



## RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:00 start time of the meeting.

### Present Officials

- C Eyre            President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- K Thacker       Vice- Chairman
- P Brown        Secretary / Director RSPBA

### Apologies

- J Thomson      Chairman
- T Brown        Music Board representative

### Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- Bolton St Andrews
- Manchester Phoenix
- Liverpool Scottish (Proxy)

### Apologies: -

- Oldham Scottish.
- Scots Guards Association

A quorum was attained and the meeting started @ 13:15

### **Opening**

The vice chairman welcomed those present and the meeting commenced, having waited 15 minutes to see if more bands were to be represented

Apologies were noted, and we send our best wishes to the Chairman.

The competition season is now at an end, bands within the branch have been seen at events throughout the summer, and some have taken part in both major and minor competitions.

The Branch would like to thank all the band members for their efforts and more importantly those volunteers (committee members, Pipe Majors and Lead Drummers) who give up their time to make the hobby enjoyable, well done all.

The GM Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> April were circulated for consideration. The minutes were accepted in full on a proposal by Warrington. It was seconded by Wirral. All others were like minded.

#### Matters Arising.

None.

#### **Treasurers Report**

The Branch closing balance for September 2016 is £2460. We are showing a profit for the year of £98.51. This does not include an outstanding entry fee of £16, but does include a £75 donation for the 2017 drumming prizes.

We successfully held our competitions and a combined piping / drumming workshop, the raffles were a success due to the range of prizes, and the generosity of members and their guests

#### **Directors Report**

The next directors meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

The competition season has been a success, with no issues being reported. Discussion around the organisation of majors took place. Areas of feedback were provided such as; need to finish the event earlier, notification of what event is taking place in what arena, maximising use of arenas.

To keep our branch, we need a minimum of 12 bands to pay their membership in Oct/Nov 2016.

There has been no feedback on the review of Band and Member registrations.

#### **Music Board Report**

The music board meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

A large element of the meeting was taken up with the post season regrading of Bands. No band in the Branch (or England) was impacted. Details are available on the RSPBA web site.

The prescribed tunes available for use in the 2016/17 season are on the RSPBA website.

There is to be a Pipe Major / Leading Drummers workshop later in the year to help these individuals in their choice of tunes. Please consult the RSPBA web site for details.

The board is continuing to look at competition formats, as well as looking at reviewing the list of prescribed tunes. The qualifying places for the World Solo Drumming competition is under review, the proposal is to make more places available to regional competition winners.

## **2017 Branch Competitions and Workshops**

Until another venue is available the branch is planning the events for 2017 based on the availability of St Joseph's, Birkenhead. If you are aware of an alternative venue, please let us know for the next Branch meeting.

The entry forms will be available on the NWE Branch Website.

Trios will be included as part of the Mini Band competition in place of the quartets, allowing more branch bands to participate. Drum Salute competition also included. It is also proposed we run the solo drumming at the same event, reducing the number of times we need to request a drumming adjudicator.

The plan is to run the Solo Drumming, then the Drum Salute, then the Trio Piping and then the Minibands. Judging on the strength of entries in recent years we should be able to accommodate this well enough with the Drumming starting at 10.00am and the Trio Piping/Minibands starting around 1.00pm. If necessary we can run part of the Solo Drumming downstairs in the canteen at the same time as the Trio Piping. Any timing clashes, ie, pipers required to play for drumming and trios at the same time would be catered for.

Once we have confirmed the dates and venue for each event, we will then contact adjudicators.

The events are open to all branches to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition. Within each section of the open competition, confined branch results will also be announced.

£75 (£50 and £25) prize fund available for the Drum Salute.

We were very grateful last year for the help provided by the 103 Regiment Pipes & Drums in stewarding our indoor events. An invitation will be extended to them again this year if they would like to take part.

### **Proposed Dates**

- Solo Piping: Saturday 25th February (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)
- Solo Drumming/Trio Piping/Minibands: Saturday 8th April (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)

To complement the Drumming/Trio Piping/Minibands event and make the best use of the adjudicators while we have them, we are proposing to host Piping/Drumming workshops on Sunday 9th April at Padgate Community Centre, Warrington. Bolton St Andrews has asked particularly for some tuition on reed manipulation / maintenance so we will work this into the programme.

Drum Majors workshop: Saturday 4th March (Padgate Community Centre, Warrington). It will be aimed at going over all the basic routines (stand to attention, about turn, march off,

routine while marching, counter-march, bring to the halt, stop band playing. stand at ease) and also looking at various flourishing routines for those who want to move on further.

## **AOCB**

Please consider Raffle prizes for the competitions.

Need to give 2 weeks' notice in newsletter and Facebook regarding meetings and events.

Next GM meeting date will be circulated after Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October .

Closed @ 14:30

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch