



RSPBA North West England Branch

Minutes of the AGM at Padgate Community Centre on 7th December 2008

| | |
|----------|--|
| Vacancy | Secretary |
| J Dillon | <i>Temp Secretary</i> , 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 | J Dillon |
| Warrington | K Thacker |
| Warrington 2004 | J Thomson |
| Wirral Pipe Band | C Eyre |
| GMFRS | R Brown |
| Henderson Caledonian | V Walsh |

Welcome

The representatives of the bands in the branch as well as the RSPBA chairman K Riley were welcomed by the chairman to Padgate.

The branch affairs should be conducted through the branch meetings and not through the forum on the Branch website.

No apologies have been received.

The branch now has the minimum number of bands, thanks to Warrington agreeing to keep their two band registration. It was noted that Bolton Scottish and Chorley have not yet renewed their membership for 2009.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Due to administration issues in the branch at the beginning of the year no minutes were available to be presented. The majority of representatives were present at the last AGM. It was agreed to accept the minutes

Presidents Address.

This has been a mixed year with many changes occurring in the branch as well as the challenges experience in arraigning the branch competitions and keeping this variable.

The solo piping issues were resolved by holding this late in the year. The three competitions went extremely well. The University Barracks is a good venue and one we hope to continue to use in 2009.

Treasures Report

Signatories on the accounts have been resolved. The 2007 accounts were reviewed by Paul Brown as agreed at the last AGM. The 2008 accounts have been reviewed and prepared for submission to headquarters.

The branch has made a minor loss for the year of £48.05. The mini bands suffered an additional travel cost which was partially anticipated because of the problems we had confirming dates. There could have been some additional income by programs, raffle etc.

The treasurer thanked all bands for their Levy which helps keep the branch viable.

The workshop by Robert Matheson was extremely useful and a welcome addition to the day.

Music Board

All bands received a MAP Questionnaire only 40% were returned to headquarters. The result is that 60% of bands accepted that MAP is a good idea. The MAP structure will remain unchanged for 2009, any changes to be announced prior to the Worlds.

The MAP is a valuable project which at competitions has had variable degrees of success. Adjudicator Training will focus on MAP adjudication and the logistics of competition. The number of qualifying bands in the Worlds will be raised from 12 to 16.

Please check the RSPBA website for the competition "Procedures Guidance". This guide has been prepared by the Music Board and is being finalised for publication. The guide looks at the competition format and what needs to be done by who and the decisions that are taken to run a successful competition.

Branches to forward local procedures to headquarters to allow a standard frame work to be adopted and published.

National Council

RSPBA AGM will be on the 14th March 2009.

The administration of the RSPBA web site is to be paid for monthly to provide a regular income to the supplier.

Branch accounts are to be forwarded to headquarters two weeks prior to branch AGM. There is a need to move forwards with a standard format to be used by each branch.

The RSPBA is to become Ltd

Majors are now planned until 2012, and the European and World competitions are to be 2 weeks apart to allow foreign bands to participate for two weeks in the "worlds experience".

| Major | Scottish | British | European | Worlds |
|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| 2009 | Dumbarton | Banbridge | Gourock | Glasgow |
| 2010 | Dumbarton | Annan | Belfast | Glasgow |
| 2011 | Dumbarton | Annan | Belfast | Glasgow |
| 2012 | Dumbarton | Annan | Belfast | Glasgow |

MAP in to solos – idea to consider. Plans for homecoming Scotland to be included into Worlds week.

The PDQB syllabus has been picked up by the SQA. The details are being used overseas and could be used in England

Lothian and Borders are to host the William Ferguson trophy.

RSPBA update (K Riley)

Nice to see us all and recognise some faces, thanks for your contribution to the branch in difficult times, things can get better now we have a an increasing core of people.

Headquarters use Sage accounting and balance to every penny. The accountants have identified a problem in the Sage system which has now been fixed by Sage and an updated version of the software package was presented to RSPBA as a token of thanks.

Forward planning with sponsorship and venues allows both headquarters and bands plan future years activity both financially and logistically.

The major competition Prize funds have been increased by 10%.

Web Site statistics; 85000 users in 63 countries; Sunday /Monday are busiest days
Navigation is easier with only a minor loss of service in the year. Forms are on the web site along with the Drum majors manual and PDQB syllabus.

Online shop £13,000 earnings. The web site administration requires standard regular income this will be offset against the £4000 banner income. A process of clearing out the content, ensuring advertising is relevant. Remember to send contest paperwork to headquarters.

Registration sheets are on the web site, procedures on how to manage transfers are under review.

Book of Remembrance resides at headquarters and should be used by all bands and branches.

SQA/QA – Piping and Drumming: PR and education. RSPBA need to push this forwards. The planned Instructors Course will have a cost to be met by each candidate.

A presentation was made on the way forwards and the move to make the RSPBA a Ltd company. The presentation was well received, the key is the transition to the proposed solution, ensuring the right people get the right post, as well as ensuring we have a program for developing the volunteers to fill these posts.

Branch executives for 2009

The election of branch officials was chaired by the RSPBA Chairman K Riley.

President – remains unchanged C Eyre, proposed by GMPB, seconded by Warrington, approved unanimous.

Chairman - J Thomson, Proposed by Sheffield, seconded by Wirral, approved unanimous.

Secretary- P Brown, Proposed by GMPB, seconded by GMFRS, approved unanimous.

Treasurer - remains unchanged C Eyre, proposed by GMPB, seconded by Warrington, approved unanimous.

Music Board – remains unchanged T Brown, proposed by GMPB, seconded by Wirral, approved unanimous.

National Council – P Brown, proposed Sheffield, seconded by Wirral, approved unanimous.

The branch posts of Trophy Steward, Web Site Design and Competition Secretary will continue to be fulfilled by C Eyre. The Pipe Band Magazine represent is Calum Brown.

The meeting closed with thanks to all, and best wishes for the coming season.

P L Brown
Minutes Secretary