



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the meeting at Padgate Community Centre on 4th October 2009

P Brown	Secretary
J Thomson	Chairman
C Eyre	President, Treasurer & Webmaster
T Brown	Music Board representative
P Brown	National Council representative

Band Representatives

Sheffield	T Brown
Greater Manchester Pipe band	R Doyle
Warrington	K Thacker
Warrington 2004	J Thomson
Wirral Pipe Band	C Eyre
WYFS	No Info
GMF&RS	R Brown
Scots Guards	No info
South Cheshire Pipe Band	No info
Henderson Caledonian	Apologies D Wilson
City of Preston	No info
Bolton and Scottish	No info
Chorley	Apologies A Paton
Oldham	No info
City of Liverpool	Apologies M Wyness

Minutes of previous meeting presented in summary

A meeting was held on the 19th April 2009, however there was insufficient representation for a full meeting therefore the meeting on the 8th February still need to be accepted. The Chairman wrote a letter of apology to the University Barracks, and to the bands reminding them to look after premises (particularly tidying up after themselves).

Minutes of the previous meeting on the 8th February 2009 are accepted by those present at the meeting. After acceptance any members present can discuss them in matters arising.

Proposed K Thacker
Seconded T Brown
Voted Unanimous

Matters Arising / Ongoing / Completed from previous meetings

W Ferguson Trophy, if 2010 competition is to be held, Pipe Majors to decide on entries, two from each branch allowed. The competition is normally held in April. **T Brown to ask for tune list, branch to look at the nominees to select entries.**

Secretaries Reports

All bands should have received the RSPBA headquarter membership details. Please pay subscriptions before the end of November or risk being fined.

Treasurers Report

Account to be produced for headquarters and sent prior to the AGM. It should be noted that without the Levy the branch would not be financially viable. As a branch we need to make sure that the functions run to do not make a loss and they need to be financially viable. To date in 2009 the branch has made a loss of £409.93. This can be improved in 2010 by planning ahead on the costs of the branch competitions.

Music Board Report.

No higher to lower, or lower to higher (in England). The only band in the branch discussed were Chorley, the decision was to leave the band alone, the Pipe Major could appeal.

City of Liverpool registered as G4B. Bootle is still to register.

2010 playing requirements for championships are:-

G4B 4 * 2 parted 2/4 Map Tunes. Unless there are more than 24 bands there will be no heats, straight through competition.

G4A 2*2 parted 2/4 Map Tune + 1* 2 parted Strathspey + 1 * 2 parted reel. All Tunes on website. Music should be sent to all G4A bands within next 2 weeks.

G3 1st and 5th (last) championships = medley, middle 3 =MSR.

Local competitions G4 march selection between 2.5 and 4.5 minutes. If practical can hold a separate 4A MSR.

R Brown thought the format disadvantaged the 4A bands, discussions took place around the table. The format is up to the promoter to contact HQ for permission, and really depends on entries from 4A/4B.

Central Calendar of adjudicator availability is not known. **T Brown to contact adjudicator's panel for dates for that are not available.**

Branch Support will support the PDQB process and will use internal support where we can. The branch finances do not allow for the use of external resources (including the RSPBA).

Note the City of Sheffield has an Exam weekend booked for the 31st October 2009. Those interested please contact T Brown. L1/2=£10, L3=£15 plus £10 for Lunch and Workshop.

National Council

1. The last National Council Meeting on 7th Feb 2009, this consisted mainly of the ratification of input from the various boards and panels and preparation for the AGM.
2. All please refer to the RSPBA web site, the Music Board competition procedures and guides for competitions format are available on the RSPBA website.
3. Way Forward (Company by Guarantee) working party established.
4. Excellent Competition Season, the next national council meeting will be on the 17th October 2009
5. Accounts to be sent to headquarters, have not received standard layout.
6. AGM will be on the 6th December at 1pm (1st Sunday in December).

AOB

There will be no 2009 Solo Competition.

The venue for the 2010 competitions is to be booked. R Doyle to approach the University Barracks, City of Sheffield to keep the Fire Training Centre as standby (Sheffield)

Solo 20th Feb

Trio 20th March.

Mini Bands 10th April – min bands (look at having a review of the G4B MSR) Earlier Start to the day is required and there will be no private raffle.

Entry forms and rules etc to be produced by C Eyre. The mini band criteria is to be amended to allow four or five pipers in both grade 4 and 3. Entry Fees – remain the same. Monies are to be sent with entries (late payment will incur a £5.00 administration fee).

The draw will be made at the branch meeting prior to the competition, entries to be received no later than this date, we need to see if the entries make the competition viable.

6th Feb - Solos

6th March - Trios

3rd April (To be confirmed) possibly 28th March.

At Sheffield on Saturday 31st October – EXAMINER from Glasgow for PDQB exam. Cost £10 L1 & L2 £15 for L3 (plus £10 for Lunch and workshop). Exams start about 10am. **T Brown will Email the bands to see if they have candidates.**

Keep any excess presents from Christmas to be used as Raffles at the branch events.

Meeting closed at 15:02.

Next meeting will be the AGM on 6th December 2009. All bands please send representation.

P L Brown
Branch Secretary
Minutes Secretary