

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston
On Sunday 30th October 2011**

Present: J.Hughes, Chairman..... Linlithgow
W. McMorran President
A.Dalziel, Vice Chairman Lothian & Borders Police
A.Hazzard, Secretary Bo'ness
W.Dalziel, Trophy Convenor Lothian & Borders Police
P.Hazzard, Minute Secretary Bo'ness
V. McMorran Penicuik
S. Orr Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
G.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
N.Purves Torphichen & Bathgate
D.Brand Newtongrange
M. O'Neill George Watson's College
I. Simpson..... George Watson's College Jnr

Apologies: Colin McCluckie, Lesley Anne Oubbaih

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2011 were approved by George Watson's College Jnr and seconded by Newtongrange.

Congratulations were extended to Lesley Anne Oubbaih, the Branch Treasurer, on the birth of a baby boy on Saturday 29th October.

Matters arising:

Due to a clash with another contest the Edinburgh contest will not take place on the 3rd of June as planned, discussions are underway to find another suitable date.

Playing requirements for Grade 4A have been set as 2 2/4 marches, 2 Strathspeys and 2 Reels from the list of approved tunes. There may also be opportunities for regional workshops to assist Grade 4 bands in their development.

Bo'ness are keen to host a Grade 3 and Grade 4 and also Drum Majors contest in the grounds of Kineill House on the 9th June 2012, there are no obvious clashes with other contests and a permit is being applied for this date.

Secretary's report:

A fine imposed on a band for failing to give the Branch the required notice of withdrawal from the Peebles contest has been paid.

A letter of complaint has been received with regards to the behaviour of another Committee member. An apology has been offered and accepted.

Treasurer's report:

The books are now closed for auditing.

National Council report:

Headquarters have received letters of complaint about an individual competitor at our Peebles contest. This is being processed through the complaints procedure.

The Music Board recommendations for band re-gradings have been approved by the Board of Directors.

The meeting was advised that Gordon Hamill has stepped down as Director Representative on the Adjudicator Panel Management Board and his position has been taken up by Stewart Orr.

PBQB and Education, a meeting is to be set up with regards to the Pipe Band Studies Qualifications.

The Board of Directors have requested a full review the committee structure of the RSPBA which will be led by the Convenor of the Standing Orders & Steering Committee, Paul Brown. It is hoped the recommendations from this review will be available in advance of the AGM.

The Board of Directors confirmed their ongoing support for the Heritage Group and committed to engage with the members of that group to agree how it should be progressed.

Music Board report:

The RSPBA will work with the PDQB to find the best way forward with regards to Pipe Band Studies.

John Nevans has outlined plans for the summer workshop which should be held on the week of the worlds. There was a discussion on whether the Branch should sponsor 2 students (one piping one drumming) as we have done in the past.

2013 Worlds will be held as a 2 day event. Details for the contest are still being discussed. Other than Grade 1, all other grades will compete on 1 day only. It is expected that the contest will take place over a Saturday and Sunday.

Branch Bands regarded are as follows:-

Novice Juvenile to Juvenile: George Watson's College and George Heriot's
Grade 4b to 4A: Bo'ness
Grade 4A to 3B: Scottish Borders

A draft Job Description for an Education Officer has been lodged with a recruitment agency, details will be available on the RSPBA website and applications should be made through the agency.

Iain Simpson enquired as to the opportunity to alter the start times of the contest in Ireland. The Chairman advised that this would be given due consideration during the planning for this years majors.

Trophy Convenor's report:

Nothing to report

Steward's report:

Minutes from the Stewards Meeting will be mailed to the Stewards.

Education report:

Response has been slow for our PDQB course. The cost for this course may be an issue with some people. It may be necessary/possible to offset this with sponsorship or grants. Venues for this course are still being looked at.

AOCB

It was agreed that we should accept Grade 1 entries to our indoor contest after a number of Grade 1 bands have expressed an interest. They have also asked if they would be permitted to enter more than one band. As every other grade could enter a maximum of two bands then Grade one would be the same.

Discussions are ongoing with West Lothian Council regarding support for an event in West Lothian.

AGM Packs will be emailed to all branch bands.

It was agreed that the branch would purchase diaries to be distributed to bands again this year.

**Next Meeting will be the AGM and it will be held in Bellsquarry Hall on
27th November 2011 at 3.00pm.**

This will be followed by our normal monthly Branch meeting.