

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Lothian & Borders Branch of
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
On Sunday 25 September 2022**

J. B. Hughes, President	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
LA. Riad, Treasurer	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Brown-Scott, Vice Chairman	Scottish Fire and Rescue
P. Hazzard, Secretary	City of Edinburgh
S. Starr, Minute Secretary	Peebles Ex-Servicemen's
S. McQuillan, Music Board	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
B. Watt, Trophy Convenor	Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia
W. Waugh	Camelon & District
J. Gavin	Camelon & District
W. McIntyre	George Heriot School
M. Binder	Royal High School
L. Moore, Music Board	Preston Lodge High School
I. Simpson	Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
M. Cameron	Camelon & District
E. Scott	Scottish Fire and Rescue
J. Simpson	Edinburgh Academy

Apologies

M. O'Neill, M. Reill, G Dyet, S. Orr RVM

Welcome

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the April meeting were Proposed and Seconded by Royal High and Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer gave her report and is available from the Secretary on request. The Treasurer also advised that the books have been closed in preparation for the Auditors.

Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

Director's report:

M. Brown-Scott advised that the Grade 1 MSR proposal has been approved, there is nothing further to report as the next Directors meeting is due to take place on 8 October.

Music Board Report

S. McQuillan advised that The Music Board last met on 23 September 2022, the following is a summary of the key points:-

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- The Directors Appointed to the Music Board gave a Board of Directors overview from their last meeting.
- The meeting then discussed the 2022 Season as an agenda item which highlighted the following feedback:-
 - Overall, generally positive season is the feeling and congratulations are offered to all Competitors, Tutors, Sponsors, Officials and everyone involved.
 - Dumbarton received positive feedback from some members on the revised layout.
 - The World Pipe Band Championships was mentioned by some Music Board Members who mentioned that they felt water stations should have been provided. There was also a suggestion that perhaps guidance can be issued to highlight health and wellbeing.
 - A discussion took place on who place for the Drum majors with suggestions made for the Board of Directors to consider.
 - Band Registrations were also very topical in terms of checks made at the Major Championships where a Music Board member intimated that he had written to the RSPBA Chairman to raise a concern regarding a matter related to the World Pipe Band Championship. This led to a wider discussion on members who have registrations with a RSPBA band and an Overseas Band where the overseas band has not yet competed within an RSPBA contest. Specifically, to issue guidance about this situation and other scenarios which might arise given the transient nature of player moving between Associations.
- **Standards and Gradings**
 - The group provided a full report of the various bands which are recommended for promotion. Discussion took place around some of the recommendations and answers were provided for the Grading Group.
 - The Grading Group stated that based on receiving upgrade forms from the European Championship from those who adjudicated the Juvenile Grade, they wished to propose a Grade realignment for Juvenile bands from Grade 3 to Grade 2. This suggested change would affect the format at Local Contests and not the RSPBA Major Championships. The Music Board Convenor is to discuss this matter with the Standards Convenor for an AGM proposed change of rule.
 - Other points raised by the Grading Group about 23 bands being used as the cut off before a heat is required. Grading Group were reminded some of the business discussed should be referred to the Format Group and that they were welcome to attend a Format Group to discuss.
- **Tune List**
 - Several tunes have been put forward and accepted for the prescribed tune list.
- **World Solo Drumming**
 - The World Solo Drumming group have met to review the new Championship Circuit which has been introduced in 2022. The Overall feeling is one of success and all are reminded that for the 2023 season, the World Solo Drumming shall be a semi-final and final over event for the adults. This is to encourage participation at the Championship Circuit and all host branches were congratulated on hosting excellent events. In particular some Branches strengthened their approach to marketing and

media using live streaming, branded adverts and pop-up banners which enhance the competitive environment.

- The Music Board are keen to publish the Champions Circuit fate for 2023 as players wish to know these sooner rather than later as this affects their planning and travel arrangements.
- The Group also records and acknowledges the collaborative work with the Vice Chairman to produce the Solo Drumming for both Snare and Tenor withing the Competition Format Information Booklet.
- It is expected that a request will be received from the BCPA to host an additional Championship event in 2023.

