

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association  
Held in Bellsquarry Hall, Livingston  
On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Present:**

J. Hughes, Chairman	Linlithgow
A. Dalziel, Vice Chair	Lothian & Borders Police
A. Hazzard, Secretary	Bo'ness
W. Dalziel, Trophy Convenor	Lothian & Borders Police
P. Hazzard Minute Secretary	Bo'ness
D. Brand	Newtongrange
L.A Oubbaih	Linlithgow
J. Barnes	Craigmount
L. Barnes	Craigmount
W. McIntyre	George Heriot's School
S. Orr	Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

**Apologies:** Bill & Vi McMorran, George & Norma Purves, Iain Simpson, Mick O'Neill

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March were approved by Newtongrange and Seconded by Lothian & Borders Police.

**Matters arising:**

**Secretary's report:**

The Secretary reported that she has been contacted by Perth & Kinross branch saying that they will be holding the Willie Fergusson contest on the day of the Kinross solo contests and Ann will contact the individuals who have qualified to represent the branch at this event.

There was some discussion on the dates for the branch contests and although a few still have to be confirmed we have the following dates:

Dunbar	11 <sup>th</sup> May
Bathgate	18 <sup>th</sup> May
Innerleithen	15 <sup>th</sup> June
North Berwick	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Edinburgh	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Peebles	8 <sup>th</sup> September

Dates are still to be confirmed for Bo'ness, Livingston and Melrose.

The dates of this years majors were confirmed as

British	Bathgate	25 <sup>th</sup> May
European	Forres	29 <sup>th</sup> June
Scottish	Dumbarton	27 <sup>th</sup> July
Worlds	Glasgow	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> August
Cowal	Dunoon	31 <sup>st</sup> August

There was some discussion on how the branch bands feel about Cowal and the following points were all raised.

The noise from the Ceilidh Tent making it difficult for bands in the top park to tune up and perform at their best in the arena.

The prices being charges at the food stalls.

Parking facilities.

Problems with security and also problems with the street parade

In general a lot of the bands now feel they are being treated unfairly.

Our directors can report all these issue at their meeting.

### **Treasurer's report:**

The Treasurer gave her report and details are available on request.

It was asked if the Branch was in a position to do more to help the Branch bands, after discussing several options it was agreed that all Branch bands would get the option to benefit from more money being invested in our education programme.

### **Director's report:**

The Associations Education Policy will be discussed at the next Directors Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The playing format for the Worlds was discussed, grades 2, 3b, 4a and 1 will play on the Saturday and grades novice, juvenile, 3a, 4b and 1 will play on the Sunday.

There will be no pre-qualifying for grade 1 or any other grade.

Admission for bandsmen wishing to attend on both days, would they get free entry on both days, pay for one day pay a reduced entry for the second day. These decisions still have to be made.

### **Music Board report:**

Branch Bands regraded:

George Watson's College Novice juvenile up to juvenile.

Scottish Borders Grade 3b to 3a

Prestonpans Grade 4b to 4a

**Trophy Convenor's report:** Nothing to report.

### **Steward's report:**

We may be down to 3 branch stewards next year however if this proves to be a problem we can call on stewards from other branches.

The date is still to be set for the next stewards meeting.

### **Education report:**

There is a possibility of Glasgow, West of Scotland branch coming in with us for the proposed Education Courses.

Alex is working on this years proposed courses and an Assessment Centre is planned for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October, this is to ensure that everyone gets the course which best suits them. Possible venues for courses and exams are being checked.

The course will last for 8 weeks and there may be a few who would like to do the level 4 course.

### **Indoor Contest:**

After the success of this years indoor contest we will return to the James Young High School for next years event the chairman will meet with the school to see if we can resolve a few of the minor issues we had this year.

It was asked if we could have a separate grade 4 MSR contest, however due to the large number of potential entries for this event it would not be possible as it would have to be open to all novice and grade 4 bands to enter as well.

It was also asked if we would be trying to get a grade 1 contest started again after being let down this year again with the grade 1 bands withdrawing before the contest. We will speak to the grade 1 bands prior to making a decision about this.

### **A.O.C.B.**

#### **Website**

There are still a few things, including Champion of Champion results which need to be updated.

The whole website will be looked at with a view to having it cleaned up a bit and old items being taken down and just giving it a general tidy up.

There was also some discussion about having a gallery page set up.

### **Meeting Closed 19.50**

**Next meeting:** Bellsquarry Hall on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 6.00pm.