



## RSPBA North West England Branch

GM 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Padgate Community Centre.

A quorum **was** attained within one half hour after the 13:00 (1PM) start time of the meeting.

### Present Officials

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

### Welcome

In opening the meeting at 13:20 the chairman thanked those in attendance for representing their bands interests. The solos competitions have been held, congratulations to all who competed, and thanks to all those who organised or helped in any way to make the two days a success.

### Bands in attendance:-

- Warrington
- Chorley, Croft and Culcheth
- Wirral

### Bands represented

- (none)

### Band Apologies

- Oldham Scottish

### Bands not in attendance:-

- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service -2003
- Scots Guards Association Manchester
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- City of Preston
- Manchester Phoenix
- Bolton Caledonia

The minutes of the GM of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 have been available to the branch Bands. The secretary clarified that J Thomson had sent his apologies, and should not have been included in the list of Present Officials. The minutes were accepted in full on a:-

Proposal by Warrington

Seconded by Chorley, Croft and Culcheth

All others present like minded.

Matters Arising.

Carried forward. The ongoing action to keep our identity and avoid merging with another branch, we need to contact bands in the area to encourage them to consider joining the branch (and the RSPBA) as members. A couple of candidates have been identified. Members are to pass contact details to the Secretary so we can make contact and see what these bands would like/need.

The revised constitution was issued after the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014 meeting. No amendment or comments have been received by any of the Branch Officials. The constitution was accepted in full on a:-

Proposal by Oldham Scottish;

Seconded by Wirral;

All others present like minded.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Branch is in a good position. The treasurer informed the meeting that the venue for the solos had been invoiced to the branch for £250, on reflection a cost of £125 is a reasonable market figure.

This years mini band competition from a financial perspective has been hit from two directions, the unforeseen cost of the booking flights for the 2<sup>nd</sup> drumming adjudicator, and the lack of entries (mainly due to the movement of players, and some bands who played last year are now in too high a grade for our entry criteria. The event will make a loss of around £450. The lack of band entries results in us needing a drumming adjudicator to attend for a few performances / high cost and little for them to do.

Further comment under 2015 Branch Competitions.

The Drum workshop was a success and cost the branch £194.

### **Directors Report**

The RSPBA AGM was held, with 36 Band Members casting their vote.

The rule changes proposed were accepted, these were to:-

- Split the Novice Juvenile into two grades at major championships
- Clarifying the availability of the registration sheets for checks when leaving an arena.

The search for new premises is ongoing, Glasgow City Council have identified two premises which will come on to the market in 2017 that might suit our needs. Chorley, Croft and Culcheth asked why more use was not being made of the current premises while new ones were being procured; the belief is it is to do with access and fire safety requirements, the query will be brought up at the next directors meeting.

### **Music Board Report**

The 4 part Strathspeys and Reels scores are being prepared, details will be announced in the Worlds programme, and added to the website by the end of August.

The Standing Order change to the registration days is being pushed by the Music Board for "forty-two" days, was not supported by the directors, the details have been passed to a sub group of the RSPBA looking at registrations in general

The Drum Workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Padgate Community Centre was a success, please return your feedback questionnaires to the Education officer at Headquarters. None been received so far.

A debate took place around the planned "Drum Major Workshop". It was decided that we should run the workshop in September (as there is little time to organise prior to the outdoor competition / parade season. It was felt that more use of Branch experienced Drum Majors (Adrian Dunn / Calum Brown) to pass on information may be more cost effective; the purpose is to provide advice and mentoring to any band / individual from just starting out to beginning competition. Please let the Secretary/ Treasurer know if you have any interested Drum Major to confirm the viability of the event.

### **2015 Branch Competitions.**

We continue to plan the 2015 branch indoor competitions. Thanks goes to the Competition Secretary for progressing the Mini Band contest.

Unfortunately the Trio contest had to be cancelled.

The arrangements are:

- Mini Bands and Drum Salute 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Birkenhead, Adjudicators – John Moles and Sandy Steel.

The events are open to all branches, to increase the viability of the events and vary the competition.

As identified by the Treasurers Report the cost of running an event is increasing, and the entry fees do not cover the costs. There is also the challenge of too few entries to make the sections a "Competition". The solos have been a success, moving the solo drumming away from the Mini Bands when we had a large entry in both made sense.

It was suggested that the Secretary prepare an open letter to the Member Bands (of all the close Branches) and ask them if there is support for our indoor contests (given the likely

dates), our fear is that once we lose the event it will be gone for good. We would need to emphasise that entries really need to be made at least 6 weeks in advance to confirm the viability of the event.

**AOCB**

**None**

Next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 @ 13:00

Closed @ 14: 10.

P L Brown  
Secretary  
NWE Branch