- **Format Group**

- The Music Board accepted the Format Group Recommendations on the NJB/G4B static start. Having surveyed Bands, Tutors, Directors, and Adjudicators, that the G4B returns to status quo, however based on the balance of feedback that the NJB static start pilot continues for a full season at **all** local, minor and RSPBA Championships. In the event that the competitions are a combined NJB/G4B – the marching intro will be deployed as a development opportunity for NJB. The pilot extension is mentioned by some bands as an opportunity to facilitate a broader analysis and feedback at the end of the season.
- G1 Project – this is ongoing with a change to the MSR Format that will be introduced for the 2023 season. Full details are on the RSPBA website.
- Some Music Board members asked that the Grade 2 and Grade 3 formats be looked at to. As such a Format Group meeting was convened and is awaiting reporting to the next full Music Board Meeting.
- The Format Group would also like to have devolved scope like the Grading Group to approve Format Group decision subject to the Music Board and Directors agreement and where there is no rule change nor budget implications. This is based on band Feedback who highlight that it takes too long for certain changes to be made.

Once S. McQuillan had provided his report, there was a discussion on the re-gradings. The Branch has been made aware that some Branch Bands will be submitting appeals. S. McQuillan and L. Moore have advised that they are willing to support any Branch Band with this.

Stewards Report

G. Dyet had asked for his thanks to be passed on to all stewards and compilers for their efforts during the season.

Education Report

Not a lot to report as the meeting has not taken place.

L. Moore has voiced his personal frustrations as pupils who sat their exams in 2021 have still not had their exam awarded. This frustration was equally matched by other bands who are in the same situation. This needs to be actioned urgently by headquarters and not added to another agenda for another meeting.

L. Moore to produce a questionnaire to be issued to all bands on exactly what the bands are looking for the branch to run in the way of Education for the following year.

J. Hughes confirmed that he has been working alongside M. Binder to organise a Drum Majors Workshop.

Trophy Convener's Report

There has been a small issue with Bathgate Highland Games. They have taken the decision that since the committee has been dissolved, they have decided to return the trophies to the donors. Unfortunately, they did not contact Brian before cutting the padlock off of the storage unit we were using.

B. Watt advised the meeting that he has handed his resignation to the President and Chairman, but would be willing to work alongside the new trophy convener until they learnt the ropes.

J. Hughes thank Brian for all his hard work and dedication that he has provided to the role.

AOCB

Indoors.

J. Hughes has advised that the professional date is 1 April 2023 and that we are still waiting on confirmation from the school and West Lothian Leisure.

Outdoors.

Dunbar has confirmed that they would like to come back on board for 2023. J. Hughes has confirmed that he will be having discussions with East Lothian Council in relation to funding for this event.

Secretary

P. Hazzard unfortunately advised the meeting that he is also tendering his resignation.

J. Hughes thank Peter for all his hard work and dedication that he has provided to the role.

J. Hughes has also asked if anyone is willing to fill these roles contact him personally, or come the AGM to have discussions.

Parking

J. Gavin has asked for clarification on the parking situation at Gourock and North Berwick Highland Games. J. Hughes advised that we could not speak for the situation at Gourock, but could confirm that the parking arrangements at North Berwick cause the promoters some issues. NBHG are aware of the great risk that this holds to the future of the games going forward in that venue.

Competition in the Central Belt

J. Gavin has asked if we are any further forward with having a competition being ran in the Central Belt. J. Hughes advised that unfortunately there has been no promoter or sponsor come forward for this. If anyone is aware of anyone wishing to support this then please ask for them to contact J. Hughes.

AGM

Following discussion, the Branch have agreed that this years AGM will be held in person on 27 November at 3pm at Bellsquarry Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 19.43

Next online meeting will be 30 October 2022 at 18:00