



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the meeting at Padgate Community Centre on 16th March 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 D Doyle
Warrington	K Thacker
Warrington 2004	J Thomson
Wirral Pipe Band	C Eyre
WYFS	I McLeod
GMFS	Apologies M Bryant
Scots Guards	No info
South Cheshire Pipe Band	No info
Henderson Caledonian	No info
City of Preston	No info
Bolton and Scottish	No info
Chorley	Apologies A Paton
Oldam	No info

Minutes of previous meeting presented in summary

Minutes of the previous meeting are accepted by those present at the meeting. After acceptance any members present can discuss in matters arising.

Proposed T Brown

Seconded G Macaoidh

Voted Unanimous

Matters Arising / Ongoing / Completed from previous meetings

- Paul Brown completed a submission to Kevin Riley on Way Forward. – Completed.
- Proposal on Junior and Juvenile parental access to major competitions, forwarded to National Council via the branch representative – Completed
- Details of the branch committee sent to the RSPBA Headquarters by the Secretary – Complete.
- Allocation of Adjudicators for Indoor Solo Competition being chased by the Secretary – Completed
- 2009 Homecoming to Scotland- what can the RSPBA do – competition etc specific to the event? – Ongoing

- Branch Outdoor Completion – Ongoing
- Ferguson Trophy 19th April 2008. £50.00 towards travel/subsistence will be provided by the Branch. Brett Shacklady and Sam MacDonald prospective competitors. – Ongoing
- Sheffield to provide Trophies for Solo Drumming (2nd 3rd Open 2/4, 2nd 3rd Open MSR and 1st 2nd 3rd in Horn Pipe and Jig) - Ongoing

Secretaries Reports

1. On chasing adjudicators for Solos, found none were assigned and previous engagement took precedence. Have now received confirmation that:
 - Robert Mathieson for Trios on the 29th March, Secretary looking at travel arrangements.
 - Cameron Edgar assigned for Solos on 12th April 2008. .
 - Mini Bands adjudicator to be assigned.
2. Solos now on 12th April as only data available that suits the majority of those entered in the February Competition.
3. Received 10 completed Band Returns from Headquarters, 14 bands are registered and have paid.

Treasurers Report

Explanation of the £40 local levy for branch functions made to those present. The levy keeps the branch solvent and supports the running of the Solos, Trios and Mini Band events.

Those bands that have paid are:

Chorley
 Sheffield
 Manchester
 Henderson
 Scots guards (with entry to Trios)
 Warrington
 Warrington 2004
 Wirral
 GMFS (with entry to Trios)

Bank Account access being progressed for the new 2008 Committee.
 Float issued to P Brown for the February Solos returned to the treasurer.

Music Board Report.

1. The next music board meeting is on the 12th April in Glasgow.
2. Sheffield have 12 members taking PDQB exams on the 29th March 2008.
3. The Syllabus has changed from that currently on the branch Web Site. Theresa to forward latest details to Chris of the College of Piping web page that has the latest details. Chris will then update the link on the branch site.

Branch Outdoor Competition

1. Information sought from the RSPBA, informed that this was a branch matter. To try and progress Theresa in discussions with Jim Campbell, Music Board on check list for

competition format, also to write to George Purvis in a personal capacity to tap in to his vast experience.

2. All to look at venues and events on which we can try and establish a competition to get the branch back on the events calendar.
 - Sheffield looking at its own premises and events like the Highland Cattle Show in Sheffield.
 - Need to obtain a sponsor and avoid conflict with existing event program.
 - 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.
 - Get together outside of the Competition Season for the branch- committee to progress throughout the season

National Council

1. George Purvis stood down as vice President, taken over by Gordon Hamill.
2. New ideas are to cut National council representation by half at National Championships.
3. Branch highlighted as having all bands registered and paid to headquarters.
4. Stewards required for English Competitions, none currently registered. Need to know why RSPBA have not requested volunteers from the bands.
5. Glasgow has retained the World Championships for a further 3 years.
6. Discussion on branch representation, what are the branches doing for each other.
7. All to support the local Birmingham Competition on 6th July.
8. After AGM, way forward presented to the National Council. Working party established.
9. Letter from Theresa, regarding parental access to competitions had been discussed, but it was reported that the National Council appeared more concerned with people getting free entry to events rather than child protection issues.

AOB

1. C Eyre may not be available after the Mini Bands to attend meetings and events. Will support the branch, maintain the website and accounts.
2. Bands must pay £40 levy before individuals can play in solos other than the open grade A –MSR.
3. Solo Drumming: Novice playing on Pad, piper accompanies on Chanter. Novice on Drum accompanied by piper playing the pipes. Highland dress to be worn if available, if not, to be smart and respectful to the nature of the event. .
4. New section “Intermediate” to be introduced to the Drumming Competition, as a stepping stone between Novice and Open classes. Two sections 2/4 and 6/8 four part marches.
5. Stewards required from bands to help at the Trios, Solos and mini bands. Man the door, raffle etc.help make the day enjoyable to all.

The meeting closed to allow the draw for the Trios Competition to be made.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary

