



RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 15th January 2017 at Padgate Community Centre.

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

Present Officials

- P Brown Secretary
- C Eyre President, Treasurer & Webmaster
- P Brown Director RSPBA
- K Thacker Vice- Chairman
- T Brown Music Board representative
- J Thomson Chairman

Bands in attendance: -

- Warrington
- Wirral
- St Andrews Bolton

Apologies: -

- Manchester Phoenix

A quorum was attained and the meeting started @ 13:30

Opening

The chairman welcomed those attending the meeting

Apologies were noted.

The AGM and GM Minutes of the 4th December were circulated for consideration. The minutes were accepted in full -

Proposal by Warrington

Seconded by St Andrews Bolton

All others were like minded.

Noted typo 2015 competitions should have read 2017 competitions in GM

Treasurers Report

As reported at the AGM the branch is in a stable financial position. The branch Levies are now due and the bands that participate in branch activities generally pay this with their first entries of the year (the solo piping).

No reportable financial movements have taken place. No immediate expenditure is expected. The branch secretary has forward a copy of the 2016 accounts to headquarters for their records.

Music Board Report

The next MB meeting is scheduled for the 21st January 2017, details will be reported at the next meeting.

The main business will be the allocation of a MB convenor, as the one appointed was replaced at their branch AGM.

There is little to report now as background work is still being progressed on the competition format / grading structure with no proposals for consultation / consideration to bring forward.

If you have any thoughts on these wide-ranging subjects let your MB or BoD know, so the ideas can be thrown into the melting pot.

There is a shortage of MB members particularly drummers, please consider volunteering your time and talent.

Board of Directors Report

The next BoD meeting will take place on the 4th Feb 2017.

Details of the branch officials and the AGM minutes have been forwarded to headquarters.

We continue to explore funding / ideas for new headquarters. If you know of an investor / backer, please point them in our direction.

Summer School - consider participation, details should be on the RSPBA web site.

Structure / Registration review is ongoing, there are no agreed proposals to bring forward at this time.

The branch chairman (Jeff) asked about the PVG initiative. In discussion, we identified bands have adopted local processes and it would be good to get a standard framework in place to protect the bands / branch. The Director (Paul) is to find out and progress the next steps for Branch members, likely to be a branch event needing band instructors / secretaries to attend (if they can), with the findings published to all branch bands to consider implementing.

2017 Indoor Competitions

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.

The dates have been notified to headquarters.

103 Regiment will be asked to help with stewarding on the day.

The entry forms are available on the NWE Branch Website.

Adjudicators have been consulted, and a letter requesting their formal allocation has been sent to RSPBA headquarters.

Solo Piping: Saturday 25th February (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)
Cameron Edgar will adjudicate the Solo Piping,

Solo Drumming/Trio Piping/Minibands: Saturday 8th April (St Joseph's, Birkenhead)
£75 (£50 and £25) prize fund available for the Drum Salute.
The entry form has been updated
Robert Matheson and David Brown are to adjudicate at the mini bands

Workshops

Drum Majors workshop: Saturday 4th March (Padgate Community Centre, Warrington).
Basic mace movements and body flourish. Calum Brown to provide overview and basic mace drill. 10am to 4 pm at the Padgate Community center. Lunch available at £5.00 per person.

9th April Piping and Drumming workshop to be held at the Padgate Community centre following the Mini bands: -

- Robert focusing on reed maintenance along with hints and tips to running a good practice.
- David – looking at drum corps individually, looking at their scores across snare, bass and tenor.

Additional bass, tenor resource being considered.

A follow up workshop would be considered for October to enable further development / issues to be resolved.

AOCB

St Andrews Bolton raised a query regarding establishing a Branch Mass Band. This may be a way of encouraging inter band co-operation/ support as well as possibly being able to support larger events. Wirral indicated they had an outline programme from their work on this in Liverpool during 2016. Chris will look out his information for circulation, we will then plan in several days during the year where all can come together for a practice / play. Consider looking at the Army Cadet website for common tunes / beatings to be practiced locally that can be used when members come together.

Next GM meeting will be 12th March 2017 @ 13:00

Closed @ 14:15

P L Brown

Secretary

NWE Branch