

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 27th September**

J. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
L.A. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
P. Hazzard, Minute Secretary	City of Edinburgh
W. Dalziel	Wallacestone & District
V. McMorran	Glencorse
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M.B. Scott, Director	Scottish Fire and Rescue
I. Simpson, Music Board	George Watson's College Novice Juvenile A + B
M. O'Neill	Police Fife Scotland
M. Binder, Magazine Reporter	Royal High
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
J. McKenna	Scottish Fire & Rescue
M. Watters	Scottish Fire & Rescue
G. Cameron	Camelon and District
Kevin Reid MM	Police Scotland Fife
Christine Reid	Police Scotland Fife
Susan Starr	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's

Apologies: S. Orr RVM, W McIntyre

Welcome

As the Branch Chairman was unable to attend due to work commitments, the Branch President took the chair. This meeting was the first to be held using a video conference platform, and the President thanked everyone for attending using this new approach.

The President asked that all present remember in the thoughts and prayers Alex Dalziel and Ann Hazzard who sadly passed away since the last Branch meeting. Both will be sadly missed by the wider pipe band fraternity, and the L&B Branch in particular.

Minutes

The Minutes of the February Meeting Proposed by Police Fife Scotland and seconded by Royal High.

Matters arising:

There were no Matters arising.

Treasurer's report:

The treasurer gave her report and details are available by request.

Directors report:

- The RSPBA Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 14th March 2020 in Glasgow, was postponed due to the escalating coronavirus situation. The decision to postpone was taken after the Board of Directors considered in detail the advice of both local and national government agencies and is intended to minimise the potential health risk to our membership.
- The AGM was rescheduled to June and held online. All bands in membership were contacted and asked to cast their votes online. Only critical business was discussed with all proposed amendments to the Rules and Articles postponed until the next AGM.
- 268 Bands received a notice regarding the convening the AGM, with majority confirming receipt of the notice via email. 97 Bands responded with their proxy submissions. 1 comment and 7 questions were submitted with the proxy votes and all were presented to the meeting but not debated. Each member who submitted a question received a direct response prior to the report of the AGM being published on the website.
- Since March 2020, the Board now publish a precis of their Board meetings on the website which is available to all to view if interested.
- A series of decisions were taken by the Board, in association with the relevant promoters, regarding the 5 major championships and the WSD. The decision to cancel each of the championships were taken as timeously as possible, as the picture was changing on a daily basis. However, it was felt that for the safety of all involved was of primary importance to the Association and its partners.
- The restrictions imposed because of Covid-19 have had a major financial impact on the Association. The board are constantly reviewing the financial position as events unfold. All office staff were put on Furlough as of 1st April, and this is expected to last until at least the end of October 2020.
- As a result of the cancellation of the Worlds, the Board agreed to BBC Alba's request to produce a special on the World Pipe Band Championships to be aired on the Saturday that would have been the Worlds.
- Correspondence received regarding the resignation of a Director.
- The Standing orders and Rulers / Articles of Association amendments are being reviewed by the Directors prior to sharing with the Branches for feedback.
- The new Bullying and Harassment policy is currently in draft and to be reviewed by all Directors and Standing Committees.
- The Board have started the process of refreshing the website. A request for anyone interested in progressing the Website Refresh to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI). Several enquiries were received by the cut of date. A letter of acknowledgement has been sent by the committee to all those who submitted an enquiry. The EOI returns are being reviewed, with a view to inviting the leading contenders to progress on to attend a briefing session and an invitation to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- In August, the Board received notification that the CEO will be retiring at the end of November. Ian will remain within the organisation on a part time basis to assist with the transition.

Music Board Report

The music board have continued to meet online with meetings being held on 4th April, 9th May, 13th June, 4th July, 1st August, 29th August & 19th September.

Activities and Updates

1. **April** - 2020 WSD commissioned - MB/BOD to research how to deliver the event - with/without restrictions
2. **Project Tambor** was born- scenario based approach which delivered options- standalone and blended. (M. O'Neil WSD Group, P. Turner - APBM/WSD Group, S. McQuillan- MB/WSD Group & J. Hughes- RSPBA Chairman)

Education:

- Pathways have been created - see the online College pages on RSPBA web & Social Media.
- Tune composition completed - winners announced.
- PDQB-Snare, Bass and Tenor - new syllabus is live , Tenor lots of new material including visuals and a legend for same. Snare new exercises and all realigned to match pipes in terms of playing requirements.
- Certificate in Pipe band Musicianship is live - new content for B/T - study the same theory levels.
College Principles reviewing delivery options.

Competition Format:

- 2.16 “The Music Board shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for all matters and complaints pertaining to Music, Grading, Competition Format, Dress and Department of Band Members. [2014 AGM]”
- MB/BOD prepared Terms of Reference for Competition Format - approved
- Reference Information for Competition Format- continues to be updated, incl; instrument definitions, draws, timings etc
- Tom Brown - College principle presented to MB on options for developing Format - passed to the Format Group, led to a live G4B/NJB pilot in 21- static start
- Donation of £384 to cover new survey tool- 12 month license
- April - MB joined by APBM -discussion on G1 Format World Championship - Format Group are leading the project - Global online conference call August. Findings - distilled, next step - clarification meeting/more time.

Competition Format:

- WSD Group has continued to meet- Continue to develop/explore options for the International qualifiers.
- 2021- WSD will include an Adult Tenor section. Name changes to World Solo Tenor, six prizes across each Juvenile and Adult to align with snare.
- The dates of the Majors - announced for 2021- incl. playing requirements.
- Online competitions have been topical- MB have made several recommendations based on research-Alternative model to address safeguarding and non-level playing field
- MB/BOD thanked the WSD Group for all the hard work and research.
- Favour a Development and assessment based approach within a flooded market
- Format Group met with DPA & LSE Branches to pilot. Positive outcomes and agreed to pilot Development- meeting included members from the APMB and College.
- WSD - Identified two key individuals to support Risk Assessments of Events. Initial engagement- perhaps to support going forward ; indoors and outdoor subject to Government guidelines/restrictions.
- 2021- Season

Trophies

The additional trophies required for the Indoors were purchased and the invoice was passed to the Treasurer for payment.

AOCB

Wilma Dalziel gave thanks to all RSPBA staff, other branches, individual bands and Drum Majors who gave their support, flowers and cards after the passing of Alex. Wilma also confirmed that £221 had been donated to McMillan Nurses from the retiral collection at Alex's funeral service.

Vi McMorran confirmed that she would be able to help out at the compiling in the 2021 season, and take the new compilers through the process. Wilma Dalziel and Susan Starr also offered to provide whatever assistance was required.

Scottish Fire & Rescue proposed that the Branch give bands a year with no fees as the 2020 season has been cancelled. After discussion on this a show of hands was taken and this was passed unanimously

Scottish Fire & Rescue proposed that branch officials should still receive their honorarium as they have and will continue to carry on their duties behind the scenes during the current pandemic. After discussion a show of hands was taken and this was passed unanimously.

Susan Starr asked if anyone could suggest a good system or software to prevent lags in audio for online band practices and tuition. It was said that many bands and teaching groups were experiencing similar problems with online tuition and that this may be better with one to one training as the more individuals online at same time will increase the problem.

Discussion took place on two of the vacant Branch positions. Peter Hazzard volunteered to take up the Branch Secretary role, as he had been assisting Ann in that role over the last couple of years. Gary Dyet, the RSPBA Chief Steward, had intimated that he wished to follow in footsteps of Alex Dalziel and take up the role of L&B Branch Chief Steward. Both of these were unanimously accepted by the meeting and will go forward to the Branch AGM for ratification.

Meeting Closed 19.06pm.

Next online meeting will be 25th October at 6.00pm