



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the meeting at Padgate Community Centre on 3rd February 2008

G Macaoidh Secretary
J Dillon Chairman & National Council Representative
C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
T Brown Music Board representative
P Brown Minutes Secretary

Band Representatives

Sheffield	T Brown
Greater Manchester Pipe band	G Macaoidh
Warrington	K Thacker
Wirral Pipe Band	C Eyre

GMFS Apologies M Bryan

Guest Mr Dave Hardy (St Annes Pipe Band) came to see what it was all about.

Minutes of AGM, presented in summary

2007 was a difficult year for the branch, resignation of Secretary in June, and the President resigned in December immediately before the AGM. The branch solos were successful, need to try and encourage more competitors in future. The treasurer's report indicated we are operating in the black although there are administration problems with the bank account due to lack of signatories.

The committee was dissolved and adopted as listed above in these minutes.

Music Board update provided by T Brown, change to MAP format for 2008. More adjudicators required.

National Council Report by Kevin Riley. The venues for the majors will not be fully decided on funds, bids will be looked at in full on commercial terms. The RSPBA looking at a restructure of administration and committees.

Proposed C Eyre
Seconded T Brown
Voted Unanimous

Matters Ongoing

- Send ideas Kevin Riley on Way Forward – Action Paul Brown.
- Proposal on Junior and Juvenile parental access to major competitions – Action Theresa Brown.

Secretaries Reports

1. Details to be collated on the branch committee and be sent to the RSPBA Headquarters.
2. Adjudicator's courses to be run for "unattached" personnel. Branch feels that there is a need for any applicants who is willing to be trained to ensure the RSPBA has a pool available in the future, agree that costs and wastage need to be managed. Those interested would contribute/off set cost.
3. Indoor contest judges requested for our competitions, being chased by the secretary now the RSPBA contacts are back from holiday.

Treasurers Report

Finances are in the black and solvent. The treasurer is working with the new committee to resolve signatories to the bank account. We are looking to pay by cheque when possible in the future. Float for Solos competition made available (and signed for) to Paul Brown.

Music Board Report.

1. There is a project to document all the aspects of competition procedures to help the bands understand what are the procedures and format for the day. Local competition rules can apply to the details presented. All agreed that an easy set of procedures is what is required.
2. Pushing PDQB exams, Sheffield have put 8 through, more to go this year. The exams cover theory, playing and maintenance.
3. Do we look to establishing a serious English Championships, do we need to contact other branches.

National Council

1. The 8th March is the AGM, need positive representation from the branch and England. George Purvis is to retire and the position is to be filled by Gordon Hammill.
2. Belfast and Glasgow have put in bids.
3. Branches have requested that the % of Prize Money to the RSPBA needs to be reduced or modified, some branches paying thousands of pounds others like ours nothing.
4. 2009 Homecoming to Scotland- what can the RSPBA do – competition etc specific to the event?
5. Marching and discipline / bass drum sections do not apply in major competitions..
6. Lottery and Arts Council – funds available but need to dress up what is required and put it in the terms the body required.
7. Try and push education, MAP and PDQB.
8. History of association to be published soon.
9. Drum Majors dress code to be published soon.
10. Way forward report for the association has been delayed, need to know what should the branch be offering our members?

AOB

1. Pipers Club about to be set up in Liverpool to encourage people to play on a platform outside of the normal Pipe Band environment. Organiser: Bruce Campbell. We'll be keeping an interest in this to see how it develops.
2. Outdoor Contest, we in the North West branch to look at venues. Sheffield is considering in the longer term use of its new facilities, need for sponsorship etc. – Theresa to write to RSPBA for check lists.
3. In the shorter term need to look at piggy backing a competition on to an existing carnival or show in the NW. With this in mind need to meet with all the other English branches to look at establishing more competitions, how have they resurrected competition in their areas – Secretary to contact branches.
4. Get together outside of the Competition Season for the branch- committee to progress throughout the season
5. Ferguson Trophy 19th April 2008. Music to be made available to our competition winners. £50.00 towards travel/subsistence will be provided by the Branch. The Lothian and Borders branch will be hosting the competition as part of their local competition. Brett Shacklady and Sam MacDonald prospective competitors.
6. Trophies to be returned. Email to be sent by Secretary to last year's competing bands. Sheffield to provide Trophies for Solo Drumming
 - 2nd 3rd Open 2/4
 - 2nd 3rd Open MSR
 - 1st 2nd 3rd in Hornpipe and Jig

The meeting closed to allow the draw for the Solo Competition to be made, few entries have been received. Sheffield pointed out entries would be made on the day as they wanted to get on first being new to the circuit. The GMFS representative sent apologies to the meeting and their stand- in did not send in the entries from the band that generally has the most competitors.

The Secretary has details of the draw.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary