28 th May
Innerleithen	18 th June
Annan (British).....	25 th June
Royal Highland Centre	24 th July (Sunday)
Belfast (European).....	30 th July
North Berwick	6 th August
Glasgow (Worlds)	13 th August
Melrose	20 th August
Dunoon (Cowal)	27 th August
Peebles	11 th September
World Solo Drumming	22 nd October - TBC

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.20.

Date of next meeting 28th November 2010 (after the AGM).

Branch AGM start time confirmed as 3pm in: Bellsquarry Hall, Bellsquarry Village, West Lothian. EH54 9AA.